

# **AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE**

## **Hearing 7**

**Monday, 22 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**

#### **Kathy Melling, Group Manager, Supporting Employment, Kent Supported Employment**

- Please describe your role and the role of Kent Supported Employment. What services does Kent Supported Employment offer?
- Who has a role in Kent in ensuring that people with autism find and retain employment?
- Does anyone hold data/figures on people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in employment in Kent? What are the difficulties in collating a good data set?
- In your view, what can/should Kent County Council do to encourage employers in Kent to employ and retain a greater number of people with autism?
- Can you name any employers currently providing best practice examples with regards to the employment of people with ASD?
- What role do schools and colleges have in ensuring that people with autism can find employment upon leaving education? Are there improvements that can/should be made?
- What training could/should be offered, and by whom, to people with ASD in order to help them find employment? Are there organisations currently offering such training?
- What is the existing policy of KCC as an employer in relation to people with autism? Do we know how many people with ASD are currently employed by KCC?

- In your opinion, what general initiatives and policies should Kent County Council adopt to help people with ASD find and retain employment? In your view, what are the challenges?