

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

Kay Brunning, General Manager, Kent Autistic Trust

- Please introduce yourself, and please outline your duties and responsibilities at the Kent Autistic Trust.
- What is the Kent Autistic Trust? What services does it offer?
- Please discuss the complexity surrounding autism, and the long-term needs of people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASCs).
- In your view, what kind of support and training do people with autism need?
- Please outline the main issues with regards to recruitment and retention of staff working with people with ASD, both in terms of their skills and their knowledge about autism.
- In what ways can the inability of some people with autism to comprehend the meaning behind words, and their incapacity to communicate their needs in a clear way, affect the support they receive? What initiatives can be adopted in order to overcome this issue?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of using IQ assessments to determine both the extent and the source of support for people with autism?
- Please outline initiatives that Kent County Council could adopt in order to meet the needs of people with autism in the County.