

## Corporate Parenting Select Committee

**Nick Wilkinson, Head of Youth Justice and Safer Young Kent, Kent County Council**

### Biography

Nick Wilkinson is Head of Youth Justice and Safer Young Kent, in the Early Help and Preventative Services Division. He has worked in Kent County Council since January 2012. He has extensive experience in criminal justice and partnership working.

Nick is currently the chair of the Kent Criminal Justice Board (KCJB), chair of the Kent Out of Court Scrutiny Board and co-chair of the Kent Prevent Board. He was previously a police officer for over 30 years, retiring as an Assistant Chief Constable with Sussex Police. Nick was a member of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Children and Young Persons Group and ACPO Drugs Committee, undertaking national responsibilities in these areas, including being the ACPO member of the Children's Interagency Group and National Participation Forum.

In 2010 Nick had chief officer responsibility for introducing and implementing community resolutions, a restorative approach for Sussex Police. He was the officer in charge of the search for Sarah Payne in 2000 and has extensive experience in commanding major incidents and firearms operations as a nationally accredited gold commander. In 2009 he was the gold commander for the Labour Party (HMG) conference in Brighton. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and chair of governors at a large East Sussex primary school.

Nick is passionate about reducing the number of children and young people being arrested and the number of children in care entering the criminal justice system. Nick is leading on the protocol, developed under the KCJB to ensure that a 'child first' approach is taken.