

FMSB Meeting

Wednesday 24th March 2021

Draft Minutes

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

Also in attendance: Beverley Sayers (FMC Representative), Helen Anthony (Executive Officer)

	Part 1 - Open session	Lead (Papers)
1.	Introductory	
1.1	Welcome and introductions apologies, declarations of interests	
	The Chair welcomed everybody. Apologies had been received from Sarah-Jane Turnbull, who is on maternity leave.	
1.2	Approval of minutes of last meeting & matters arising not covered elsewhere	
	The Part 1 and Part 2 minutes of the meeting held on 27.1.21 were approved.	HA to publish part 1 minutes 27.1.21
2.	Reports	
2.1	Executive Officer's Report	
	<p>The FMSB noted that the EO had been working on the FMC/MoJ Mediation Voucher scheme which had developed quickly.</p> <p>The EO reported that the online registration system continued to be developed, and would be introduced in a staged way. The FMSB noted the intention to start the first stage of this process in w/c 29 March. The FMSB agreed this should go ahead despite the overlap with registration for the voucher scheme which will open the same week, noting that the communications to mediators would need to be very clear. HA to send FMSB members a draft of the e-mail inviting members to register.</p> <p>The FMSB discussed the possibility of staging payments in the future, and noted the online registration system could enable this.</p>	
2.2	FMC Report	
	The FMSB noted that the MoJ voucher scheme had now been formally approved by the FMC board, which welcomed the investment in family mediation, the publicity the scheme will bring and the opportunity to collect a comprehensive set of data about mediation. HA to send template data collection forms to RC as this is relevant to with the data collection process that the FMSB is developing.	HA to send template data collection forms to RC

	<p>The FMSB noted that at the FMC's recent board meeting, the FMC had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - considered a summary of the recent MO meetings, and noted the need to re-establish a group within the FMC/FMSB to consider issues relating to CIM; - noted that recent correspondence had been exchanged with CAFCASS and Mr Justice Cobb and meetings; - welcomed proposals from the FMSB in relation to complaints, and raised some practical questions about this; - noted the extensive work that the FMSB had carried out on MIAMs, and recognised the value of the consultation process which was proposed. <p>The FMC Representative thanked the FMSB and Executive Officer for their ongoing work.</p>	
3.		
3.1	MIAMs	
	<p>The FMSB had received a series of documents from the MIAMs Working Group, with the recommendation that mediators be consulted on the content of the draft Standards and Expectations document, the assurance processes and the new format.</p> <p>The FMSB welcomed these documents and thanked all the members of the MIAMs working group for their contributions in bringing these recommendations forward.</p> <p>RC agreed to set the assurance proposal in the context of the FMSB's approach to professionalism/self-assurance.</p> <p>It was agreed that RC, AW, JH & HA would finalise the documents for consultation.</p> <p>The FMSB also welcomed the draft status report, which was designed to be sent to external stakeholders. RC, AW, JH & HA to finalise this before distribution.</p> <p>The FMSB noted that the status report could then be included in the FMC Newsletter which would go out immediately after Easter, with the four-week consultation with mediators and FMC Member Organisations being formally launched shortly thereafter.</p>	<p>RC, AW, JH & HA to finalise documents for consultation & status report</p>
3.2	PPCs	
	<p>The FMSB thanked the PPC Panel for its draft recommendations regarding CPD for PPCs.</p> <p>The recommendations were broadly welcomed. The FMSB made two requests for amendments:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to move 'understanding the FMC framework' to section b (from c); and - to add supervision theory. 	HA to amend as requested
3.3	Safeguarding	
	<p>The FMSB agreed it may need to consider the way in which it considers issues of safeguarding, and may need to appoint a person or panel with specific responsibility for this.</p> <p>RC & HA to discuss including this on forthcoming agendas.</p>	RC & HA to discuss including responsibility for safeguarding on forthcoming agendas
4.	Updates	
4.1	Standards Review: Accreditation	
	The FMSB welcomed the progress that the working group was making in considering a new structure for the portfolio, and noted its discussions relating to longer term strategic issues.	
4.2	Complaints	
	<p>The FMSB welcomed the strong support that its proposals for a single complaints process operated by the FMSB had received from the FMC board at its March meeting.</p> <p>The FMSB noted that some important and helpful questions had been raised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - should the process include an informal stage? - should the process include consumer representatives? - should panel members be paid? <p>The FMSB agreed that the Executive Officer should consider these questions before the next FMSB meeting so that the FMSB could consider whether to make a formal recommendation to the FMC that the new process should be adopted.</p>	HA to consider Qs before next FMSB meeting
4.3	Good Standing Test	
	<p>The FMSB noted that the responses received to the consultation about the introduction of the good standing test had all been positive. Some suggestions for refining the process had also been received and these had been considered but were not practical at this stage.</p> <p>It was agreed that the test should be introduced, firstly through the annual registration process, and then for new mediators.</p> <p>HA will include an update in the March Newsletter.</p>	HA to include update re Good Standing test in FMC newsletter
4.4	Accreditation Panel	
	The FMSB noted that at its most recent meeting the Accreditation Panel:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discussed a request Chief Assessor that the FMSB appoint a Deputy Chief Assessor. The FMSB supported this proposal in principle and asked HA to draft a more detailed proposal. - discussed whether there should be a limit to the age of cases that could be submitted where a mediator has multiple extensions (which would usually allow for the age of cases to be extended by the length of the extension). - 	HA to draft proposal re appointment of Deputy Chief Assessor
5.	AOB	
6.	Future Meeting Dates	
	<p>12.30pm – 3.00pm via Zoom, until further notice</p> <p>19 May 7 July 22 September 17 November</p>	