

AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 6

Wednesday 10 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

Robert Pritchett, Regional Manager, National Autistic Society, Dianne Veness, Area Manager, National Autistic Society, Anh Nguyen, Regional Officer, National Autistic Society, and Jacqui Ashton-Smith, Principal, Helen Allison School.

- Please introduce yourselves.
- Please supply data with regards to autism in England.
- In your view, is it important to carry out a strategic needs assessment in Kent? If so, why?
- Please outline education issues in relation to Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Please discuss transition issues in relation to ASD.
- In your opinion, what are the main problems for adults with autism in Kent and in England?
- What are the main concerns – if any – with regards to Learning Disability and Mental Health service provision to people with autism in Kent? If there are concerns, what initiatives should Kent County Council implement to deal with them?
- In your view, to what extent is there understanding and knowledge about autism amongst professionals working with people with ASD?
- In your opinion, are housing services for people with ASD in Kent adequate?
- In your view, what initiatives and policies should Kent County Council adopt in order to enhance its service provision to people with autism in the County?