



Conference 2022: Learning from the past and looking to the future

16 & 17 November, 12.30pm – 5.15pm
Online

Join us from 12.30pm each day for Making Connections, which offers you the chance to chat to colleagues before the formal start of the conference at 1pm.

On each day there is a break out session. Delegates can choose any session to attend.

Sessions have content which often apply across different mediation disciplines, but we have developed certain sessions with the following in mind:

Civil/Commercial Mediators: Room 1

Workplace Mediators: Room 2

Community Mediators: Room 3

SEND Mediators: Room 1 (Day 1), Room 4 (Day 2)

All mediators interested in peer mediation: Room 4 (Day 1)

Day 1 – Wednesday 16 November 2022

Time				
	Start in the Main Conference Room			
12.30 – 1.00	Making Connections Join us for a pre-conference chat			
1.00 – 1.10	Welcome			
1.10 – 1.30	Get involved in Peer Mediation – Ellis Brooks, Susan Kurr & Kimberley Humphrey			
1.30 – 2.30	Mediator Partiality - why we can't say 'bye bye' to bias - Gillian Caroe			
2.30 – 2.45	Break Return to Main Conference Room			
2.45 – 3.15	Lord Bellamy			
	Go to Conference Room 1,2,3 or 4			
3.15 – 4.30	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
	Experience of Mandatory Mediation - Jennifer Egsgard, Frederico Antich and Rebecca Clark	How Experiences can Shape Conflicts - Tim Hicks	Community Mediation: Avoiding Mass Extinction Mark 2 – Victoria Harris, Dave Walker & Mia Forbes Pirie	Find out more about Peer Mediation and take your first steps to get involved - Ellis Brooks, Susan Kurr & Kimberley Humphrey
4.30 – 4.40	Break Go to Main Conference Room			
4.40 - 5.10	CEO Strategy session – Paul Adams			
5.10 – 5.15	Day 1 close			

Day 2 – Thursday 17 November 2022

Time				
	Start in the Main Conference Room			
12.30 – 1.00	Making Connections Join us for a pre-conference chat			
1.00 – 1.10	Day 2 Welcome			
1.10 – 1.55	A Judicial Perspective - Lady Justice Asplin			
1.55 – 2.05	Break Go to Conference Room 1,2,3 or 4			
2.05 – 3.35	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
	Learning from complaints – Roger Levitt, Dominic Stanton and Peter Kearney	Managing Mental Health in Tough Times - Marie Coombes	Community Mediation: Making the Case for Government – Victoria Harris, Kathy Whitestone & Mia Forbes Pirie	SEND: The role/involvement of professional supporters in mediation - Adam Gersch, Martha Monday, Laurence Cobb and Rebecca Hayward
3.35 – 3.45	Break Go to Main Conference Room			
3.45 – 5.00	Looking to the Future, Together			
5.00 – 5.15	Conference close			

Day 1 Session Summaries

Lord Christopher Bellamy

Lord Bellamy, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice and the minister responsible for dispute resolution, opens the conference by sharing his perspective on mediation in the current environment.

Mediator Partiality - why we can't say 'bye bye' to bias – Gillian Caroe

This session will be an opportunity for mediators to reflect on our implicit biases in general and then look specifically at how our biases might play out in the mediation process. There will be exercises, theoretical input (from recent research findings) and some suggestions for strategies to minimise the impact of bias in our practice.

Experience of Mandatory Mediation – Jennifer Egsgard, Frederico Antich and Rebecca Clark

With mandatory mediation on the horizon for civil and SEND cases in England and Wales, we hear from two mediators with experience of a system where it is compulsory to attend mediation before proceeding to court: Jennifer Egsgard from Ontario, Canada, and Frederico Antich from Italy.

How Experiences can Shape Conflicts - Tim Hicks

Conflicts are based on many elements of experience. Often involved are differences in what we know, what we think we know, what we believe, what we understand, and our perceptions of the world. It is a truism in our field that understanding the source of a conflict is an important step in resolving a conflict. In this session, we will:

- look at the sources or roots of conflict in the neural characteristics of knowing and identity;
- gain a better understanding of why conflicts happen, why they are often difficult to prevent or resolve;
- consider how misunderstandings happen and the difficulties of communication;
- look at the nature of many perceptual biases.

Community Mediation: Avoiding Mass Extinction Mark 2 – Victoria Harris, Dave Walker & Mia Forbes Pirie

In this session we explore the history of the community mediation sector, learning from organisations who survived the historic downturn, and look at building organisational resilience and innovative ways to attract new funding with new projects, as well as how the sector can support communities during the current cost of living crisis.

Get Involved in Peer Mediation and Find Out More – Ellis Brooks, Susan Kurr & Kimberley Humphrey

Peer Mediation looks to the future by training young people to use mediation skills in their schools and among their peers. In the introductory session for all, we remind delegates how to get involved. If you'd like to find out more, join the breakout session that follows.

CEO Strategy Session – Paul Adams

The CMC's CEO provides an update on the organisation's strategy, and progress that is being made.

Day 2 Session Summaries

[A Judicial Perspective – Lady Justice Sarah Asplin](#)

Lady Justice Sarah Asplin, Court of Appeal Judge and Chair of the Judicial ADR Liaison Committee provides a judicial perspective on mediation and helps us look to the future.

[Learning from Complaints – Roger Levitt, Dominic Stanton & Peter Kearney](#)

The CMC considers complaints about mediators, that mediators have not been able to resolve themselves. In this session we will:

- Look at common causes of complaints about mediators & identify ways in which those common causes of complaint about can be avoided; and
- Consider ways in which mediators can respond to complaints if they do arise

[Managing Mental Health in Tough Times - Marie Coombes](#)

As mediators we don't see people on their best day. In some cases, not only are they trying to unravel their conflict, they are also dealing with the impact this has on their mental health. Supporting people through mediation is one of the best ways to help parties take back control of their mental wellbeing. Join Marie in understanding:

- How to safely manage a mediation or complex conversation where MH is a concern
- How to support your own wellbeing following mediations and other complex conversations

[SEND: The role/involvement of professional supporters in mediation - Adam Gersch, Martha Monday, Laurence Cobb and Rebecca Hayward](#)

We will explore the role and involvement of professional supporters in mediation, looking at:

- How to define a professional supporter and who falls within that category, and in what circumstances they can participate in mediation;
- The challenges of having professional supporters present, including the need for the mediator to retain control of the process, and ensuring the parents'/young person's voice is heard; and
- The advantages of involving professional supporters.

[Community Mediation: Making the Case for Government – Victoria Harris, Kathy Whitestone and Mia Forbes Pirie](#)

With the spotlight on mediation at the MoJ, we look at how attention can be drawn to the community mediation sector, highlighting the benefits to Government departments responsible for Health, Housing and Community Safety. Building upon the Report 'Transforming Community Conflict' we consider opportunities for working collaboratively to raise the voice of the sector, starting with a potential research project looking at social return on investment.

[Looking to the Future, Together](#)

In this final, interactive, session we will enable you to reflect on and share what you have learned at the conference, look at how you may change your practise in the future, and consider how the CMC can support your future development.