

CORPORATE PARENTING SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 1

Tuesday 24 February 2015

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 may 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

Michael Wall and Sinead Whelan, Senior Practitioners, Kent County Council

- Please introduce yourselves and provide a brief description of the roles and responsibilities that your posts involve.
- In your experience, what are the main issues surrounding unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Kent? What can KCC Members do, as corporate parents, to resolve these issues?
- What can the Local Authority, and KCC Members in particular, do to ensure that children and young people in care in Kent are safe from sexual exploitation?
- To what extent are looked-after children and young people in Kent provided with appropriate accommodation while in the care of the Local Authority?
- In your opinion, to what extent are KCC Members fulfilling their corporate parenting responsibilities?
- What else – if anything – can KCC Members do in order to fulfil their corporate parenting role and improve the outcomes for children and young people in care in Kent?
- To what extent, in your view, are children and young people in care in Kent engaged in the decisions that affect them?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?