

ASD SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 4

Monday 21 July 2008

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 will 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

Ron Alexander, Chief Executive, Carers FIRST, and Carolyn Brockman, Carer Support Worker, Carers FIRST

- Please introduce yourselves.
- Please outline the main roles and activities performed by Carers FIRST.
- What are the main differences – if any – in service provision to children with autism, before and after their transition into adulthood?
- In your view, how accessible is support for people with autism and their carers?
- In your view, how easy is it to find information about interventions, treatments and therapies?
- In your opinion, what are the main issues facing carers and health professionals when supplying support services to people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?
- Please discuss the degree of specialist education provision for children with ASD.
- In your view, to what extent is communication between agencies dealing with ASD effective? In what ways, if any, can this communication be enhanced?
- In your opinion, what are the main issues for parents caring for people with ASD?

- In your view, what initiatives and policies should Kent County Council adopt in order to meet the needs of people with autism?