



Peaceworks Newsletter – Autumn 2009

Welcome to our first Peaceworks Newsletter for agency professionals, designed to keep you up to date with the services we provide and how to access them.

What is Peaceworks?

We are a not-for-profit mediation agency based on the south coast, working through a variety of programmes to build peace locally, nationally and internationally. We provide good value/low cost mediation interventions and maintain a high success rate in enabling the disputants to reach a win-win agreement.

Our long-running and highly valued Peer Mediation in Schools Programme involves us working in partnership with primary and secondary schools across the South East to train pupils and staff in conflict resolution skills, and to help schools set up sustainable peer mediation schemes. We have trained over 20,000 pupils in skills that help them resolve their own and others' conflicts. We also run a highly acclaimed course in Mediation Skills Training, approved by The College of Mediators, and delivered by trainers who are Recognised Members of the College.

We are passionate about empowering communities to build peace, and we are involved in projects that range from international reconciliation work in Africa, through to a local Street Angels project in Bognor Regis.

Mediation in families

Mediation is a vital tool is changing how conflicts are resolved in families and communities here in the UK. Disputes can be resolved without going through an expensive, unconfidential/public, and time-consuming court proceeding. Peaceworks is working with statutory agencies to ensure mediation is accessible to those who need it most, but who may not be aware of mediation as an option. We are currently working with Adur District Council (is this wording correct?) to provide mediation cases for families in crisis, through a service level agreement that has the possibility of becoming a rolling contract. Cases are referred directly to us by Social Services, Health and Police teams (any more agencies to add here?).



Workplace mediation

It is not just family settings that we provide mediation interventions for – we have over seven years experience of mediating in employment, organisational, housing, neighbour, community, congregational and local authority disputes.

In a recent workplace mediation within a large healthcare charity, the Peaceworks senior mediator worked alongside one of the charity's own HR managers who had recently completed our Mediation Skills Training course. This model of working was effective in many ways; the HR manager gained direct valuable experience of co-mediation alongside an experienced practitioner, the charity saved on costs, and the training was maximised to its full potential, and our training ensured/enabled the HR manager to mediate in a genuinely non-partial, neutral way.

We appreciated the opportunity to use this model of working, and anticipate working in this way more in the future, as more agency professionals/people come through our training.



Mediation Skills Training

This autumn we will be delivering our successful (accredited) Mediation Skills Training course here in Bognor Regis at the (Best Western) Beachcroft Hotel. The course is split into three units delivered separately, making it flexible and accessible to those who already have training and experience in mediation. Our trainers use a mix of teaching and role play scenarios to look at the theory of conflict, the mediation process and mediation styles. Delegate feedback is consistently positive, and several delegates have told us that the course is the best training they have ever done! All our lead trainers are Recognised Members of the College and those who are successful in passing this course will be entitled to apply for membership of it.



Our next two courses will be run in Bognor Regis on the following dates:

21-23 Sept 09 (Foundation), **1-2 Oct 09** (Intermediate) and **17 Oct 09** (Advanced).

25-27 Jan 10 (Foundation), **4-5 Feb 10** (Intermediate) and **27 Feb 10** (Advanced).

There are a limited number of places still available on the September course, please get in touch if you are interested.

Over the summer we delivered the course in two new locations; in June we ran a residential course in a beautiful country house setting in North Wales (we plan to run this course again in June 2010), and in July we ran a course for Isle of Wight Council staff in Cowes. If you are interested in Peaceworks running a Mediation Skills Training course in your area and can gather interested colleagues and contacts, please do get in contact.

How do I access Peaceworks' services?

If you would like to enlist our mediation service, or want to find to how to get a Peer Mediation Scheme running in your local school, or want to know more about the MST course, please do get in touch. Peaceworks' philosophy is based around providing professional services on a non-profit, low-cost basis, and our charges reflect this. We try to ensure that our programmes are accessible to all groups, families, individuals – particularly those who would gain the most from the programmes by virtue of the work they do.

CHRIS – do we want to put in details of mediation hourly rates, and MST costs?

Our website is a one-stop shop for information. Visit us at www.peaceworks.org.uk and look out for the launch of our new website this autumn. To contact us directly, call or email the office on:

01243 820604 and info@peaceworks.org.uk

With thanks and best wishes,

Chris Seaton for Peaceworks Staff & Trustees

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