

FMSB Meeting

Wednesday 13th May 2020

Via video conference

Approved Minutes

Present: Robert Creighton (Chair), Adrienne Cox, Beryl Darling, Ian Hamer, John Hobson, Alexis Walker

Also in attendance: Sarah-Jane Turnbull (Associate Member), Jane Wilson (FMC Representative), Helen Anthony (Executive Officer)

	Open session	Action
1.	Introductory	
1.1	Welcome and introductions apologies, declarations of interests	
	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies had been received from Katie Kelly (MoJ Representative).</p> <p>The FMSB thanked the Executive Officer and her colleagues for their work over the last few months.</p>	
1.2	Approval of minutes of last meeting & matters arising not covered elsewhere	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 18.3.30 were approved subject to clarifying (at 2.2) that it has always been possible for mediators to consult their PPCs remotely.</p>	HA to amend minutes and publish
2.	Items for discussion	
2.1	Chairman's Report	
	<p>The Chair reported that he had been invited to attend a meeting organised by the All Mediation Forum, which the FMC is part of, to discuss whether it is possible to identify common standards across different mediation sectors.</p>	
2.2	Registration	
	<p>The FMSB noted the Registration Report and in particular that steps would now be taken to verify information held on the Register.</p> <p>The FMSB noted the low number of mediators who had previously trained to carry out Direct Consultation with Children and were now required to CIM Update Training in order to carry out Child Inclusive Mediation. The FMSB reconfirmed that CIM Update and CIM Awareness and Understanding days could take place online. The FMSB asked the Executive Officer to confirm whether mediators have attended this course, and update the Register accordingly. Where mediators have not attended the course, the Executive Officer will remind them of the requirement to do so, and encourage them to register with a training provider in order to do so.</p>	HA to confirm CIM position with mediators and remind them of the requirements

	<p>The FMSB noted that as less foundation courses are running due to the coronavirus crisis, the number of Registered Mediators may reduce next year.</p> <p>The FMSB asked the Executive Officer to provide a geographical breakdown of the mediators on the Register, and to analyse the register to see whether mediators trained after 2015 are more easily able to make the progression to accredited status than mediators who trained before this date.</p>	<p>HA to provide a geographical breakdown & statistics re mediator progression</p>
2.3	<p>Coronavirus Issues Update</p> <p>The FMSB noted the update provided by the Executive Officer about coronavirus related issues.</p> <p>The FMSB asked the Executive Officer to provide a paper for its July meeting setting out the issues to the FMSB needs to address in order to maintain appropriate regulation for the medium term and in particular how professional standards need to change for an online world.</p> <p>The FMSB noted that some mediators had raised questions about how to deal with safeguarding issues and Child Inclusive Mediation online. The FMSB agreed that the Executive Officer would ask training providers and FMC Member Organisations to ensure training is being offered regarding online safeguarding issues, and will ask Member Organisations who have produced guidance on online work/online CIM if this can be shared with the FMSB, so that the FMSB take this in to consideration when it is developing standards on these issues.</p>	<p>HA to ask training providers and MOs to ensure training is being offered regarding online safeguarding issues</p> <p>HA to ask MOs to send FMSB guidance re online working including CIM</p>
2.4	<p>Accreditation Panel</p> <p>The FMSB noted the minutes from the Accreditation Panel meeting held on 5.5.20. The FMSB endorsed the decisions made and documents which had been approved by the panel, in consultation with the Chief Assessor. The FMSB noted the Assessors' Guidance would be published after exchanging this with the Law Society.</p> <p>The FMSB noted that since the panel had met, some mediators had told the FMC that they were ready to submit their portfolios save for attending a CIM Awareness and Understanding Course. The FMSB agreed that the same variation to the portfolio requirements should be made as the Accreditation Panel had decided for observations, that is, that mediators can submit a portfolio without having attended the CIM Awareness and Understanding Course and if they would have obtained full accreditation but for the absence of this, then they can be given provisional accreditation which will become full accreditation upon attendance at the course without incurring a further fee.</p>	<p>HA to publish revised Accreditation Scheme and Template, and temporary changes to portfolio requirements</p> <p>HA to exchange Assessors' Guidance with the Law Society</p>
2.5	<p>Standards Review: Complaints</p> <p>The FMSB noted that conversations about complaints processes had now taken place with some but not all FMC Member Organisations.</p>	<p>IH to have conversations with remaining MOs</p>

	<p>The aim was for the position of all Member Organisations to be established before the FMSB's July meeting. Conversations so far have indicated that there is general agreement that the current system is too complicated for the public and for mediators, but there is no clear solution.</p>	
2.6	<p>Standards Review: MIAMs</p> <p>The FMSB considered the draft Terms of Reference for the MIAMS Working Group.</p> <p>It agreed the Working Group would be led by AW, and that the following would be invited to join the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a representative of each of the FMC's Membership Organisations - a member of the Family Solutions PLWG Sub Group - a representative of Women's Aid <p>It was agreed that the Terms of Reference should be reviewed to ensure it reflected the discussions the FMSB were due to have about the structure of the standards and that RC, JH, AW & HA would progress this work.</p> <p>It was noted that the work of the PLWG was to review the Child Arrangements Programme and its report had therefore concentrated on issues relating to children, whereas mediators must ensure they deal with all relevant issues, including finances, at a MIAM.</p>	<p>RC, JH, AW & HA to progress MIAMs work</p>
2.7	<p>Standards Review: Restructuring</p> <p>The FMSB supported proposals for restructuring the Standards Framework to provide a comprehensive, ordered and accessible structure with clear principles, requirements and guidance. The FMSB agreed that it would be useful for the standards to include both mandatory requirements and guidance in the same document. The Executive Officer will draft initial re-formatting of the Standards Framework to reflect this.</p>	<p>HA to draft amendments to Standards Framework to put in to the agreed format</p>
2.8	<p>Standards Review: How can standards evolve?</p> <p>The FMSB discussed a proposed 'strategic model', to structure and systemize the review and development of mediation standards and accreditation. The FMSB agreed that this was an important piece of work. JH, RC & IH agreed to take this forward, recognizing that while they could lead on implementing a structured and systematic approach, content would need to be developed by practising mediators. JH agreed to start by looking at applying the strategic model to the work on MIAMs (see above) to give a worked example of how to apply the model.</p>	<p>JH, RC & IH to progress</p> <p>JH to redraft MIAMs ToR</p>
3.	<p>Future meeting dates to note</p> <p>2020 dates (all Wednesdays, times tbc - previously decided to be 12.30 – 4.30pm): 8 July; 16 September; 11 November</p>	