

Westminster Legal Policy Forum keynote seminar
Next steps for family law in England and Wales - reforming care proceedings, protecting vulnerable users and modernising court procedures

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 27th February 2020

Venue: The Caledonian Club 9 Halkin Street, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7DR



**WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Implementing court modernisation**
Emma Petty, Service Manager - Family Public Law and Adoption Reform Project and **Isabel Syred**, Service Manager – Divorce and Financial Remedy, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 9.40 **Problem-solving courts - addressing substance misuse, mental health problems and domestic abuse**
Dr Mike Shaw, Consultant, Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, Tavistock Clinic London, Family Drug and Alcohol Court
- 9.40 - 10.30 **The impact of changes to private family law proceedings - protecting vulnerable users and meeting demand and expanding mediation**
Jane Robey, Chief Executive Officer, National Family Mediation
Lucy Hadley, Campaigns & Policy Manager, Women's Aid
Alison Moore, Barrister, 1GC Family Law and Member, FLBA Vulnerable Witness Working Group
Jessica Asato, Head of Public Affairs and Policy, SafeLives and **Ursula Lindenberg**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Voices
Questions and comments from the floor with **Dr Mike Shaw**, Consultant, Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, Tavistock Clinic London, Family Drug and Alcohol Court National Unit
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede
- 10.35 - 11.00 Coffee
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Hamwee, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Immigration
- 11.05 - 11.15 **'Supporting victims and ensuring effective legal advice for litigants'**
Fiona Beazer, Senior Manager, Citizens Advice and **Alison Lamb**, Chief Executive, RCJ Advice
- 11.15 - 12.05 **Reforming care proceedings in England and Wales - Special Guardianship Orders, improving standards nationwide and innovative approaches to care**
Sarah Phillimore, Barrister, St Johns Chambers
Mor Dioum, Co-Founder and Director, Victoria Climbié Foundation
Natasha Watson, Head of Safeguarding Law and Litigation, Brighton & Hove City Council
Questions and comments from the floor with **Fiona Beazer**, Senior Manager, Citizens Advice and **Alison Lamb**, Chief Executive, RCJ Advice
- 12.05 - 12.30 **Next steps for policy**
Neal Barcoe, Deputy Director, Family Justice Policy Division, Ministry of Justice
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Improving data and research evidence in family justice**
Sir James Munby, Chair, Nuffield Family Justice Observatory and former President, Family Justice Division, High Court of England and Wales
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Baroness Hamwee, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Immigration
James Hughes, Assistant Managing Director, Westminster Legal Policy Forum