



# West Sussex Mediation Service External Newsletter

## Training Course

Issue No: 161

October  
2021



### External Edition

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

### Inside this issue:

Training	1
Funding	1
AGM	2
Report	3
Vacancy	4



Our November Initial Training Course for new Community Mediators will now take place entirely online, via Zoom, as there are worrying signs regarding infection levels for Covid-19. The safety of our volunteers and staff remains our priority in these circumstances.

Ideally we would have liked to conduct a good proportion of the training face to face but we have previously completed a full course online, in October 2020.

The one plus point is that we will save the expense of hiring venues for the course and cause less inconvenience to our candidates regarding travelling across county to join sessions. As is often the case, it has been difficult to marry up diaries and find volunteers who are willing and able to give up their time in a concentrated period of time. We also wanted to avoid the busy lead up to Christmas by extending the timescale into December. We are very grateful to those who have been able to commit. We hope that they enjoy the training.

We will be inviting some of our existing mediators to drop in over the period of the course to assist our trainer with roleplay scenarios. It could act as a good refresher for them also.

We will introduce our successful candidates in our December Newsletter.

## Funding

We would like to give a quick shoutout to the following for supporting our work recently through donations or grants:

The Barns Green Cobra Group – for their further £100 donation from face mask sales

The East Grinstead Common Good Trust for their grant of £700

Lindfield Parish Council for their Discretionary Grant of £100

Raven Housing Trust for their grant of £2,500 which will be utilised to service referrals for tenant disputes.

# AGM

Our, in person, Annual General Meeting went ahead on 7th October, as planned. Last year we had to hold the event online, due to the pandemic.

Whilst numbers weren't huge, we very much enjoyed the hospitality of the staff at Edes House, Chichester, who looked after us very well. We felt it was important to reach out to the outer reaches of our area of coverage to show that we are a countywide service and treat all our local authority areas as equals. In the past we have held AGMs in Crawley, Slaugham, Amberley, Littlehampton and our home town of Horsham.

We were able to provide a review of our financial year 2020/21 and carry out the formalities of adopting the accounts, carry out elections and adopt some minor changes to our Constitution to make it fit for purpose.

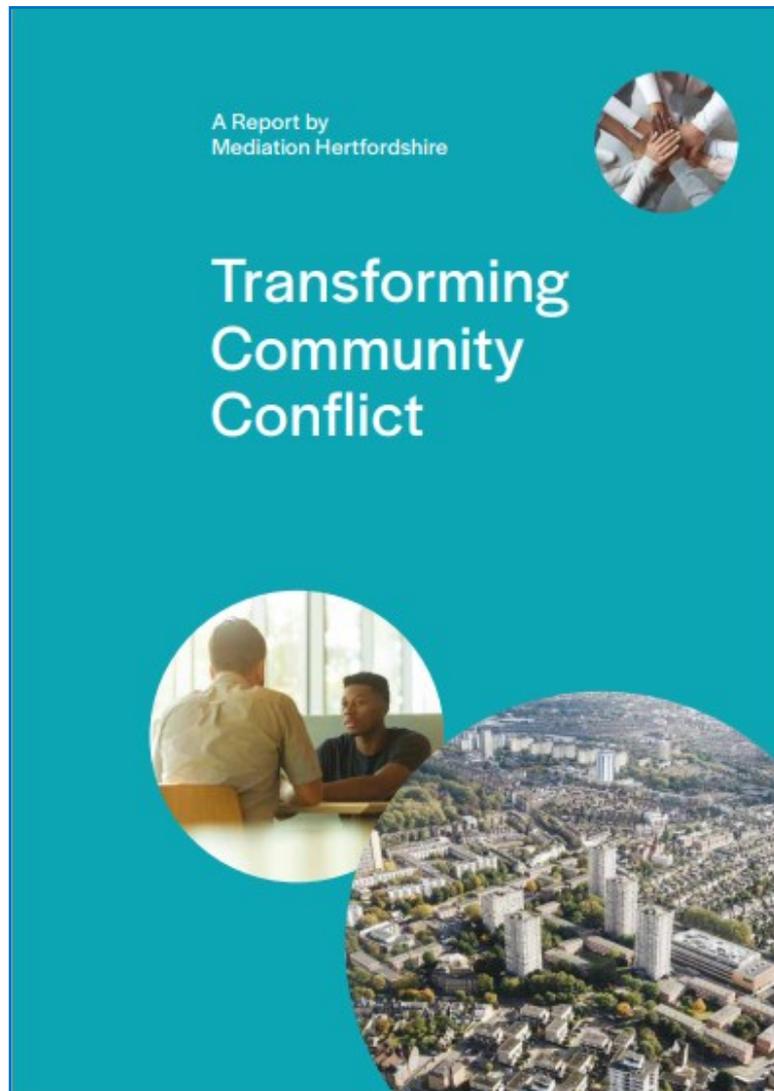
Our Annual Report (2020/21) was published for the first time at the event and is now downloadable from our website or supplied in hard copy, on request. The report and our full accounts have now been submitted to the Charity Commission, well ahead of our deadline.

If anyone would like to receive copies of the PowerPoint presentations made by our Chair, Nicky Neal-Smith, or our Service Co-ordinator, Nick Handley, then do drop us a line.

Here are a couple of images of the event, taken as we 'set up shop'.



# Report on Community Mediation



The CEO of Mediation Hertfordshire recently published a report about Community Mediation. She was able to utilise some funding from the Tudor Trust to enable her to carry out some research and publish the findings in a report. This report was presented at a special event on 12th October in Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

We have created an article on our website, to include the full report, which provides a voice for community mediation, which is often one of the 'forgotten' areas of mediation. The research, that formed the basis of the report, took place between April and July 2021.

We were happy to contribute to the publication, alongside our Sussex Mediation Alliance partners at Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service and Hastings & Rother Mediation Service.

A link to the report is here: [tinyurl.com/kuk8er76](https://tinyurl.com/kuk8er76)

# Job Opportunity

## **HASTINGS & ROTHER MEDIATION SERVICE**

(<http://www.mediationeastsussex.co.uk>)

### **CHARITY MANAGER**

**£30 - £35,000 FTE 25 HOURS (pro rata)**

Due to the retirement of a long standing and committed Charity Manager a unique and exciting opportunity has arisen to lead a small but successful mediation service across Hastings and the Rother area.

HRMS has been established in the Hastings area for over twenty five years and provides family, neighbourhood and intergenerational mediation services through both paid and volunteer mediators. Good partnership relationships have been developed and representatives are well established on the Board of Trustees.

The successful applicant will be responsible for overseeing the effective provision of the mediation services and in maintaining financial stability from a diverse range of funding streams. There is an expectation of close working with the Board of Trustees to develop and deliver a strategic plan to promote and expand the services into the future. The role is part-time 25 hours per week and based at the Charity's offices in St Leonards, Hastings.

The successful applicant will be committed to the ethos and values of the voluntary sector, will ideally have experience of mediation, will have excellent communication skills and will be experienced in the day-to-day running of the office and managing people. They will also have the skills to fundraise and generate income to ensure the security of the Charity's future. HRMS strives to be an equal opportunities employer.

If you would like to apply for this post, please contact the service via email [manager@hrmediation.co.uk](mailto:manager@hrmediation.co.uk) for an application pack. Closing date for applications 1 November 2021.