

# **AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER 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 Des Sowerby, Joint Director, Learning Disabilities, Kent County Council**

- Please introduce yourself.
- Please explain the process by which people with autism access and receive Learning Disability services. What proportion of people with autism in Kent receives Learning Disability support? How many are they?
- In what ways, if any, can Learning Disability service provision for people with autism be enhanced?
- In your view, what are the main issues with regards to the prevalence of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Kent?
- In your opinion, is training for professionals dealing with people with ASD adequate? If not, in what ways can KCC ensure that more effective training is provided?
- In your view, how effective is the current coordination of ASD-related services within KCC? How effective is the collaboration amongst all the agencies dealing with autism in Kent? What can be done to improve joint working?
- Please discuss the advantages and disadvantages of “personalising” services for people with ASD.
- What other issues, in your view, should KCC deal with in order to improve service provision for people with ASD?