



Joint FMC & FMSB Board Meeting

13th January 2021

Online

Approved Minutes

Present:

FMC: John Taylor (FMC Chair), Caroline Bowden (Director, nominated by the Law Society), Dan Ronson (Director), Paulette Morris (Director, nominated by College of Mediators) Jane Robey (Director, nominated by NFM), Beverley Sayers (Director, nominated by FMA), Jane Wilson (Director, nominated by Resolution)

FMSB: Robert Creighton (FMSB Chair), Beryl Darling, Ian Hamer, John Hobson, Sarah-Jane Turnbull (in part),

Also in attendance: Claire Webb (FJC representative, for item 2), Helen Adam (FSG Chair, for item 2), Helen Anthony (Executive Officer)

Apologies: Allan Blake (FMC Director), Alexis Walker (FMSB Member)

	Item	Actions
1.	Welcome	
	The chairs of the FMC and FMSB welcomed everyone, and introductions were given.	
2.	Family Solutions Group Report	
	<p>The FMC and FMSB thanked Helen Adam, chair of the Family Solutions Group, for joining them to discuss how to prioritise actions arising from the group’s excellent report, in the context of work being carried out by a plethora of other groups set up by the judiciary and the government. Helen Adam and Helen Anthony would produce a summary of the groups and their work, to help keep track of this.</p> <p>It was agreed that the FMC should consider how it engaged with different groups and reports. It was agreed that the FMC & FMSB would need to keep a watching brief on the work of the various</p>	H Adam & H Anthony to produce summary of groups

	<p>groups but that the FMC & FMSB could identify work arising out of the FSG report that it would not be affected by the work of these other groups, and would have a positive impact for separated families.</p> <p>After extensive discussion, the FMC & FMSB agreed that it would carry out three actions arising from the FSG report as a priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gathering data 2. Influencing policy – to be more outward looking, and engage with a wider range of bodies 3. Influencing professional practise (NB as part of this Helen Adam recommended the FMC held an annual conference to bring all family mediators together). <p>It was noted that the FMSB working group on MIAMs had looked at the recommendations in the FSG report regarding MIAMs, to ensure its work was consistent with those recommendations.</p>	
3.	Strategy 2020/21 – Review of Progress	
	<p>The review of progress on the 2020/2021 strategy was noted. The meeting noted that progress had been made in many areas, but that the coronavirus pandemic had introduced new priorities since the strategy was agreed, and therefore progress in some areas had been slower than intended. It was agreed that the workplan for 2021 needed to be reviewed.</p>	
4.	Revised Workplan 2021	
	<p>Priorities for 2021 were discussed. It was agreed that some important projects which had been under development could be concluded in 2021, including introducing Good Standing Requirements for mediators, and introducing a new complaints process, for complaints about mediators breaching of professional standards. It was also noted that it was important to make progress on the Standards Review in relation to accreditation, and the development of MIAMs standards, in the early part of 2021.</p> <p>The FMC agreed it needed to make the most of its limited resources, and considered whether it could bring in additional</p>	

volunteers to drive work. It was noted that the FMSB could consider reviving the Voice of the Child working group, for example. It was agreed that all working groups/committees need to be properly supported.

The FMC agreed a detailed approach to the first third of the year, with the aim of completing projects already started, and that it would focus on other agreed areas from April onwards – see the workplan for full details.