

AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 8

Wednesday, 8 October 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

Professor Patrick Bolton, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, South London and Maudsley Hospital

- Please describe the role of the Autism and Related Disorders Service and your role in it.
- What services does the Autism and Related Disorders Service offer?
- What does the specialist multi-disciplinary assessment and treatment provided by the Service involve? What type of professional help is offered by the team?
- What do your diagnostic assessments entail?
- In your view, why are some Kent residents referred to the Autism and Related Disorders Service for a diagnostic assessment?
- What agencies – if any – does your team consult in order to care for individuals with autism?
- Does the Service offer support and advice? If so, what kind of support and advice is available?
- To what extent are patients and families involved in the team's assessments and research?
- In your opinion, what initiatives and strategies should Kent County Council implement in order to ease the transition of young people with autism into adulthood? What consequences can a transition managed inadequately have for the mental health of these young people?

- In your opinion, what can Kent County Council do to identify and engage older people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who never received a diagnosis?
- In your view, what initiatives should Kent County Council adopt to improve diagnostic assessments and service provision to people with ASD? What are the challenges?