

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

Yashi Shah, Interim Head of Adoption Service and Improvement, Coram – Kent County Council

- Please introduce yourself and describe the main roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- What are Coram's key priorities? What are the main services offered by the organisation in Kent?
- Please provide a brief outline and key figures around the current state of adoptions in Kent.
- In your view, what are the main issues surrounding adoptions in Kent?
- What can KCC, and KCC Members in particular, do - if anything - to improve the adoption process for children and young people in care in the County?
- In what ways does Coram empower children and young people in care to make their voices heard? In your opinion, what else – if anything – can KCC do to empower them?
- What practical skills and emotional support does Coram offer to vulnerable parents?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?