

ASD SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 5

Tuesday 2 September 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

Mr Keith White and Mrs Joan White, Parents and Carers, with a son with Asperger's Syndrome.

- Please introduce yourselves.
- Please provide an account of your own experience as a parents and carers of a person with autism.
- Please outline the kind of support your family and your son in particular received/are receiving from local agencies? How did you access this support? How easy was it for your son to receive a diagnosis?
- Is this support adequate? If not, what type of support would you like to receive?
- In your view, in what ways should assessment and provision for people with autism be organised?
- Please outline legal issues that can affect people with autism in particular.
- Please discuss the main problems that people with autism may encounter with regards to employment. What general skills, in your opinion, would be useful for people with Asperger Syndrome in particular to learn?
- Please outline the main issues that people with autism may encounter with regards to housing and leisure activities.
- In your opinion, how easy is it to find information about interventions, treatments and therapies?
- In your view, what initiatives and policies – if any - should Kent County Council adopt in order to meet the needs of people with autism?