FMSB Meeting

Wednesday 10 June 2026

Approved Minutes

Present: Robert Creighton (Chair), Anthony Blackman, Alexis Walker, Lorraine Bramwell, Lesley Allport, Mike Mack

Apologies: Sarah-Jane Turnbull, Bola Olayinka

Also in Attendance: Kiran Lamb (to be appointed as independent FMSB Member), Helen Anthony (CEO)

	Item	Actions
1.	**Introductory**	
1.1	Welcome and introductions, apologies, declarations of interests	
	The Chair welcomed everybody who introduced themselves. The FMSB welcomed KL who was to be appointed as an independent member of the FMSB once formalities were complete. The FMSB noted that AW's term on the FMSB was ending, and members thanked her for her work.	
1.2	Approval of minutes of last meeting & matters arising not covered elsewhere	
	The FMSB approved the minute of the meeting held on 20.3.26 and reviewed the action log. Outstanding actions: • Information leaflet re MIAMs and court rules – the FMSB identified this a priority for completion	HA to draft leaflet
2.	**Governance**	
2.1	Strategic Plan	
	The FMSB noted its progress against the strategic plan. The FMSB agreed to amend the workplan, to address issues arising from AI in the latter part of 2026. The FMSB noted the FMC had supported this amendment to the workplan and agreed an approach to AI that included public facing communications work that stressed the value of the human in the mediation process and emphasising this to the MoJ. The FMC had also agreed it was important for the FMSB to address how mediators use AI.	

	The FMSB agreed that the Code of Practice makes clear that the Mediator is responsible for the managing the process (para 9.1), but that it was the FMSB's responsibility to raise awareness of this. It was agreed that a task and finish group would be set up to produce a regulatory note to build on the guidance that had already been published. The FMSB agreed to host a coffee morning on this issue which would highlight some of the matters the regulatory note may need to cover, and to help identify mediators who may be able to contribute to the work of the AI task and finish group. The FMSB agreed to revise its strategic plan, as discussed with the FMC, to postpone work on the production of other guidance until 2027 in order to focus on producing the regulatory note on AI by the end of 2026.	
2.2	Recruitment Update	
	The FMSB welcomed confirmation that the FMC's appointment panel had completed its process and appointed (subject to references) KL as an independent FMSB member, Romina Kamran to replace AW, and Katy Harris to replace SJT when her term ended later in 2026. The FMSB noted that the panel had received a number of high-quality applicants and was working with those who had not been appointed to the FMSB to identify whether there were other opportunities within the FMSB or FMC they may be interested in. The FMSB noted that it had delegated to BO and AB the recruitment of new members of the complaints pool, and ratified the appointment of two new independent members (subject to them passing the FMC's usual good standing test) and five mediator members. The FMSB noted that the procedure for appointment had been agreed by it on an ad hoc basis thus far and agreed to establish a written procedure for future appointments.	HA to draft procedure for complaints pool member appointments
2.3	Data Protection	
	FMSB members were reminded of the FMC's data protection procedures, and the need to retain papers only as long as they were required.	

3.	**Priority Items for discussion & decision**	
3.1	Code of Practice & Standards Re-structuring	
	The FMSB agreed the proposed amended structure for the Code of Practice and Standards Framework. It was agreed that this work was a priority ahead of September's meeting. The FMSB noted the potential for confusion or difficulties when standards and guidance cross referenced each other. It was agreed that boxes that contained cross referenced tax may be a helpful way to refer to this. The FMSB noted that when updating the Standards Framework in 2026 to include the requirement for PPCs to have two hours' consultation specifically to talk about their professional practice consultancy work, a reference to this being an annual requirement was omitted. Some mediators have therefore questioned whether this is an annual or three-yearly requirement (to coincide with re-accreditation). The FMSB clarified that it had accepted the recommendations of the PPC report that had said the requirement was annual. The FMSB agreed to ask the FMC to publish an update or correction to the standard to clarify this.	HA to prioritise this work in August HA to add to FMC board meeting agenda
3.2	Accreditation Panel: Proposed process for mediators not previously registered to join FMC Register	
	The FMSB considered and approved the process for mediators not previously registered to join the FMC Register, noting the principles that the process had been built on. The FMSB discussed whether mediators should be allowed to submit case commentaries for cases completed when they were not on the register. The FMSB agreed that in order to have been submitted, cases must have been conducted in accordance with the FMC Code of Practice and the Standards Framework, and that the usual rules re case dates should be applied (i.e. usually cases should have started within two years, but this can be extended in some circumstances). The FMSB noted that there was a financial risk in setting up this process as it would incur costs, but that these could be mitigated.	

	The FMSB noted that the FMC would need to approve the fees and the costs. The FMSB noted it was important to ensure that the new process and the reason for its structure was clearly understood. The FMSB agreed it would like to see the process in place by 1 November. HA to report progress to the next FMSB meeting.	
3.3	Process for Prioritisation/Drafting of Guidance	
	The FMSB discussed the proposed process for drafting of guidance, to help mediators comply with standards. The FMSB agreed to introduce the ability for the proposed drafting group to have a four-week consultation period where helpful. The FMSB proposed that the drafting group appoint a lead, who could attend the FMSB as a non-voting member, so that the group supplemented the work of the FMSB. The FMSB agreed the proposals, noting that they could be reconsidered once the FMC's governance consultation was complete, and amended if necessary. The FMSB noted that guidance was likely needed on • Neurodivergent client • Modern families • Shuttle/online mediation The FMSB noted that it would pause its work on this process and any drafting of guidance until the beginning of 2027, given the amended strategy.	
4.	**Reports**	
4.1	Chair's Report	
	The Chair reported that he was working with two providers to try to understand the data that mediation providers held and how the FMSB might be able to collect data in to measure compliance or further develop standards.	RC to continue to work with providers re data

	The Chair noted that he would share information about the FMSB's work on assurance with KL, as part of KL's induction.	RC to share assurance papers with KL
4.2	FMC Report	
	The FMSB noted the minutes of the FMC meeting held on 3.6.26 and in particular the revival of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team, the appointment of a new FMC director, the academic workshop, governance consultation and the June parliamentary event.	
4.3	Chief Executive Officer's Report	
	The FMSB noted the CEO report dated 3.6.26. The FMSB noted that a question had been raised by a mediator about whether the LAA is now allowing trainees to conduct intake meetings. The FMSB noted it was not aware of any change but agreed to seek clarity from the LAA about this.	HA to liaise with LAA
5.	**Updating & Discussion**	
5.1	DCA Panel	
	The FMSB noted that the DCA Panel had met and draft minutes would follow. The FMSB noted that the FMSB would need to appoint a new panel chair, but that AW had agreed to remain as a member for a further year. The FMSB noted that the panel also intended to review its membership in September in order to ensure that it had consistent representation from a domestic abuse agency/specialist.	
5.2	Accreditation Panel	
	The FMSB noted the minutes of the Accreditation Panel meeting held on 2.4.26 and the draft minutes of the Accreditation Panel meeting held on 7.5.26.	
5.3	Complaints	
	The FMSB noted the regular complaints and good standing report. The FMSB agreed that the complaints process should be amended to allow independent chairs of complaints panels in the first instance. The FMSB noted that it had agreed a number of changes to the complaints process in recent meetings including the removal of the	HA to circulate amended complaints process via e-mail

	offer state, the chairing of panels, timescales and the drafting of summaries to be approved by complainants. HA to circulate amended process via e-mail.	
5.4	CIM Working Group	
	The FMSB noted that the joint FMC FMSB working group on CIM had been established and had its inaugural meeting on 22.4.26. The FMSB noted the draft minutes of that meeting and the group's workplan. The FMSB noted the proposed workplan and in particular the work to consider whether the provision on age in the Code of Practice should be amended. The FMSB agreed to accept any recommendation made by the working group in respect of this issue.	
5.5	Training Panel	
	The FMSB noted that work on training course fees was yet to be completed, and that the aim was for this to take place over the summer.	
6.	**Future Meeting Dates**	
	• 16 September 11am – 3pm In Person (London) • 9 December 11am – 3pm (Jt FMC FMSB Meeting) in Person (London)	