

WEST SUSSEX MEDIATION SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2021/22

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 2021/2022

Our thanks go to our dedicated team of volunteers and mediators who, during the year reported, continued to give their free time and skills in helping to resolve conflict in the community. They include:

Officers

Nicola Neal-Smith – nee Wiltshire Trustee) – Chair Simon Cunningham – Hon. Treasurer Monica Hill - Secretary

Members

Deborah Sanders (elected at 2021 AGM)
Samantha Bertie (Trustee)
Bimal Desai – Trustee
David Sheldon (Trustee) – resigned 31st March 2022

Staff

Nick Handley Service Co-ordinator
Karen Trushaden Family Caseworker
Christine Willmington Caseworker (part-time)

Tina Skilton Caseworker

Diane Whelan Caseworker (part-time)

Mediators

Alex D	Giselle G	Mary C	Sam B
Amanda H	Hazel I	Monica H	Sarah M
Andrew H	Heather F	Natalie W	Serena D
Angie B	James K	Nick H	Simeon C
Anne S	Jeremy E	Nick S	Siobhan S
Arabella M	Jo C	Nick W	Stella T
Becs D	Jo Y	Nicky A	Susan B
Ben W	John G	Nigel D	Sue C
Christine W	John M	Pam C	Sue D
Diana B	Juliette G	Patricia H	Suzanne L
David G	Lesley H	Patrick E	Tina S
Dominique N	Liz C	Paul H	Theodora V
Dorrie W	Louise D	Pauline H	Uschi L
Elspeth B	Malcolm W	Richard B	Zyad A
Eva E	Marianne S	Rocky H	
Fiona S	Marie M	Sally K	
Gill H	Martin P	Sally W	

Other Volunteers

David Chubb (IT/Data Protection/Stats)
Sushma Clark (External Examiner - accounts)
Della Edwards (PR/Publicity)
Dave Powell (Photography)
Dave Owen (Fundraising)
Michele Ransom (Fundraising)

Chair's Review

I am pleased to present my review as Chair of the Charity in the 2021-22 Annual Report and Accounts.

This year has continued to present challenges. We navigated the Omicron surge over the winter of 2021-22 and emerged from the restrictions of lockdown. West Sussex Mediation Service has maintained its excellent reputation locally as a valued provider of mediation services within the community, and once again, we have also seen some fantastic successes from across our teams which would not have been possible without the loyalty and dedication of our employees, volunteers and supporters.

Overall, our accounts this year show a loss of circa £5.7k. This performance is a downturn compared with previous years. Notably, we have seen a decrease in Family Mediation referrals, thought to be mainly due to changes in divorce law, and the shift during the pandemic where many solicitors are now offering in-house mediation services. Our major funders have continued to support the Charity in 2021-22 however, which is a testament to the ongoing value of our service.

As in previous years, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner provided close to 35% of our core funding, with increased funding also received from Housing Associations, although Council funding broadly decreased. We remain extremely grateful to them for their continued support and encouragement. Whilst we did benefit from funding from grants and trusts, it is worth noting that these grants and trusts are not guaranteed, and bids are becoming increasingly competitive.

Against what has continued to be an extremely challenging landscape, our Service Co-Ordinator, has once again worked tirelessly to generate income and funding for our charity. I would like to express my gratitude to him and also to the entire caseworker team for their continued commitment and hard work in pursuing funding opportunities and raising the charity profile across the communities we serve. Furthermore, for the careful stewardship of relationships with key donors, statutory bodies and stakeholders, in an effort to help mitigate the decrease in income from our paid services.

Looking forward, the Trustee Board continue to consider options to help safeguard the charity from future risk exposure due to funding deficits. Work has begun on considering our paid services and how best to position these to optimum effect, to best serve our community going forward. With the retirement of the current Service Co-ordinator in 2022, the Trustee Board will be working closely with a new Charity Director on a future strategy, to enable the evolution and continued success of the charity.

I would like to express my thanks to all our staff, volunteers and mediators for their continued dedication and support over this accounting period. As I have said before, our charity is nothing without our people, and the commitment of our core base of staff, mediators and volunteers remains strong, which is inspiring to see. I am very grateful to everyone for their contributions. I would also like to express my thanks to every one of our donors, both large and small. Your funding is vital in enabling us to offer our service.

My thanks go to all my Trustee colleagues, both past and present, for their considerable time, skills and experience given freely to the Charity. My thanks also to our external auditor who provides a full examination of our accounts each year.

Nicky Neal-Smith Chair

Co-ordinator's Report

This is last time that I will be reporting on the activities of the charity, during the previous financial year. Having been the Service Co-ordinator for the past fifteen years I will be retiring, not long after our AGM, towards the end of November 2022. It has been a privilege working for the charity and I have worked with some wonderful staff colleagues and volunteers alike. I am grateful for all the support that has been offered to me, over the years, and for the much-needed funding provided by a wide range of statutory bodies, Charitable Trusts and Foundations, Registered Social Landlords, clients and others through donations and the general public at events.

2021/22 was another year influenced by the pandemic. This did affect us in the way we carry out our work and also in terms of the amount of work that came our way. We are conscious of the fact that our referral numbers have been decreasing over the last three years. We do want to reverse this trend, as we know there is an untapped need for our skills, out in the community of West Sussex. This will require some targeted marketing and profile raising. There are often many changes of personnel amongst the referring agencies that we work with, so we need to maintain our programme of training for teams who could utilise our services. We continue to offer huge value for money and through our work can save agencies much time, effort and expense. We remain a vital tool in the toolbox and our desire is to be utilised as an early intervention tool.

There has been reference to our financial position from our Chair so I will try not to be too repetitive. You will see on **Page 11** of this report that the list of income providers, which is comprised mainly of statutory funders, is much shorter than usual and would normally fill the whole page, before carrying over to other funding sources. Much of that is down to the fact that we didn't manage to apply to as many Town and Parish Councils for Discretionary Grants as we would have liked to have done. It is not down to the fact that such Councils were no longer supportive of our work, they just hadn't heard from us within the twelve months reported. We have been addressing this in 2022, as this funding is important to us and we like to maintain contact with local organisations across the County.

In terms of referrals, we continued to see good numbers coming from Sussex Police staff. Horsham remained our busiest local authority area, which has traditionally been the case. Worthing Borough figures were prominent, mainly due to the briefings we held for Police staff, which resulted in a much higher take up of our services. Just one or two prolific referrers, from a particular organisation, can significantly raise the numbers for a locality.

If you have the means to influence funding, or to support our charity in any small way, we would love to hear from you.

Nick Handley Service Co-ordinator

Picture memories - 2021/22



Our stall at the Billingshurst Fire Station for the 'Jumble Trail' fundraiser – July 2021



Bimal (Trustee) and Nick (Co-ordinator) with the crew who kindly hosted us for the event



Our gazebo on a fundraising outing in Loxwood - Sept 21



Our stall at the Better Business Show in Worthing sporting our new corporate tablecloth – Sept 21



Poppy & Elizabeth at our offices, on Uni work experience together - Feb 2022



Working with the local community - donating books to the local Bohunt School's Library



Class of 2021 – Initial Training Course via Zoom – Nov 2022



The lovely Edes House, Chichester.
Our AGM venue - Oct 2021

Behind the statistics – 2021/22

Referrals – 213 in total over the 12 months period - an overall decrease of 13% over the previous year, which was partly due to the coronavirus.

Referrals from the Police were the **2**nd **highest on record**. Other sources were down. We would like to see referral number pick up again, but we remain busy in terms of case handling as many are complicated and require a lot of caseworker time and effort to move them forward.

Monthly trend – we didn't see a huge increase in referrals during the summer months, which usually tends to happen. However, June was our busiest month, with Feb/Mar being the guietest.

Here is a list of topics that came our way during the year for our community mediation service: Noise, antisocial behaviour, parking, pets, rubbish, ball games, building work, verbal abuse, cctv intrusion, animals, garden, trees/hedges, fences, boundaries and access.

Earned income – Yet again, less income was achieved from paid services. We saw no full Workplace or Civil/Commercial Mediation cases.

Family Mediation remained quieter, with referrals dropping to **50** from **53** in 2020/21, but more appreciably reduced from the **156** achieved in 2018/19. If this trend is not reversed. Subsequently, we will be reviewing the viability of this service.

Fundraising – main sources of income were donations from the Barns Green Cobra Group through face mask sales, sales of books through our fundraiser, Michele and via Ziffit, plus our inclusion in the Horsham District Community Lottery, where we have a small number of subscribers.

Co-op – £561 was received in the previous year and we were fortunate to have achieved a further £1,746 from the Co-op Local Community Fund during the year reported.

Online Fundraising – We held our second online event in the form of a virtual balloon race which achieved a modest amount. We have a few supporters who use Giveasyoulive to raise funds when making purchases online, at no cost to them. We remain ever hopeful that we can attract some volunteer fundraisers to help us generate more income for the charity.

Donations – we tend not to attract many donations but appreciate that many clients are not in a position, financially, to support us. We did receive one very generous donation from one of our volunteers and achieved £301 by reclaiming Gift Aid for the previous financial year.

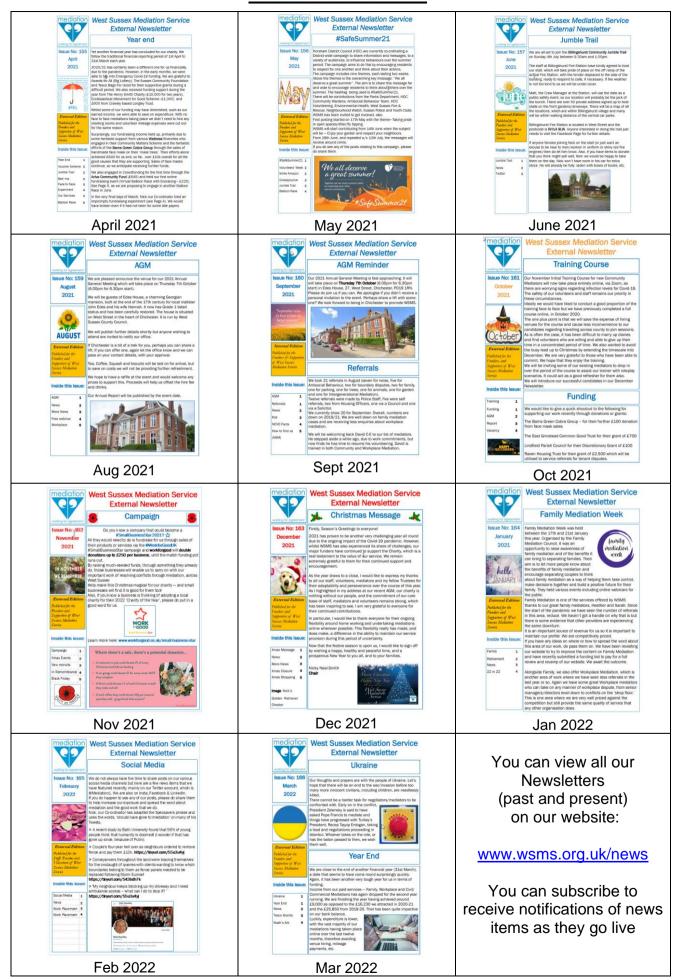
Mediators – we recruited and trained further community mediators during the year. It was the second course we had completed online, via Zoom, as the pandemic continued. We also attracted several fully trained mediators, wishing to offer some time in support of our work.

Explaining the stats – high referral numbers in places like Horsham, due to it being a large geographical area and our home base and with Worthing and Mid Sussex producing good numbers because of some proactive Police Staff seeing the benefit of using our services.

Website – we averaged 133 visits a week in 2021/22. Our busiest month was April 2021 with **632** visits during that period.

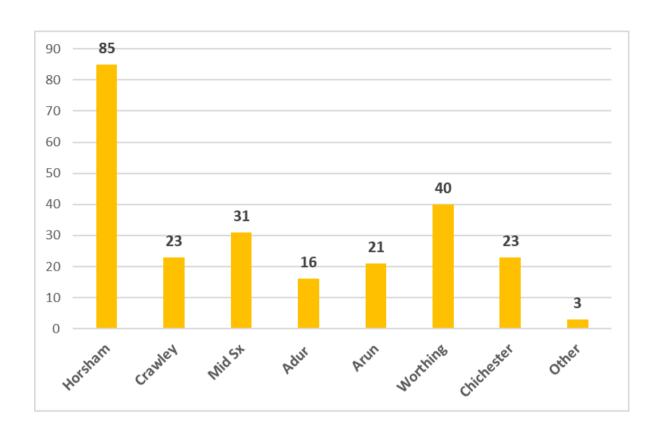
Outcomes - we were successful in reaching agreements (either written or verbal) in **85%** of cases that we took to joint meetings. This is all down to the skills of our volunteer mediators plus all the hard work of our office staff who manage to entice clients to the process, keep things together and maintain client's commitment until the conclusion of mediation. That all means that a number of lives are changed for the better.

Newsletters 2021-22

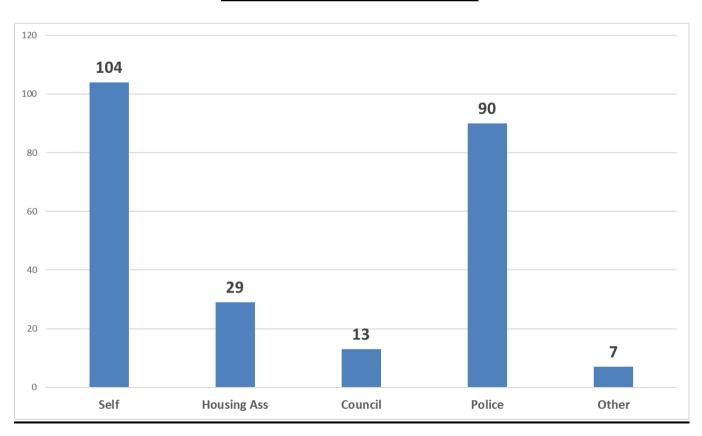


Statistics

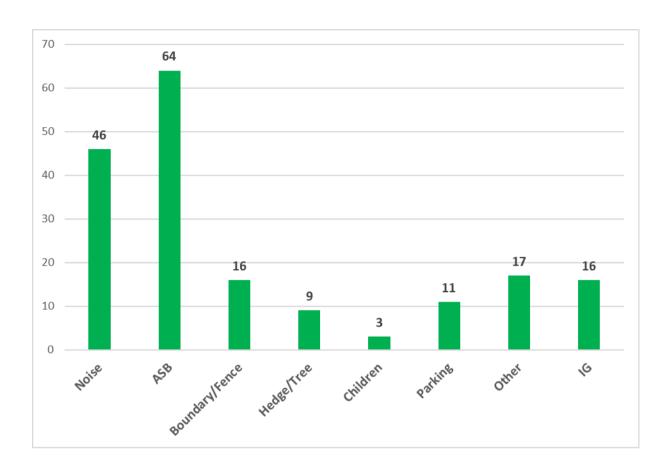
Referral by Local Authority Area (2021/22)



Source of Referrals (2021/22)



Topics of Referrals (2021/22)



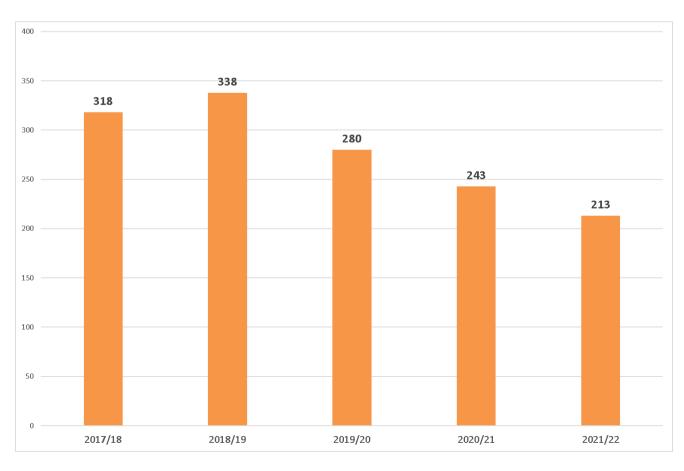
5 year Trend - Fee Earning Mediations



Change in referral numbers - Workplace/Family



Total number of referrals – 5-year trend



Referrals – Breakdown by Area – 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Horsham District -	<u>56 (85)</u>	Mid Sussex - 36 (31)
Horsham Ashington Barns Green Billingshurst Broadbridge Heath Cow fold Henfield Kilnwood Vale Lower Beeding Pulborough Rudgwick Southwater Storrington Upper Beeding Warnham Washington	19 1 1 7 3 2 1 1 1 1 2 1 6 1 2 5 3	Ansty 1 Burgess Hill 6 Copthorne 1 Crawley Down 1 East Grinstead 8 Hassocks 2 Haywards Heath 9 Horsted Keynes 1 Lindfield 2 Poynings 1 Rofant 1 Turners Hill 1 West Hoathly 1 Worth 1
Crawley Borough -	<u>- 20 (23)</u>	<u>Chichester – 23 (23)</u>
Bewbush 3 Broadfield 3 Furnace Green 3 Ifield 1 Langley Green 2 Maiden bower 1 Pound Hill 2 Southgate 1 Three Bridges 2 Tilgate 1 West Green 1		Chichester 9 Batchmere 1 Birdham 1 Easebourne 1 Fishbourne 1 Hammer 1 Lodsworth 1 Midhurst 3 Selsey 2 Westbourne 1 West Dean 1 West Wittering 1
Arun –25 (20) Angmering 1 Bognor Regis 9 East Preston 4 Ferring 2 Littlehampton 4 Middleton on sea 1 Wick 2 Yapton 2	1 1 1 1	Adur – 12 (16) Lancing 1 Shoreham 6 Sompting 1 Southwick 4 Other Areas – 1 (3) Out of County 1
Worthing – 40 (42) Broadwater 5 Central 4 Durrington 5 Gaisford 2 Goring 10 Heene 4 Marine 2 Northbrook 2 Offington 1 Salvington 1 Selden 4		Grand Total 213 (243) 12% decrease () = Previous year figures

WEST SUSSEX MEDIATION SERVICE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES	L	Ł	£	L
Adur Homes	2,500	-	2,500	-
Arun District Council	-	-	-	1,000
Bersted Parish Council	-	-	-	100
Broadbridge Heath Parish Council	2 400	-	2 400	200
Clarion Housing Chichester City Council	3,400 500	-	3,400 500	3,400
Crawley Borough Council (Community Grant)	1,800	_	1,800	3,000
East Preston Parish Council	200	_	200	200
Horsham District Council	4,000	_	4,000	4,000
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common P. Council		_	-	150
Lindfield Rural Parish Council	200	-	200	100
Mid-Sussex D. Council (Community Grant)	<u>-</u>	-	-	3,000
North Horsham Parish Council	-	-	-	600
Pagham Parish Council	-	-	-	100
Police Property Act Fund		5,000	5,000	-
Pulborough Parish Council	-		-	200
Raven Housing Trust	2,500	-	2,500	-
Saxon Weald Housing Association	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Selsey Town Council	200		200	-
Southern Housing Group	2,000	-	2,000	-
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner*	28,238	-	28,238	11,550
Worthing Homes	4,250	-	4,250	3,000
Yapton Parish Council	-	-	-	100
*Includes Q.4 payment for 2021				
Charitable Trusts/Foundations/Corporate				
Allen Lane Foundation	_	_	_	4,000
Arnold Clark Automotive	1,000	_	1,000	-,000
Awards For All (Covid-19 Emergency Funding)	, <u>-</u>	-	-	8,553
East Grinstead Common Good Fund	750	-	750	· -
Ecclesiastical (Movement for Good)	-	-	-	1,000
Henry Smith Charity	5,000	-	5,000	10,000
High Sheriff Charity Fund	500	-	500	-
Longley Trust	-	-	-	600
Neighbourly Foundation	400	-	400	-
People's Postcode Trust	-	-	-	3,000
Sussex Community Foundation	-	-	-	625
Tesco Bags for Help (Covid-19 Funding)	-	-	-	500
Carried forward:	60,438	5,000	65,438	61,978

Brought forward:	Unrestricted Funds £ 60,438	Restricted Funds £ 5,000	2022 £ 65,438	2021 £ 61,978
Other Income				
Fundraising Donations Paid mediation Other paid work Training Room hire Bank interest Total income	3,001 1,678 9,155 1,225 100 577 5 76,179	5,000	3,001 1,678 9,155 1,225 100 577 	3,909 2,469 16,230 450 - - 21 85,057
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Fundraising costs Staff costs (note 2) Rent/Rates Telephone Computer/IT Advertising Printing, postage and stationery Insurance Training/CPD Mediator/staff expenses Room hire Membership and subscriptions Sundry Depreciation	30 58,702 10,220 1,546 1,489 272 371 988 820 1,521 115 3,631 423 427	4,000 - 139 - - 2,000 - - 150	30 62,702 10,220 1,685 1,489 272 371 988 2,820 1,521 115 3,631 573 427	40 64,421 10,098 1,557 634 100 1,051 928 4,720 648 - 4,605 250 700
Total expenditure	80,555	6,289	86,844	89,752
Net movement in funds before transfers	(4,376)	(1,289)	(5,665)	(4,695)
Funds brought forward	41,214	4,450	45,664	50,360
Fund balances carried forward	36,838	3,161	39,999	45,664

WEST SUSSEX MEDIATION SERVICE

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS Tangible fixed assets	3		427	_	854
CURRENT ASSETS Bank account Reserve account PayPal account Cash Prepaid expenses		1,570 38,001 1 -		3,754 41,001 - 55	
CURRENT LIABILITIES Grants received in advance	-	39,572	- - -	44,810	
NET CURRENT ASSETS	_		39,572	<u>-</u> ,	44,810
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		- -	39,999	- -	45,664
FUNDS Unrestricted Restricted	5 6	_	36,838 3,161	_	41,214 4,450
		=	39,999	=	45,664

No expenses were paid to members of the management committee in respect of committee work.

The accounts were approved by the trustees on 21st July 2022 and signed on their behalf by

N. Neal-Smith Chair S. Cunningham Treasurer























West Sussex High Sheriff Fund



Our thanks go to all our funders, friends and supporters