

## **Volunteer Trainee Family Mediators**

Avenue is a charity, based in Aberdeen, that provides support to families and individuals across the North East of Scotland, with a focus on relationships, wellbeing and children. We offer a range of services to encourage personal growth, strengthen relationships, promote family wellbeing, support children and enable healthy environments for all. We are working towards a world in which happy, healthy people enjoy harmonious and respectful interactions in all aspects of their lives.

We have several exciting volunteer opportunities to join our team at Avenue and train to be a Family Mediator. It is our intention that these positions will lead on to paid roles within Avenue on completion of the course.

Family Mediation is a voluntary process in which a trained, impartial mediator helps family members to communicate more effectively, and to make their own arrangements for the future, particularly children. Family mediation assists those involved in family breakdown, in particular parents who are separating or living apart, to communicate better with one another and to reach their own decisions about some of the issues relating to the family breakdown.

The Certificate in Family Mediation (CFM) is a part-time course, delivered and accredited by Relationships Scotland, which must be completed within 2-3 years. Those who are successful in being chosen to undertake the Certificate in Family Mediation (CFM), will be required to undertake a minimum of 500 hours of student learning. This takes place through distance learning (195 hours), facilitated learning (85 hours) and Service Based Practice Learning through Avenue (220 hours). The CFM consists of two modules.

- Module 1: Certificate in Family Mediation (Accredited) – to be completed within 1 year
- Module 2: Certificate in Family Mediation (Registered) - to be completed within 1-2 years

Avenue will support successful applicants through the training, providing free supervision and support from our team of experienced mediators. We will also pay the course fee, and cover travel and accommodation costs to attend the training days in Edinburgh (up to an agreed amount).

In return, we will expect successful applicants to commit to the course, work within specified practice standards, work independently and as a member of the Avenue team, and seek to complete the course within the agreed timescales.

Applicants interested in applying, should ideally have a background of working in a voluntary organisation, social work, counselling, negotiating or similar area. An interest in helping families to communicate better and to reach agreements, particularly those going through the process of separation and divorce is a must.

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**Location:** Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray

**Hours:** Estimated commitment is 5 to 10 hours per week. Trainee Family Mediators will agree their practice hours with Avenue to meet local demand, the course requirements and their own availability.

**Benefits:** Avenue will fund the fee of £1630 for the CFM Course for 2022; support successful applicants through the training; provide free supervision and support from our team of experienced mediators; cover the travel and accommodation costs to attend the training days in Edinburgh (up to an agreed amount).

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**To Apply:**

- Please contact [avenuehr@avenue-info.com](mailto:avenuehr@avenue-info.com) for an application pack, titling your email 'Volunteer Trainee Family Mediator'
- We only accept completed application forms, CVs will not be accepted
- Closing date for applications is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 at 9:00am
- Interviews will be held on w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022
- For an informal conversation about this opportunity, please email Meg Black, Avenue's Mediation Manager on [m.black@avenue-info.com](mailto:m.black@avenue-info.com)

Unfortunately, due to our limited capacity, we are unable to provide feedback to candidates not shortlisted for interview.

***Avenue is a member of Relationships Scotland and is an Equal Opportunities Employer***