



MEDIA RELEASE
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Conference explores how mediation can protect children from conflict

A special Children in Scotland and Resolve: ASL conference will today explore how mediation can help protect children from being damaged by conflict.

The Eye of the Storm – the politics of conflict and its resolution, will look at how mediation can offset long-term damage to relationships and provide a constructive alternative to courts or tribunals.

The conference will focus on providing an understanding of conflict, how conflict can impact on children, and how we manage it in our personal and professional lives.

Bronwen Cohen, chief executive of Children in Scotland, said:

“Access to mediation services doesn’t only help to resolve disputes, it can play a preventative role through improving training and communication, and yielding better quality information.”

“Better support and the development of skills in these areas can ultimately serve to protect children from being damaged by relationship breakdown and the stress of conflict. The conference will also address how mediation can have particularly beneficial results for children with additional support needs.”

The conference will look at conflict as a vehicle through which change can take place in our relationships, organisations and ultimately in society, and provide participants with the opportunity to develop their own personal and professional conflict resolution toolkit.

The keynote speaker at the conference will be Dr Peter Adler, mediation expert and president and chief executive of the Keystone Centre, Colorado, USA.

The conference will be followed on 21 September by a one-day training seminar, *The Art and Craft of Navigating Human Hurricanes*.

The event, facilitated by Dr Adler, is an advanced one-day training seminar for conflict resolution practitioners to explore and improve their negotiation, mediation and problem solving skills.

For further information about the conference, The Eye of the Storm, visit www.childreninscotland.org.uk/eos

For further information about the seminar, The Art and Craft of Navigating Human Hurricanes, visit www.childreninscotland.org.uk/nhh

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Notes for editors:

- Children in Scotland runs **Resolve: ASL**, an independent mediation service to assist local education authorities to meet the mediation requirements of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2006. For details of services contact Sandra Mitchell, email smitchell@childreninscotland.org.uk
- **Children in Scotland** is Scotland's national children's agency, bringing together voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals to improve the lives of Scotland's children and their families.