

# BRISTOL MEDIATION

## Background

Bristol Mediation (BM) was one of the first community mediation organisations to develop in the UK, starting in 1987. Over the past 30 years BM has provided a range of restorative approaches including: neighbourhood/community conflict resolution, outreach work in communities; peer mediation in schools, published a peer mediation manual; run domestic noise counselling service; worked with young offenders working between them and the victims; worked with young people in the care system; worked with those at risk of homelessness, worked with young people involved in ASB/street conflict and gang crime; assisted with inter-agency co-operation; influenced local policy decisions; and trained hundreds of volunteers to be practitioners - some who still work with us and others who have gone off and become nationally and internationally known for their work.

Our current work includes:

**Restorative Approaches** – We currently provide Restorative Justice Services in South Gloucestershire & BANES to people who are victims of crime. From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 we will, working in partnership with Bristol Neighbourhood Justice Team, provide RJ services across Avon & Somerset. (RAAS – Restorative Approaches Avon & Somerset). We work in partnership with the Police, Probation, Youth Offending Teams, Lighthouse Victim & Witness Care, Housing, Education and other statutory and voluntary agencies. Casework includes out of court disposals, pre and post sentence work as well as running a range of workshops. We undertake work involving reasonably minor incidents to serious crimes and our clients are both young people and adults.

**Neighbourhood Project** - Neighbour/community conflict resolution services in Bristol, BANES, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset working alongside housing teams, police, anti-social behaviour teams, other voluntary and statutory agencies. This is through a range of conflict resolution skills including mediation, shuttle, and single party working.

**Young Peoples Homeless Mediation Service** – We have worked with people at risk of homelessness since 2011 across the city of Bristol. Since 2016 this has focussed on young people, with a primary group of 16/17 working with their young people and their families to provide conflict resolution service to enable improvements in communication, greater understanding and enable young people to continue to live within the family home.

### **Bristol Hate Crime & Discrimination Service**

This service is a partnership with other Hate Crime Services in the city: SARI, Bristol MIND, LGBT+ Bristol, Brandon Trust and Avon Bristol Law Centre to provide a range of services to victim of hate crime and discrimination. Bristol Mediation will provide briefings/training as well as RJ and conflict resolution cases across the city. This project is due to start on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017.

**Other conflict resolution services** – We provide other ad-hoc conflict resolution services to individuals, community groups, agencies and organisations across the region

**Training** – We provide regular accredited mediation training courses throughout the year. These are on a fee paid basis however if funding is available we will offer some places out low cost or free of charge dependant on agency need. (E.g. often these places are focussed on recruiting a diverse group of volunteers). We also provide accredited restorative justice training across the region. This is usually free of charge if people are able to make a commitment as a volunteer for two years however is also available on a fee basis for those that do not want to make a voluntary commitment.

BM & RAAS is staffed by a team of paid workers with 55 volunteer conflict resolution practitioners and 40 volunteer RJ facilitators. We are looking to increase our RJ facilitators to 60 across Avon & Somerset.