



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Meet Diane

Issue No: 121

August

2018

August

External Edition

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

Diane Whelan has joined our office team on a part-time basis to assist in managing community casework. Diane was one of the candidates short-listed when we did interviews in November for the post eventually taken up by Karen. Diane conveniently lives in the offices across Horsham park. Diane has previously worked in various roles with Royal Sun Alliance, and subsequently with Heath Lambert Insurance Services in the role of Senior Underwriter, and technical team leader. She therefore came to us with good communication and organisation skills, and is very experienced in dealing with clients over the phone. This included dealing with difficult situations such as somebody suffering a flood or other disasters in their home.

We will publish a photo of Diane in the next issue. She hopes to attend at least some of the training days of our initial training course starting in September, in order to understand what the role of mediator entails to assist her role in the office.

AGM

Inside this issue:

Meet Diane	1
AGM	1
News	2
Funding	3
Xmas	3
Fun Stuff	4

It is not long now till our AGM on **Thursday the 27th September**. It will again take place in the Wicker room at Park House with the arrival time of **6:00-6:30pm** start. All of our volunteers, funders and friends are more than welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served, and we will be entertained for fifteen minutes by our guest speaker James Craddock, who is one of our mediators and seasoned speaker. There will be an opportunity at the conclusion of formalities to chat to trustees, staff and volunteers, to hear more about our work over the past year and currently. Visitors will also be welcome to take a look around our offices. We would welcome RSVP's to Nick@wsms.org.uk, in order to judge seating and catering arrangements.

News

Note to self – our recent press release highlighting our very busy July, in terms of referrals during the heatwave, prompted a great response from the media. This resulted in radio interviews for Nick (Service Co-ordinator) with Spirit Fm and BBC Radio Sussex. The latter one was conducted at 7.25am via mobile phone, and unfortunately Nick forgot to silence his alarm which went off during the phone in. Murphy’s Law dictated that it would not turn off in the usual way and ended up being thrown in the cupboard to bring quiet to proceedings!



Vélo South - we didn’t get any take up for our charity slots for this big cycle event on 23rd September despite distributing posters widely. Perhaps that is not a bad thing as it has caused much upset with residents, who will be affected by the significant road closures that take place throughout the day. If you are in an area affected, you should have received a glossy yellow A4 leaflet giving details road closure locations and timings. We are hoping that those attending one of our Initial Course training days, won’t be affected getting to and from the venue.



If you think it might affect your travel plans see this link for the online version:
<https://www.velosouth.com/the-route/road-closures/>

Casework— we currently have **22** mediators shown active on cases on our board involving community, IG, conflict coaching and one civil case. If you aren’t one of those but can offer yourselves currently, do speak to the office as we have 4 new cases requiring mediators. The 4 in question are in Hurstpierpoint, Chichester, Fishersgate and Lindfield. August is proving a difficult month to resource cases, due to mediators being on holidays, enjoying grandchildren, etc, etc.

Mediators will be receiving a templated form (devised by our volunteer David Chubb) to refresh our information about availability. It looks like this ----- >
 We will be asking them to complete it and return it to the office.

Mediator Availability

Please list your preferred areas/regions see attached map:

Relevant Notes:

Please select your availability from the list

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10-13hrs	10-13hrs	10-13hrs	10-13hrs	10-13hrs	10-13hrs
10-17 hrs	10-17 hrs	10-17 hrs	10-17 hrs	10-17 hrs	10-17 hrs
14-17hrs	14-17hrs	14-17hrs	14-17hrs	14-17hrs	14-17hrs
14-21hrs	14-21hrs	14-21hrs	14-21hrs	14-21hrs	14-21hrs
18-21hrs	18-21hrs	18-21hrs	18-21hrs	18-21hrs	18-21hrs
Flexible	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible

Additional comments/provisos:

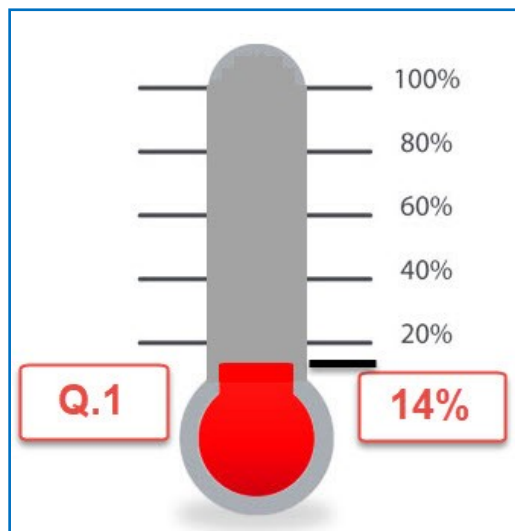
Holiday Dates (if known):

Your name:

Date:

Funding

We have said this before in previous years, but 2018/19 is going to be a difficult year in terms of funding. The charity is currently not achieving the level of income, we hoped or budgeted for, from family, workplace and civil cases. Income from grants, trust/foundations, fundraising and donations were all below budget in the first quarter and not showing much improvement as we move through Quarter 2. On the plus side we have seen underspends on most categories of expenditure in Q.1, including staff costs, expenses, room hire and office supplies.



Nick is meeting with a number of our traditional funders to see if grants can be increased, bearing in mind that many have remained static for a good number of years. This is despite all the inflationary increases we have had to suffer such the ever rising cost of postage, insurances, stationery, etc. One grant that is a significant boost to our coffers is the one provided by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, to ourselves and our Sussex Mediation Alliance partners. It is based on direct Police referrals to our respective services. WSMS received 15 Police referrals in the 1st quarter and 11 so far in Q.2.

Xmas is coming!

Selfridges opened their Christmas store back in earlier August, which by any stretch of the imagination is rather early. Meanwhile at WSMS, Nick has been preparing for Christmas Market stalls by ordering stock from his favourite supplier Bollywood Christmas. In early September, we will taking delivery of new lines. Due to popular demands in previous years, we have ordered a number of elephants! These hand painted Christmas tree decorations sold out quickly on past occasions.

If anybody is interested in acquiring one or more of these fine beasts, before they sell out, do get in touch with Nick. There is a host of other lovely Christmas baubles and tree decorations available when you decide to think of Christmas, which may not be now!



Pants!



TREAT YOUR **PASSWORDS** LIKE YOUR UNDERWEAR

- ⇒ Never share them with anyone
- ⇒ Change them regularly
- ⇒ Keep them off your desk !



Brilliant Ads

1,200,072 followers

6h

Why dads shouldn't be left alone with the baby. 😂

