



West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

Tough times ahead

Issue No: 128

March
2019

With grant support confirmed (for 2019/20) by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Horsham District Council and Crawley Borough Council (2 years) we are hoping that we can sustain our charity for at least another year. Despite this, we will have a lot of other income generating to do to keep the wolves from the doors.



Sadly, Charity closures have jumped 27% in a year (526 in 2017 to 666 in 2018) as pressures on the charity sector take their toll, (ONS's UK Labour Market: Feb 2019 report). Factors include the rise in regulations around fundraising, as well as declining levels of public trust and confidence in charities. At the same time some charities have seen their income from donations fall driven by the number of high profile scandals in the sector and their press coverage, while there have also been long-term cuts to public sector grants over the last decade.

External Edition

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

Competition

Win 365 Cadbury Creme Eggs in time for Easter in @GiveasyouLive's competition!!

Inside this issue:

Simply enter and shop by 17th April. Every shop will earn you a new entry AND us a FREE donation! Get cracking > <http://give.as/WinEggs2019>

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News

> **Corporate Support** – We have been fortunate enough to feature in a number of retail stores recently, thanks to our own nominations and those of our supporters. We featured in the East Grinstead branch of Waitrose for their Community Matters green token scheme during February and achieved £208. We are also in the John Lewis store in Albion Way, Horsham up to the start of April. Finally, we anticipate featuring in the Waitrose branch in Chichester, very shortly.



> **Police & Crime Commissioner** - Members of the Sussex Mediation Alliance, which includes WSMS, met with representatives of the SPCC's office in Lewes on 28th February. We received some good news. Our 2019/20 grant will be matched in the new financial year. There was also a commitment to try to secure us three year funding. This is a 'luxury' that our charity has not enjoyed for many years. We normally function 'hand to mouth' from one year to another.



Meanwhile all the four partners have been busy servicing direct Police referrals, which have shown an overall increase of 12% over last year. WSMS have seen such referrals increase by 68%.

> **Mid Sussex Voluntary Action** – We recently completed a survey, at the request of MSVA (<https://www.msva.org.uk/>) and were happy to have provided our input. It was a bonus when we were notified that we had been picked out of the hat, from those taking part, to be the recipient of a cheque for £100. Happy Days.



> **At Home Estate and Letting Agency** – this thriving and award winning agency, owned by Paul Davies, has a Community Chest scheme. Paul's vision is for the scheme to encourage property sellers to donate a proportion of their fee to help support local, community based and volunteer run organisations of their choice. Paul has agreed to enter WSMS into a directory of local good causes for clients to choose from if they don't have a favourite one in mind. If you were to sell your house through @Home (branches in Horsham & Southwater) you might like to know more about their Community Chest here:

<https://www.athomeestates.co.uk/community-chest.htm>



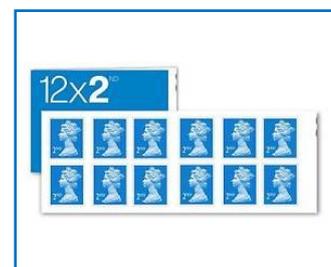
More News

Promo Pens – You may be pleased to know that we have been refunded (in full) for the duff promo pens that we had paid for and have been allowed to keep them. There will be a good number of acceptable ones that we can use to promote the service and the remainder can be used in the office and shared with our volunteers. We won't therefore need to reorder ,with another supplier, for some time.

Lease – Not all news has been cheery. We recently had a meeting with our Landlord, Horsham District Council regarding the renewal of our lease. They notified us of a substantial rent increase from September of 2019, which may amount to £2,265 + VAT. This equates to a 33% hike. We may therefore have to be on the hunt for cheaper accommodation, if it exists. We would be loathed to give up or excellent facilities and meeting room and any physical move is not cheap. It may just mean we have to work even harder in terms of our fundraising.



Alongside the rent increase we will be suffering a price increase on our telecoms based on the RPI of 2.5%. We also see stamp prices increase from 25th March (e.g. 3p on 1st and 2nd class stamps and between 4p and 12p on large letters, depending on weight. We will be heading down to the Post Office to stock up with stamps to beat the price hike.



Work Experience - Having been approached by Lesley Beauvoisin, the Employment Support Development Officer, we agreed to accommodate someone seeking work experience as part of their journey back into paid employment. We were introduced to Jackie who has over 20 years experience as a PA/Administrator. She has previously worked for companies such as BAA Gatwick Airport.

Jackie is currently joining us on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and she seems to be enjoying working in our office and gaining an understanding of the work that we do. Placements usually last for up to six weeks. Call Lesley on 01403 215262 for more info on the scheme.

Do you want some help finding work?

JOURNEY TO WORK

Journey to Work is Horsham District Council's long running and successful employability programme.

Working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, we help unemployed people through challenges they may be facing in their lives, and support them on their Journey to Work.

Journey to Work can help you by offering any or all of the following:

- One to one support and mentoring
- Benefits and careers advice and guidance
- CV and work skills development
- Job search assistance
- Work experience opportunities with employers
- Additional support required to help get you work-ready

If you are interested in volunteering for this programme, please ask your Jobcentre Plus Advisor or contact:

Lesley Beauvoisin, Employment Support Development Officer.
Telephone: 01403 215262 | 07917 594002
Email: lesley.beauvoisin@horsham.gov.uk

jobcentreplus Horsham District Council

Funding

We are in the final stretch towards our year end which falls on 31st March. 2018/19 has been a much leaner year in terms of income generation.

Our biggest grant came from the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner. This was followed by Local Authority grants from Horsham, Crawley, Arun and Chichester.

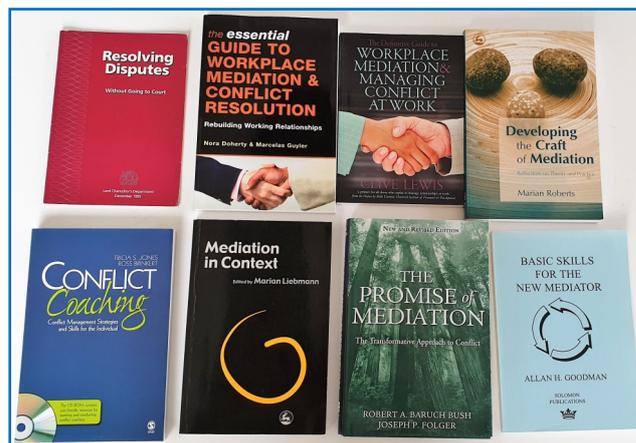
Income from Workplace Mediation was down on the previous year as were grants from Town & Parish Councils. We were also less successful with grant bids to Trusts and Foundations, but a number remain outstanding.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteer Family Mediators, Robert & Heather, we have had another good year in terms of income from Family Mediation. At the last count we had achieved over £16,500. By the end of March we would hope to take that total to nearer £17,500.

Library

Over the years, WSMS acquired and purchased a number of useful publications on the subject of Mediation to share with volunteers. Many of these were leant out but, sadly, were never returned to the office. We recently had an enquiry from James, who organises the West Area Meetings to ask what was in our Library.

Here is what we currently have:



If you have books to return or others you are willing to share or donate to our library, do get in touch with the office.

**The best advice I ever got
was that knowledge is power
and to keep reading.**
David Bailey

Sponsor's Ad



Your Local Office:

Irwin Mitchell
Belmont House
Station Way
Crawley
RH10 1JA

Contact: Caroline Shelton - 0370 1500 100

Specialities:

Money & Tax, Private Wealth Probate & Estate Administration, Private Wealth Wills & Estate Planning, Court of Protection, Wills & Estates, International Services, Estate Administration & Probate, Being a Trustee, Personal Legal Services.

Advertising

Do you know any businesses who would like to support our work by advertising in one of our monthly newsletters for a small fee? We can offer a half or full page advert space.

You could reach quite a wide audience as our newsletters are posted online and via a wide range of social media platforms. Copies of our newsletter remain in an archive on our website and remain permanently downloadable from there –

<https://www.wsms.org.uk/mediation-news/>

Call Nick on 01403 800182 for further information

