



West Sussex Mediation Service

MEDIATION

AWARENESS WEEK

27th September 2017

Mediation Awareness Week falls between 14th and 20th October 2017 and is organised by the Mediation Awareness Group and supported by all of the leading UK professional mediation bodies.

The aim of the week is to:

- **Explain** how mediation is used to resolve disputes and conflict of all kinds.
- **Demonstrate** how mediation provides a quicker, cheaper and more effective alternative to litigation.
- **Show** how use of mediation benefits businesses, communities and individuals.

Local Charity, West Sussex Mediation Service, has been helping resolve conflicts, through mediation, since 2000 and is keen to educate people as to how mediation works and the benefits that it brings.

They are always happy to give advice and guidance to anyone suffering a conflict in their lives, whether it be with a neighbour, family member, former partner, work colleague, customer or trader. They have mediators trained in the various mediation disciplines.

Most people have heard the word mediation mentioned but don't really understand what it means. The guiding principles are that it is a totally confidential and voluntary process, with a mediator acting as an independent third party. The Mediator helps the parties in a dispute to identify their issues and needs, explore how those needs can be addressed and facilitates the reaching of an agreement. A mediator remains impartial and does not give advice. Any outcome from mediation is not determined by the mediator, but those parties involved. This is unlike Arbitration where the Arbitrator makes a decision, which is binding.

To prove that the use of mediation is growing, West Sussex Mediation Service reports a huge 32% increase in referrals in their last year of reporting – April 2016 to March 2017.

The charity can be contacted on 0300 200 0025 or via info@wsms.org.uk

Ends

For further information on West Sussex Mediation Service, images or interviews, please contact:

Nick Handley, Service Coordinator on 0300 200 0025 (01403 257800) or email info@wsms.org.uk