

## **ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN MEDIATORS**

The Association was formed in January 1996 in response to a demand by mediators in the North for some kind of focus group. There was a perceived bias towards the south in terms of the geographical location of all the main providers and in terms of the meetings and training days. We wanted the Association to be an inclusive one open to all mediators achieving a required standard, and we gauged that this standard should not be one set by ourselves but that set by the providers now represented by the Civil Mediation Council (CMC) . We now have around 125 mediator members with some being active and others less so. All members must be accredited by respectively the ADRG , the Academy of Experts , ADR Chambers , CEDR , the CIArb Clerksroom, Regents College of Psychotherapy or the RICS. Virtually all are Panel mediators, who have completed pupillage or otherwise achieved final practicing status. Only mediators who maintain the minimum standards set by the Association are able to remain on the panel.

Our Constitution as at September 2009 is that of an unincorporated Association. Please note that our stated objects are in paraphrase :

- To promote the use of mediation in resolving disputes
- To liaise with those organisations which are involved in dispute resolution
- To assist in maintaining high practicing standards amongst mediators
- To maintain for public use a List of mediators in our region
- To provide opportunities for members to meet and exchange views

We promote mediations in many ways. Because we are an INCLUSIVE grouping, without the commercial constraints of private providers and appointing bodies , we represent a neutral , mediation positive source of advice . We maintain an advice line on 0113 3970826. We run demo mediations, mediation awareness and other workshops for local law societies, chambers of commerce, the CIArb and of course the courts. With our representative hat on we liaise with the Ministry of Justice, the courts and of course the mediation providers.

Whilst we are not officially a TRAINING organisation, we have run advanced mediation training days, and members can obtain CPD points for the other less formal training sessions such as attendance at demonstration mediations. We encourage members to participate in these particularly in their local areas. One of our criticisms of the providers was their inability to provide training opportunities and active training packs for their own members on the basis that 'nanny knows best'. This discouraged initiative and local marketing.

The LIST of members is something that is available for public use, and this distinguished us from the appointing agencies. Apart from the National Mediation Helpline, we do not as yet seek to appoint mediators. The list is freely available to users from the website. If a request is made to us for a recommendation a generic selection is given of mediators based on location, background and experience. The intention is to give as wide as possible choice of PANEL mediators.

**The National Mediation Helpline has its own local panels run through the Association. You should apply to be a NMH panel member entirely separately from the ANM main panel. As at September 2009 ANM were one of a number of providers. We hope this will change shortly.**

**Lastly there are the opportunities to meet . These are at least twice a year in either York , Leeds or Manchester. This is vitally important to maintain momentum and enthusiasm and dare I say it a sense of professional camaraderie amongst members. We run advanced mediator training courses with a summer school each year, and regular workshops for mediators and users alike. We have close ties with the North East Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and we regularly jointly sponsor events in the throughout the north.**

**The future of the Association , with its links with other regional associations , is one where it will develop as a sounding board for mediator opinion and initiatives. Hopefully local mediator panels will form the basis of local mediation initiatives. These are important initiatives which really only inclusive local/regional groupings of mediators can tackle . The challenge will be to be able to accommodate and facilitate mediation usage within the public sector as well as carrying on with our endeavours in the Courts and in the commercial world generally.**

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