



THE FMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM



28TH-29TH  
SEPTEMBER 2022

KINGS COLLEGE LONDON

## **Sustaining the Momentum – an Introduction**

This is a time of unprecedented Government and judicial interest in Mediation, and a critical time for the development of new mediation initiatives such as the Integrated Approach, bolstered by the additional funding available through the voucher scheme.

At last year's conference, we were inspired by the new systems evolving through Family Solutions Networks and MADA Alliances, and we generated many new ideas about how to create a more sustainable mediation profession and offering.

Now is an ideal opportunity to join your friends and colleagues at the FMA Conference to explore how far this momentum is being sustained. We will be joined by many of those who are responsible for building change, both within and outside the Family Courts, and will have the opportunity to debate and influence that change.

And, what's more, we will be meeting in person for the first time in three years! So here is also an opportunity to catch up with old and new friends, to use real physical space whilst building on all that we've learned about the online space in the interim.

Day One will offer plenty of time and space to re-connect, through an organic and dynamic series of discussions and presentations about mediation practice, primarily through the prism of mediation assessment, and with specially invited guests. The day will start with a review of "what you said; what we (and others) did."

On Day Two, we are delighted to welcome the **President of the Family Division** to deliver the John Cornwell lecture, and the morning will focus on what he and others are doing to promote and sustain mediation within both the Family Courts System and the wider, developing worlds of Family Change and Family Solutions. The afternoon will offer the usual blend of workshops and fora to assist your practice in key subject areas.

The Conference will be supplemented by video contributions, available both during and afterwards, and there will be the return of the Conference Dinner and entertainment. What follows, then, is our draft programme, which we anticipate will continue to evolve in the months up to late September

As we suggested last year, our current plan is to make the annual conference as accessible as possible by offering on-line or in-person conferences on alternate years. We very much look forward to you joining us in person this year!

Anna, Beverley, Neil, Philippa and Ruth

	<b>Day 1 - Wednesday 28th September 2022</b>
<b>09.30 – 10.00</b>	<b>Registration with tea/coffee and a place to re-connect</b>
<b>10.00 - 10.05</b>	<b>Welcome to Day 1 - FMA President, Lord Justice Moylan</b>
<b>10.05 – 11.00</b>	<p><b><u>Sustaining the momentum – you said/ they said/ we did.....</u></b>  A review of the last year, including EDIT, the Mediators’ Green Pledge, FMA’s Agreement to Mediate, the Integrated approach, the post-lockdown building back, resources for mediators, and various consultation papers, including the opportunity to review your own year by responding to specific questions in table discussions.</p>
<b>11.00 – 11.15</b>	<b>Break - tea/coffee</b>
<b>11.15 – 15.15, with lunch break 13.00 to 14.00</b>	<p><b><u>Sustaining the momentum through effective assessment:</u></b>  An organic and dynamic series of discussions and presentations focusing on the assessment that happens before every mediation and then continues throughout the mediation process. Each session will contain a short presentation, an opportunity for discussion and feedback, all of varying length, curated by <b>Philippa Johnson and Neil Robinson</b>, with guest speakers and facilitated table discussions.</p> <p><b><u>The timetable for this section (from 11.15 to 15.15) is intended to be fluid, with a one hour lunch break from 13.00 to 14.00.</u></b></p>
	<p><b><u>1. Assessment and the expectations of others:</u></b>  What do courts and referrers expect of the MIAM? What might mediators reasonably expect by way of reform of court processes in the light of the Divorce Act etc?</p>
	<p><b><u>2. Assessment as effective gateway:</u></b>  Red, amber and green – many of us approach our assessments, and our responsibility to offer families a real opportunity to mediate whenever that is safe, using this traffic-light idea from Lisa Parkinson as the frame – how can we make best use of it to enhance our assessments?</p>
	<p><b><u>3. Ensuring safety through assessment:</u></b>  How do we approach screening in assessment – what has come out of the MADA network in terms of our approach to DA? – what else do we need to do to make family mediation a safe space? How is the obligation to maintain a safe space in mediation to be balanced with the harm to children from unresolved conflict?</p>

	<p><b>4. <u>Assessment as triage:</u></b>  What use can we make of links with the SSFAs and Family Solutions in order to give each individual family the best range of options post-assessment? How far does research into recent initiatives help us?</p>
	<p><b>5. <u>Assessment as preparation:</u></b>  Are we able to use assessments effectively to help individual family members to understand and commit to mediation? How can we use assessments to understand better what the individual family needs in order to mediate effectively?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Could the Agreement to Mediate be used differently; are there any other tools that would help?</li> <li>b) Assessment and language</li> <li>c) Preparatory meetings – what options are out there?</li> </ul>
	<p><b>6. <u>Enhanced or Extended Assessment</u></b>  How viable is it to use expanded assessment models in an effort to understand better what the individual family needs? – Current pilots/ Hubs/ Mediation in Mind/ Emotional Readiness</p>
	<p><b>7. <u>Assessment as opportunity for ambitious responses to disputes</u></b>  An introduction to an integrated approach: What different models of mediation can we offer in order to give the individual family the best prospect of accessing and benefitting from family mediation? What part could assessment play in developing these models?</p>
	<p><b>8. <u>Assessment and young people</u></b>  How could we promote CIM differently in assessment in order to give the children of the family a real opportunity to have their voice heard in mediation?</p>
	<p><b>9. <u>In-person or on-line assessment</u></b>  Do different considerations apply to the choice between on-line and in-person in relation to assessment rather than mediation? How does the choice of medium affect those elements which we now see as integral to assessment – accessibility, environmental sustainability, business sustainability, ambitious offerings, safety?</p>
<b>15.15 - 15.30</b>	<b>Break - tea/coffee</b>
<b>15.30 – 17.15</b>	<p><b><u>Sustaining momentum through the new FMC MIAMs standards – Alexis Walker.</u></b>  Having considered our creative responses to our assessment practice, how does this chime in with the new FMC MIAMs standards and guidance? Help or hindrance? With help from those who have contributed to the creation of the new standards, we’ll examine the extent to which our practices may need to change – presentations and groups</p>
<b>17.15 – 17.20</b>	<b>Closing remarks - FMA President, Lord Justice Moylan</b>

<b>17.20</b>	<p><b>Close of conference</b></p> <p><b>Followed by Gala Dinner being held at the Kings College London: 19.00 for drinks, dinner at 19.30 (dress code: smart casual)</b></p>
--------------	--

	<b>Day 2 - Thursday 29th September 2022</b>
<b>09.30 – 10.00</b>	<b>Registration with tea/coffee</b>
<b>10.00 - 10.05</b>	<b>Welcome to Day 2 - FMA President, Lord Justice Moylan</b>
<b>10.05 – 11.05</b>	<p><b>John Cornwell Lecture –</b></p> <p><b>Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division –</b></p> <p><b>“Relaunching Family Mediation”</b></p>
<b>11.05 – 11.20</b>	<b>Break - tea/coffee</b>
<b>11.20 – 11.35</b>	<b>The Government’s initiatives to promote family mediation – Lord Bellamy QC, Justice Minister</b>
<b>11.35 - 12.25</b>	<p><b>The Mediation Voucher Scheme: presentation and discussion - Helen Anthony &amp; Allan Blake</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do the numbers say and how are they being interpreted?</li> <li>• What is our experience of the scheme and what do clients say?</li> <li>• How transformative is the scheme?</li> <li>• What should happen next?</li> </ul>
<b>12.25 – 13.00</b>	<b>“What about me?” – the Family Solutions Group Report 2 years on - Presentation and discussion with Helen Adam</b>
<b>13.00 – 14.00</b>	<b>Buffet Lunch and Exhibition</b>
<b>14.00 – 15.30</b>	<p><b>Parallel workshops (Choose one from four)</b></p> <p>All workshops feature skills/resources/information/strategies/theories/models that can be used in the mediation space and are presented by friends of FMA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. The use of legal and therapy skills in the mediation space - Haema Sundram</b></li> <li><b>2. Practical tips for mediators Working Towards Accreditation – Lesley Saunders</b></li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>The interface between law and mediation - Speaker to be confirmed</b></li> <li>4. <b>Using Restorative techniques and foundations within mediation- Carlie Norris</b></li> </ul>
<b>15.30 – 15.45</b>	<b>Break – Coffee/Tea</b>
<b>15.45 – 16.45</b>	<p><b>Developing new routes of entry to the profession - a look at how the pathway to accreditation might be transformed – facilitated by Robert Creighton &amp; Lesley Allport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Why would anyone do Legal Aid work– what are the challenges and how do we make it work for us and for clients? - facilitated by John Loram and Leah Caldwell</b></li> <li>2. <b>Removing obstacles to career development – a look at how the pathway to accreditation might be transformed – facilitated by an FMSB rep and others</b></li> <li>3. <b>Removing barriers to equality, diversity and inclusion for family mediators and clients – Facilitated by Summera Kauser</b></li> <li>4. <b>Integration and Change - how integral to mediation development is an “integrated approach”? – facilitated by Neil Robinson and Philippa Johnson</b></li> </ul>
<b>16.45 - 17.25</b>	<b>Creating a manifesto for change – plenary discussion of proposals that emerge from the earlier discussions</b>
<b>17.25</b>	<b>Closing remarks - FMA President, Lord Justice Moylan</b>
<b>17.30</b>	<b>Close of conference</b>