

CORPORATE PARENTING SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 2

Friday, 27th 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

Christine Liggins, Kim Keen and Neil Foad, Independent Reviewing Officers, Kent County Council

- Please introduce yourselves and outline the roles and responsibilities that your posts involve.
- Please briefly outline the main functions of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service in Kent.
- In your view, what constitutes good and effective corporate parenting?
- In what ways do IROs in Kent challenge and support social workers and their managers to improve practice and promote better outcomes for local children and young people in care?
- What are the main issues around the provision of services to children and young people in care in Kent?
- What more – if anything - can KCC, and KCC Members in particular, do to address these issues?
- In your opinion, what can be done – if anything – to improve the monitoring mechanisms available to KCC Members to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people in care in Kent?
- In your view, what are the main issues – if any - affecting the IRO service in Kent? What – if anything – can be done to improve the service?

- To what extent, in your experience, are children and young people in care in Kent engaged in the decisions that affect them? What else – if anything – can be done to improve their involvement?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?