

# **CORPORATE PARENTING SELECT COMMITTEE**

## **Hearing 6**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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**

#### **Teresa Vickers, County Manager - Fostering, Kent County Council**

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- What type of training, support and respite are foster carers currently provided in Kent? In what ways, if any, can they be improved?
- Please describe the issues around foster carer retention. How can KCC promote the retention of foster carers in the County?
- Please discuss issues around the recruitment of carers for children with disabilities and significant health issues, and for older looked after children displaying challenging behaviour. Is there currently a pool of foster carers in Kent who specifically foster these groups?
- Please discuss issues with regard to independent fostering agencies in Kent.
- Is there inconsistency of fostering placements across the County? If so, what can KCC, and KCC Members in particular, do to redress this?
- 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?