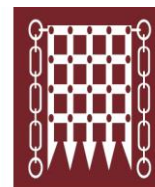


Westminster Legal Policy Forum keynote seminar:

Next steps for family justice in England and Wales

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 3rd December 2024

Taking place online



**WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Blower
- 9.05 **The evolving family justice landscape - key issues for policy and funding**
Senior commentator
- 9.15 **Options for improving process, addressing knowledge gaps, and supporting fairness for divorcing couples: insights from the 'Fair Shares?' report**
Professor Emma Hitchings, Professor of Family Law, University of Bristol; and Lead Author, *Fair Shares?* report
- 9.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 **Latest thinking on supporting those affected by the impact of family breakdown**
the role of multi-agency working and third sector involvement during family breakdown | safeguarding children from harms suffered during family breakdown | priorities for child-centred approaches and proceedings | legal status of cohabitation and discussing the impact of cohabitation agreements | challenges for those separating in cases of coercive control and domestic abuse | ensuring effective legal advice
Dr Andy Hayward, Associate Professor, University of Durham
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, financial planning
Senior representative, safeguarding
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Next steps for the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, and financial remedies in family breakdown**
Professor Nick Hopkins, Commissioner, Law Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Blower
- 11.05 Break
- 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.20 **The future role of the judiciary in family justice proceedings, and managing the balance between legal certainty and judicial discretion**
Senior representative, judiciary
- 11.35 **Priorities for modernising the family justice system, and supporting the courts through non-court dispute resolution (NCDR)**
availability of NCDR | access to justice | priorities for tackling court backlogs | improving experiences of families in court | the implications of the Transparency Implementation Group Reporting Pilot | mediation | arbitration | financial dispute resolution (FDR) appointments | collaborative law | priorities for effective legal advice
Jennifer Lee, Barrister, Pump Court Chambers
Dominic Raeside, Head of Mediation, Family Law in Partnership
Sayra Tekin, Director of Legal, News Media Association
Senior representative, court user
Senior representative, innovation
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for family justice going forward**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Amy Wassif, Westminster Legal Policy Forum