

ESRC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

DIVORCE AND SEPARATION: NEW MODELS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE TO SUPPORT PARENTS



DATE: 7th December 2015 – Coffee and registration 09.30 -10.00am. Seminar 10.00-16.30.
VENUE: The Nuffield Foundation, 28 Bedford Square, London (TBC)

Divorce and separation can be an extremely difficult time for families. Many parents can be overwhelmed by a range of emotions and worries about the future. Supporting separated parents through this process and helping them focus on the needs of their children is challenging work for lawyers, mediators and social justice professionals working in this area. This is also a priority policy for the Government. The Department for Work and Pensions is seeking innovative solutions that will help parents reach agreements in the best interests of their children. To that end, it has invested £20 million in the 'Help and Support for Separated Families' fund (HSSF) which aims to test innovative service models and new developments in professional practice that help parents collaborate to reach agreements that are in the best interests of their children.

This high level policy seminar will open up debate among family justice professionals, scholars and policy makers about how best to work with separated parents to help them produce positive outcomes for their children. Leading organisations and practitioners in the field will consider the evidence on the latest innovations and debate the future of professional practice. Presentations include:

- **Resolution** - Dr Christine Skinner (University of York) and Ida Forster (Resolution) *'Family Matters: Guiding parents to resolution'*
- **Relate** – CEO Chris Sherwood and Senior Policy Officer David Marjoribanks *Navigating family relationship support: Joining up support before, during and after separation*
- **One Plus One** - Director Penny Mansfield (*Title TBC*)-
- **Professor Lawrie Moloney** - Australian Institute of Family Studies. *Family Relationship Centres: a key and (mainly) successful part of Australia's family law system.*
- **Plenary Panel Discussion** *'Future models of practice – Challenges and Opportunities'* led by the distinguished **Emeritis Professor Janet Walker OBE, Newcastle University.**

Register here from the 7th of October: <http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/child-maintenance-esrc-seminars/seminars/divorce-separation-and-child-maintenance/>