



Annual Report 2017

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15th August 2018

1. Foreword

This is the third annual report of The Family Mediation Council (FMC), which was incorporated in 2015. It covers the period from 1st January to 31st December 2017.

2. Who we are

The FMC is dedicated to promoting good practice in family mediation. Our central aim is to ensure the public can confidently access family mediation services that offer high quality mediation provided by family who meet our standards.

The members of The Family Mediation Council (FMC) in 2017 were:

IDR Europe Limited (t/a ADR Group)

College of Mediators

The Law Society

Family Mediators Association (FMA)

National Family Mediation (NFM)

Resolution

Each member organisation appointed a director to the FMC Board of Directors. In accordance with the Articles of Association, up to three other directors can be co-opted.

The directors of The Family Mediation Council in 2017 were:

John Taylor (Chair)

Karen Barham, followed by Sally Jane Wilson, appointed by Resolution,

Ewan Malcolm, appointed by College of Mediators

Mark Paulson, appointed by The Law Society

Jane Robey, appointed by NFM

Beverley Sayers, appointed by FMA

Richard Schiffer, appointed by IDR Europe Limited

Aftab Pirbhai, until March 2017

Allan Blake, from June 2017

Daniel Ronson, from June 2017

The Company Secretary was Mr Paul Neale.

The FMC was supported in its work by an Executive Officer as well as an administrative office.

3. Governance

The FMC is a Company limited by guarantee.

Its Articles of Association can be found at:

<http://www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/FMC-Articles-of-Association-1.pdf>

The Company registration number is 9560220 and the registered office address is 2 Old College Court, 29 Priory St, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG12 0DE.

The board met approximately every two months in 2017 to consider matters of common concern and invited observers from the Ministry of Justice, the Family Justice Council, and the FMSB as appropriate.

4. Our achievements in 2017

In 2017 the FMC further strengthened its governance by ensuring it had three co-opted directors on its board.

The FMC recruited new members to the Family Mediation Standards Board (FMSB), revisited the FMSB's Terms of Reference, and continued to work with the FMSB to ensure the effective self-regulation of family mediators. The FMSB continued its work and its Annual Report for 2017 is attached at Annex 2.

The recommendations of the FMC's working groups on Child Inclusive Mediation were considered and accepted. The FMC worked with the FMSB to develop a Code of Practice for PPCs, work which will be completed in 2018.

The FMC considered family mediators' responses to its consultation about family mediators drafting consent orders, and met with the Association of District Judges, the Ministry of Justice and the President of the Family Division to discuss this further. It agreed to continue to discuss what options there might be at the end of the mediation process.

The FMC also continued to work with stakeholders to further promote family mediation for the benefit of the public, including the MoJ, CAFCASS, the Family Justice Council and the Legal Aid Agency, making submissions to the latter in respect of legal aid contracts for 2018. It participated in research projects such as Creating Paths to Family Justice led by the University of Exeter.

The FMC joined the Civil Mediation Council (CMC) to host an academic conference 'Compulsory Mediation: Opportunity or Threat'. The event itself was successful and made a small profit, and the collaboration with the CMC was welcomed by mediators and academics.

The FMC provided a service online and by phone to help members of the public find family mediators throughout 2017, and started to publish a newsletter for family mediators and other people who are interested in family mediation.

An important part of the FMC's work is working with and supporting the work of the FMSB, whose annual report is published at Annex 2.

5. Financial overview

The FMC's Annual Accounts for 2017 were approved on 15th August 2018 and are attached at Annex 1.

The FMC managed its resources well in 2017, spending less than anticipated and achieving a higher income than forecast.

The large majority of its income came from family mediators' registration fees. The vast majority of these fees were used throughout the year for the running costs of the self-regulatory system, including administrative and executive support.

The FMC continued to benefit from the remainder of the grant received from the MoJ in 2015 to establish the self-regulatory system.

The FMC also continued to receive membership fees from its member organisations, which paid for the majority of the cost of FMC board meetings including the travel expenses of its co-opted directors. FMC member organisations continued to bear the travel costs of their appointed directors attending FMC board meetings.

6. Future work

The FMC will focus on four key strategic issues in 2018:

- Standards Development & Oversight
- Timely Awareness of mediation, the FMCA quality mark and public access to FMCAs
- Turning the outcome of mediation into a final settlement
- Ensuring good governance of the FMC including both effective stakeholder liaison and sound corporate governance

Annex 1

[FMC Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2017](#)

Annex 2

[FMSB Annual Report 2017](#)