



# Directors Report

The past year has been one where Scottish Mediation have continued it's excellent work and with a view to the future have developed a new strategic plan and goals that will stretch the organisation over the next three years. Our plans to hold a year of mediation in 2020 and to launch a mediation charter are significant steps for Scottish Mediation and will require us to engage with the whole mediation community in order to take them forward. That work has already begun and I am pleased to say that people are up for the challenge and see the benefits that working together can achieve.

The work to do this has been supported by a very positive Board of Trustees and a highly committed staff team. This is the last year of Robin's tenure as Chair and I want to record my personal thanks to him for his support to the organisation and critically to me over the last six years. I am also delighted that the Board feel able to contribute so widely to our work, whether that be leading CPD, helping with various plans and simply through contributions made at the board and SM committees.



The commitment of the staff team was rightly recognised at the National Mediation Awards last week where the Third Sector Project was highly commended. The work that May Millward has put into the project from it's inception has rightly been recognised and I would also like to highlight the support from Clare, Kathryn, Amanda and Sarah both in terms of the Third Sector project but also with Scottish Mediation's work across the Board.

SM Director



# Civil Justice

It has been a productive year for Scottish Mediation's work on civil justice. In February Scottish Mediation submitted evidence to the Scottish Parliament Justice Committee's investigation into ADR. Robin Burley our Chair gave oral evidence at the committee hearing too. What was also very encouraging was the number of mediation organisations also submitting evidence and appearing before the committee. The report, published earlier this month, underlines the opportunity that more embedded use of mediation would provide for court users and is an encouragement for Scottish Mediation to further develop plans for mediation in Scotland.

In January we held a seminar to review the use of mediation in Simple Procedure cases across Scotland. The event enjoyed participation from Sheriff's, the Scottish Court Service, Scottish Legal Aid Board, Scottish Government and mediators. Some key weaknesses in the current use of mediation were identified as well as opportunities to improve the system going forward.

Today also sees Robert Barrett join Scottish Mediation as our Project Officer Civil Justice. Robert's appointment is a key part of a six month collaboration with the Scottish Government Justice department which has three key aims. Firstly to map the use of mediation in the Scottish justice system, secondly to research the use of mediation in jurisdictions across the globe and finally from this work to produce options for a wider use of mediation in the Scottish civil justice system. This is an important development, in addition to welcoming Scottish Government financial support for the project it represents a significant investment (from our reserves) in the project.

# Young Talk

Work has continued apace with Scottish Mediation's work on Peer Mediation. During the year the training programme for schools has continued with very positive feedback from everyone involved.

Work is nearly complete on the production of an APP to support Peer Mediation in schools and once it has been approved by Apple it will be a resource available to download anywhere in the world. The idea of the APP is to provide an interface which young people can learn about peer mediation which includes a number of the key messages that are delivered in training and so can act as reminder for those who have already completed training.

In the coming year work will focus on launching the APP, building towards a major conference for peer mediators next autumn and competing the review of the project. It is hoped that the review will provide an opportunity to take the work forward in future years, expanding the reach of the project.



Peer Mediators in Scotland  
Getting Together

# Helpline

In the year to the end of July 2018 there have been a total of 419 calls to the Network Helpline. The total number of calls for the corresponding period for 2016-2017 was 322 which means that there was a 30% increase in calls this year, following last years rise of 17%.

Of the calls received the majority (370) received information with 35 being referred to either family or community mediation services and 12 referred to our panel mediators. Of those given information a number subsequently went to mediation.

Scottish Mediation will be working with partners to promote the Helpline over the next year with a view to ensuring that the it is available to those who need it.

# Events and CPD

Scottish Mediation presented a varied programme of CPD and events over the last year.

Since the AGM in October 2017 our main CPD last autumn was on Equality and Diversity in Mediation, which was followed with sessions on Shuttle Mediation in the spring. The sessions were held in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh. We were delighted that Amanda Heenan and Sam Tedcastle from the Board were able to present on Equality and Diversity and that Ian McDonough was able to present on Shuttle Mediation.



EDINBURGH | 5 NOVEMBER

The Workplace Employment Initiative Group ran four sessions over the last year covering Neutrality and Activist Mediator, Mediating with Family Businesses, Mediating in a Rights Based Environment and Lawyers in Mediation. The group is open to all members and also includes a reflective CPD session.

This year has also seen specialist events such as the seminar on Simple Procedure, a masterclass on Motivating Behaviour, a seminar on the Irish Mediation Act, a workshop on GDPR for mediators and a seminar on Homelessness and Complaints.

Mediate 2017 was held over one day last November which proved to be popular with delegates. Our keynote speakers Omer Shapira and Rein Skiveland gave great insight into mediation and the issues facing mediation. Our workshops provided a diverse range of topics and the conference received very positive ratings from our delegates. This year's conference takes place on 5 November 2017 in Edinburgh details of which are on the website.

# Membership

Since the AGM last year Scottish Mediation has continued to engage with current members and to seek new recruits. There has been an increase in organisations joining over the past year and we are seeking to build on these increases over the next year.

Scottish Mediation currently has 136 members of these 64 are Practitioners on the Scottish Mediation Register, 52 are individual members and there are 20 organisational members of the Network. In total there are over 200 mediators on the Scottish Mediation Register.

Membership has dipped slightly this year, which is primarily due to a reduction in the number of organisation members, however the number of individual members has increased. The reduction in organisation members has been due to a combination of services discontinuing, organisations merging and financial pressures. Adding organisation members is a priority for Scottish Mediation and discussions are underway with a number of organisations to promote recruitment.

# Board of Trustees

The current Board of Trustees are Robin Burley (Chair), Alun Thomas (Vice Chair), Linn Phipps (Vice Chair), Amanda Heenan (Treasurer). Craig Cathcart, Anne Inglis, Stuart Valentine, Hilary Wiggans, Fiona Cameron, Huw Owen, Scott Docherty, Sam Tedcastle and Katie Souter.

Our Chair Robin Burley is stepping down after six years in office previously joining the Board as a Trustee in 2011. Robin has overseen a period where Scottish Mediation has gone from strength to strength. Stuart Valentine is stepping down from the Board this year and his contributions will be missed by Scottish Mediation. Stuart has been a Trustee since 2009. Stuart is the CEO of Relationships Scotland and will continue to be involved in promoting mediation in Scotland in his role there.

# Finance

The past year has seen a continuation of last years good performance resulting in a strengthening of Scottish Mediation financial position. A surplus of £6113 was recorded for the year ending March 31st 2018 compared to a surplus of £3336 for the previous year. This years results have come about due to a number of factors. Over the past year Scottish Mediation have invested in IT equipment and undertaken further investment in the website. Membership income is up whilst income from conferences and training has remained steady over the year.

The financial objective for Scottish Mediation over the coming year is to generate further income and by keeping expenditure under control, to produce a small surplus.