



# West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

## Record Breakers

Issue No: 95  
Skool's Out  
2016



As you will see from our stats on **Page 4** of this Newsletter, WSMS continues to break all previous records.

We are experiencing busy times with a total of 91 referrals in the 1st quarter of our new financial year so we are averaging roughly one referral a day.

We are hoping to have an Admin volunteer join us shortly to help us cope with the increased workload.

The increase is not purely down to interest in our Family Mediation service, which accounted for 37 referrals during the quarter. We also completed several successful Workplace cases alongside our community work.

### *External Edition*

*Published for the Funders and Supporters of the West Sussex Mediation Service.*

## Conference update

Inside this issue:

Record Breakers	1
Conference	1
News	2
Event photos	3
Referrals	4
Funding	4
Curry Night	5
More next Month	

Plans are moving ahead for the Pan Sussex Mediation Conference to be held on **Monday 10th October 2017** in Brighton. The theme is 'Empowering Communities to Resolve Conflict'. Guest speakers will include Katy Bourne, the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and Tracey John, Head of Housing at Brighton & Hove City Council.

An invitation list is currently being drawn up. If your organisation is interested in sending a delegate do notify Nick shortly. Registration 9.45am-10.15am and conclusion by 4.15pm

**Support our next Charity Event**  
**See Page 5**

# News

## Partnership Working

As WSMS cannot do Legal Aid Family Mediation work, we have teamed up with Dorking based practitioners, Accord Family Mediation to signpost potential Legal Aid clients who first enquired with us. For those who would travel to Horsham or Crawley, Accord will pick up the gauntlet and in return pay us a small 'finders fee'.

Now that we have moved into our new offices, Accord are keen to use our Meeting Room facility, having recently viewed them and hired them for the first time. This will be additional income for us, whilst furthering the cause of Mediation locally.

As highlighted in previous newsletters we are happy to hire out our lovely meeting room when not required for our own purposes. Just call the office to make a booking. We use a free online bookings diary call Skedda ([www.skedda.com](http://www.skedda.com)).

## Mediation Observations

We have been approached by Caroline, who recently trained as a mediator with the London School of Mediation. She has had experience of internal employee mediation in the John Lewis Partnership and would like to talk with local mediators and, with their agreement, observe mediations so she can build up my portfolio of observations in order to register with the Civil Mediation Council. Longer term she would like to get involved with community mediation. We are busy trying to find her some cases to sit in on.

## New venture for one of our Mediators

Dominique is one of our longstanding volunteers and she has recently become a franchisee for 'SmartPA' who are leaders within the PA, Secretarial and Administrative

The logo for SmartPA, featuring the word "SmartPA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the top right of the "A". The logo is enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

sector. Their website states: 'As the leading providers of outsourced PA, Secretarial and Administrative support, SmartPA plays an essential part in the everyday running of our clients' businesses. With the widest available skillset, our team is experienced, professional and technologically savvy. Delivered remotely, our streamlined support process ensures that administrative tasks are managed effectively, minimising the need for additional staffing costs such as holiday pay or desk space.'

If this interests you, you can contact Dominique via this email address:  
[dominique.nally@smartpasupport.com](mailto:dominique.nally@smartpasupport.com)

# News

Here are some of the photos taken at our recent Charity Cream Tea event. Our thanks go to Dave Powell ([www.lpgphotographic.co.uk](http://www.lpgphotographic.co.uk)) for doing the photography and to our Musician, Lisa for her lovely music entertainment. Also a big shout for our helpers, Hazel for baking, and Horsham Matters for lending us some lovely china.



## Referrals – busy & it ain't even hot!

We have had a crazy June for referrals, with a record **42** during the month. It was our busiest month since October 2013 when our previous record was 39 referrals. We always expect the summer months to be busier but it has hardly been a scorcher and the amount of outdoor living recently will have been at a minimum.



< ----- Nick has attempted one BBQ so far this year and this was the result!

Topics of referral for the month included— boundary/shared space, residents group, noise, antisocial behaviour, parking, verbal abuse, intergenerational, commercial, fence, barking dogs, hedge and a good number of family cases.

We hope to have a new admin volunteer in the office soon, to help us cope with this huge workload.

Last June we only had half the amount of referrals – 20!

**80%** of our referrals were self referrals in June with our website being a good pull.

## Funding

Scarcily, we have completed the first quarter of our new financial year.

Our total income for the period being **£23,944** (budget £21,606) and expenditure of **£20,312** (budget £22,587).

We are grateful for grants from Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common, Upper Beeding and Rustington Parish Councils that arrived in June

We achieved **£5,721** through paid mediation work (Family & Workplace), up from **£3,770** in the equivalent period last year. We have to thank Robert, Gill, Heather, Jonny, James & Uschi for helping us achieve this.

We have recently received confirmation of second year funding from a two year bid to the Henry Smith charity. They have paid us a visit in our new offices to review our work over the previous year.

We are still awaiting a way forward with funding from the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner.

## Our next Charity Fundraiser

**charity  
curry  
night**      **Wednesday  
20th July  
7pm - 9.30pm**

**Haldi Indian Restaurant**  
Lintot Square, Southwater

**Buffet Style Dining, Quiz and Raffle**

**£15 per person**

Online booking: <http://guestli.st/318009>  
or  
Tel: 01403 258900 or Email: [nick@wsms.org.uk](mailto:nick@wsms.org.uk)

In support of local charity  
West Sussex Mediation Service



[www.wsms.org.uk](http://www.wsms.org.uk)

[www.haldirestaurant.co.uk](http://www.haldirestaurant.co.uk)

