

THE STUDENT JOURNEY SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 3

Thursday 16th June 2011

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Louise Simpson, Manager, Minority Communities Achievement Service (MCAS), Kent County Council

- Please provide a summary of the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- What services does the Minority Communities Achievement Service provide?
- What are the main issues with regard to the education of young people from gypsy and traveller communities (for example, with regard to access and attendance)?
- What is the dropout rate of these young people? Please discuss the issues of school exclusions and elective home education, and the causes for school abandonment.
- To what extent are gypsy Roma and traveller young people able to progress and complete their education courses in Kent?
- What collaborative initiatives and partnerships exist between Kent County Council, schools and other organisations to promote the educational engagement of gypsy and traveller young people?
- What are the main issues with regard to the employment of young people from gypsy and traveller communities?
- In your view, what initiatives and strategies can Kent County Council implement to support gypsy Roma and traveller children and young people with their education and employability?

- In your view, what more general initiatives and strategies should Kent County Council implement to enhance the employability of *all* young people in Kent?
- Please inform the Select Committee of any policy changes at national level that have relevance in this review and that can impact on the educational and employment opportunities and choices of young gypsies and travellers in Kent.
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?