

CORPORATE PARENTING SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 4

Thursday 12th March 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

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

- Please introduce yourself and describe the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please discuss the prevalence of children and young people in care, and of adults who were in care, amongst offenders and those entering the criminal justice system in Kent.
- In your view, to what extent is the youth justice system effective in responding to the needs of children and young people in care?
- What initiatives are in place in Kent to reduce the number of children and young people in care who commit criminal offences?
- What can KCC, and KCC Members in particular, do - if anything - to help reduce the criminalisation of children and young people in care in Kent?
- What mechanisms are in place in Kent to deal with children and young people in care who go missing and with the risk of sexual exploitation? What additional initiatives – if any - can be implemented in the County to resolve these issues?
- What kind of support – if any – can KCC, and KCC Members in particular, provide to reduce the incidence and risk of sexual exploitation amongst children and young people in care in Kent?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?