

Family Mediation Council (FMC)



Summary of Two-Year Strategic Plan, 2018/2019

The FMC's Objective is:

“To ensure the public can confidently access family mediation services that offer high quality mediation by mediators who meet FMC standards”.

In pursuit of this objective the FMC has developed a Strategic Plan of work for 2018-19 taking into account recent research, relevant published reports and the views of the FMC Member Organisations.

This strategic plan sets out the FMC action and priorities in the following areas:

1. Standards Development & Oversight

This includes a review of the existing Standards Framework, and consideration of whether additional standards of guidance are required, and well as implementing the proposals that the FMC has accepted in relation to Child-Inclusive Mediation.

2. Timely Awareness of mediation, the FMCA quality mark and public access to FMCAs

This is a general public awareness issue and involves the FMC working with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), the FMC Member Organisations and the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) to ensure that separating couples are made aware of the benefits of mediation in a timely fashion, and to introduce better signposting to the FMC's register of mediators, who need to be accessible throughout England and Wales.

3. Turning the outcome of mediation into a final settlement

Work on this follows the FMC's previous consultation about mediators drafting consent orders. The FMC will seek to engage its Member Organisations, the LAA, MoJ, HMCTS and the Civil and Family Justice Councils on the issue of whether the agreed outcome of a mediation can be turned into a final settlement document through the accredited mediators for court approval.

4. Ensuring good governance of the FMC

The FMC is a relatively new body created from the need to ensure that a network of family mediation organisations work together to deliver a quality-assured, partly public-funded, family mediation service to those in need. The FMC's external governance priority is more effective engagement with MOs, the MoJ the LAA and others with the overriding objective of seeking maximum benefit for those in need of quality-assured family mediation.