

CORPORATE PARENTING SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 5

Wednesday 18th 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

Paul Brightwell, Head of Quality Assurance, Specialist Children's Services, Kent County Council

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves. Please describe your involvement with the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service in Kent.
- Please outline the key functions of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service in Kent.
- Please discuss the main, recent findings from your quality assurance audits of practice with children and young people in care in Kent (both quantitative information about performance and the quality of practice). What are the key issues that require improvement – if any?
- In what ways, if any, can Kent's IRO service be improved?
- To what extent, according to your findings, 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 in the decisions that affect them?
- To what extent are the monitoring mechanisms available to Members effective in ensuring the safety and well-being of children and young people in care in Kent?
- In your view, what else – if anything – can KCC Members do in order to fulfil their corporate parenting role?

- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?