

## **Resources and Support**

### **Separated Parents Information Programme –**

Social Worker's can recommend this if it is not something that has already been ordered (refer to original Court Order). It is offered through Core Assets (Children's Services Group) and consists of two sessions where parents attend separately. They are shown a DVD of a child going through domestic abuse/difficult parental relationship. If you recommend this and it is accepted by the parties in court, the courts will arrange parties attendance.

### **Parenting Plan –**

Is a structured plan covering practical issues of parenting. Copies and guidance can be found at <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/grown-ups/parenting-plan.aspx>. This is similar to the Parenting Contracts that the Interventions Team within the Family Service complete.

If you require guidance/support in developing a Parenting Plan/Contract you can refer to the Interventions Team (via Framework Episode) who are able to assist, but will not complete as you very much need to own your involvement and recommendations with these Private Law cases. However if the Interventions Team parenting workers are involved with the child you are writing your report on, it is possible a parenting contract is being considered. It would be best practice to request a joint meeting with the Interventions Team worker and the Parents to 'tighten up' the contract to include your recommendations to court.

### **Mediation –**

In theory, the parties (usually applicant and respondent) should have accessed a Mediation Information Assessment Meeting (MIAM) prior to even attending court. However, courts are not as strict in making this a requirement. If your assessment is that parties require mediation to help them address their issues to improve outcomes for the child(ren) then the 'National Family Mediation' is a good starting point. FREE services (as long as one of the parties is eligible for legal aid) within the NCC area for parents who are divorcing or going through a separation can be found at <http://www.nfm.org.uk/index.php/help-me-im/looking-for-my-nearest-nfm-mediation-service?view=map> or contact 0300 4000 636 to find out more.

The Family Service do not offer mediation when it is needed between two adults. They do however offer a mediation package between an adult and a child; 6-8 sessions, weekly sessions with the priority being allocated to those on the edge of care.

### **Counselling –**

This can be available through the person's GP which is free but may have a long waiting list.

It is always best for the individual to source out their own counsellor although you could signpost them to:

Nottingham Counselling Service, 0115 950 1743, <http://www.nottinghamcounsellingcentre.org.uk/> and/or the Counselling Directory, 0844 8030 240, [http://www.counselling-directory.org.uk/region\\_50.html](http://www.counselling-directory.org.uk/region_50.html).

### **Contact services –**

Generally the NCC Contact Service will not become involved with any aspect of contact relating to a private matter and they will definitely not arrange/supervise contact which you feel needs to take place to inform your assessment; as you very much need to own your involvement and recommendations with these Private Law cases.

If you believe some contact needs to take place to inform your overall report and recommendations then you need to arrange this by contacting the Central Contact Team on 01623 631101 to book venues and you need to supervise this contact.

However where you are to recommend supervised contact as an outcome of your assessment and within the recommendations of your report, contact the Central Contact Team as they are happy to discuss individual cases and if there is clear merit/issues which the Contact Team can support with, they will meet this need.

The Family Service do not supervise contact but can offer support to kinship carers i.e. any adult who does not have parental responsibility, with regards to the setting up and supporting of contact if there is a clear need to minimise disruption on a child. So if the Private Law application is between a Grandparent and Parent(s) you can refer to the Interventions Team (via Framework Episode) and they will assist you and the parents and/or carers in developing and supporting contact arrangements. \*\*Please note that if a recommendation of your Private Law Report is to close the case to Social Care following the final court hearing, you will need to liaise with the Case Management team within the Family Service and discuss the 'Step Down' protocol as an Interventions Team worker will not remain involved with a family unless there is a Social Worker allocated.\*\*

National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) <http://www.naccc.org.uk/find-a-centre> - two Core Assets in Nottingham and Mansfield and four centres in Long Eaton, Newark, Retford and Nottingham. Professionals can enquire and refer and family members can also self refer. There could be a cost involved, which increase with identified need such as supervision.

Always be mindful as to how 'realistic' your recommendations are i.e. cost, availability, waiting times. Although it is not the responsibility of the author of the report to match their recommendations with a resource/service; so if your assessment is that a person requires bereavement counselling then this should be a recommendation. However, don't set up parties to fail if the recommendation is in no way feasible.