

The Arc of Mediation
Abigail Kirk and Neil Robinson's 2024 Annual Update

20 November online; 21 November in person

ARRIVALS FROM 9.45

Getting Started – 10.00 – 11.00

What have been the important changes this year, and how have they impacted on families and mediators?

Groups discussing questions about the impact of Rule Changes, voucher, new Government, President's view etc.

Short input about the changes that *have* taken place, their impact and the changes we might still expect

Include briefly Funding, LAA issues, vouchers, summaries and outcomes, integration with Court Orders

Plenary on Courts Guide to Mediation and the messages it gives for mediators to use; working with Courts and lawyers – **brief groups if time?**

COFFEE 11.00-11.15

Children and Young People – 11.15 – 1.00

Update of both case law and practice; Powerpoint – AA v ZZ – stories and lies. Any new resources. Presentation and **groups**

CiM - what is our experience of cases referred by the Courts with a specific expectation of CiM? What are the realities of tackling these cases? Are they suitable? How do we negotiate the lack of feedback? - Some input and then **group work**

To include materials from A Child's Right to Matter, Mediation Trust/ Lundy model, and an update of Family Support Group, Family Hubs etc

Update about Birmingham Pathfinder

LUNCH 1-1.45

Gender and Sexuality 1.45 – 3.15

Main question (led by Andy's Men's Club online on 20/11) - As a female-dominated profession, do we know/ understand enough about the impact on men of separation, loss of children and partners? Introduced by Sean and **groups**

Gender and Sexuality - general input by one of us, based on what we've learned from, eg, FMA Conference,. Touching on hormone therapy and capacity and the Cass report.

Also briefly touch on updates on treatment of domestic abuse allegations in Court and in mediation - fact-finding/ assessment etc? - and allegations of alienating behaviour (just to update what we discussed last year) – and then into:

TEA 3.15-3.30

Finance and Pensions Update – 3.30 – 4.15

focus on N v J – domestic abuse as conduct inequitable to disregard
ongoing debate – Resolution paper – impact on mediators? **Groups**

Endings 4.15-4.30

What else is new? - Neil's wrap-up session

CLOSE 4.30

6 hours CPD (assuming 15 minutes minimum reading:

1.5 hrs children including 0.5 hrs specific CiM

1 hr finance

1 hr domestic abuse

1 hr diversity

1.5 hrs general mediation process and procedure