

# **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**

#### **Lauretta Kavanagh, Director of Commissioning, Mental Health, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust**

- Please introduce yourself, and please outline the duties and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please explain how commissioning mechanisms for adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are organised within the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust.
- How many people with ASD and mental health conditions are currently receiving support from the Trust?
- Is there a system in place to record with accuracy the number of people with ASD in Kent?
- It has been suggested to the Committee that early interventions and support to people with autism can be beneficial in preventing the development of mental health problems. Do you agree?
- Evidence the Committee received claims that there is a “gap” between Learning Disability and Mental Health service provision for people with ASD in the County. Do you agree? If so, in your view, in what ways can this issue be resolved?
- In what ways, if any, can the training of NHS staff who carry out healthcare assessment be improved?
- What, in your opinion, are the advantages and disadvantages of personal budgets and direct payments with regards to service provision to adults with ASD?

- In what ways, if any, can the collaboration between organisations such as Kent County Council and the National Health Service be maximised in order to improve service provision for people with autism?
- In your view, what general initiatives and policies should Kent County Council adopt to improve its service provision to adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in the County?