

External Witness Biographies – 6th February 2014

External Panel 1: Carers First & Crossroads Care East Kent

Carers First

Carers First and Medway Carers Centre is an independent, charitable organisation supporting and helping carers in Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Edenbridge, Medway and the surrounding areas.

Carers First aims to give comprehensive help to all carers, through access to information and resources, discussion, advocacy, one-to-one support, and groups where they can meet other carers in similar situations. Carers First also provide young carers support groups and activities as well as a befriending service for carers and older people.

Carers First Home and Community Support service provides flexible short breaks to carers funded by self-funding, direct payment or agreements with the local authority.

Attending the Select Committee today is Peter Turner, Chief Executive.

Crossroads Care East Kent

Crossroads Care East Kent support Carers and the people they care for. They help Carers to make a life of their own outside caring by providing quality care services offering peace of mind while they enjoy some time to themselves.

Crossroads Care East Kent aim is to keep loved ones and the caring unit together by providing:

- Short breaks
- Palliative Care
- Bathing / dressing and undressing
- Meal preparation and assistance with eating
- Management of continence
- Support to access social activities and hobbies
- Support in a crisis
- Specialist dementia support staff
- Cogs clubs (Cognitive stimulation for people with a dementia)
- Macmillan Volunteer support

Attending the Select Committee today is Lorraine Williamson, Chief Executive.