

Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum (VSCSF)

"Working together, sharing our knowledge skills and resources to support children, families and communities to reach their full potential."

Wednesday 9 October 2024

2pm – 4pm

Zoom Meeting

Present:

Eloise Wilson (Chairperson)	CVS Falkirk & District
Kerrie Hoggan (Minute-taker)	CVS Falkirk & District
Diane Cairns	Transform Forth Valley
Beverley Isdale	First 4 Kids
Lauren McGregor	Committed to Ending Abuse (CEA)
Ashleigh Donaldson	Why Not Trust
Sharon Frederiksen	Home-Start Falkirk
Debbie Hamilton	One Parent Families Scotland
Julie-Anne Alexander	Safer Families For Children
Elaine Lambie	Barnado's
Morag McKay	Trinity Church
Moira Simpson	Family Life Centre
Euan Low	Families Outside
Safia Ali	Al Masaar

Guests:

Kathleen Frew	Family Mediation Central Scotland
Nicola Imrie	Family Mediation Central Scotland

1. Welcome and Introductions

Eloise introduced herself, welcomed all attendees to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves and provide some background to their organisation. She noted that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Minutes of Previous Minutes and Action Tracker

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Counselling, Mediation, and Family Support Access – Kathleen Frew and Nicola Imrie

Eloise introduced Kathleen Frew and Nicola Imrie from Family Mediation Central Scotland, a member of the national service Relationships Scotland.

Kathleen and Nicola opened their [presentation](#) (linked) and talked through the detail, the following additional points were noted:

- i. In reference to slide 9 'Destructive Conflict', it was noted that mediation seeks to be very practical in a very emotional situation with a view to negotiating compromise and seeking to allow the children to have a stable environment.
- ii. The majority of cases come to the organisation through self-referral.
- iii. Mediation is not therapy, although it can work alongside a therapeutic intervention. It is also not always suitable for young children, as the participants need to be able to work peer to peer within a mature conversation.
- iv. Mediation offered empowerment, not advice and allowed couples to come to an agreement without involving the Sheriff.

The meeting attendees took time to discuss the nuances regarding the reflective questions outlined on slide 16 and 25. It was noted that the service considered the experiences of the child via research (as shown on slides 19 to 21), they are not involved directly in the mediation, although in exceptional circumstances their views were taken into account (see slide 22).

Kathleen and Nicola were thanked for a very detailed and informative presentation and left the meeting.

4. AOCB

Eloise noted that a fourth round of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults was open for applications until 6th November 2024 and she encouraged Forum members to attend the CVS Falkirk & District AGM on Tuesday 29th October [post meeting note: this has now taken place, [2023/2024 Annual Review](#) available to view].

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 11th December 2024
10am to 12pm**

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