This template can be used by FMC Accredited Mediators. It should be tailored by adding a quote and details, to create a press release for their local press. The quote from the FMC Chair should not be changed if it is to be included.

Press release: **Family Mediators Welcome Government Voucher Scheme**

Date: 26 March 2021

The government has today announced that it is investing £1m in family mediation, to support families to resolve issues relating to children. Under the scheme, the Ministry of Justice will provide contributions of up to £500 per family, to resolve issues relating to children following parental separation. Mediation will be provided by Family Mediation Council Accredited (FMCA) mediators and the fund will reduce the costs of mediation for at least 2000 families.

John Taylor, Chair of the Family Mediation Council said 'This government investment in mediation is much welcomed by the Family Mediation Council. It will help separated families agree solutions that are best for their children, taking into account what is going to be important for them as they grow up. Family mediation is a proven cost-effective way to resolve differences following separation. This voucher scheme will make it even more accessible, and will help families resolve issues for themselves, without having to go to court.'

Family mediation is a process in which an independent, professionally trained mediator helps parents work out arrangements for children and finances following separation. Mediation can also be helpful when previous child arrangements need to change, particularly as children grow up.

Local family mediator [insert name] FMCA, from [service name] said [insert quote welcoming scheme]

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1. Further information about the scheme, aimed at families who may benefit, will be published here from 10 am on Friday 26 March 2021: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/family-mediation-voucher-scheme>
2. The Family Mediation Council is a not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to promote the use of family mediation for the benefit of the public. It does not offer mediation itself. Family Mediation Council Accredited mediators meet rigorous professional standards. Find our more: <https://www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk/>
3. For more information about anything contained in this press release or family mediation in general, please contact Name at e-mail address or phone number