

Curriculum Vitae

Craig Wilkinson
MA, PGCSSM, Dip SW, Dip SFBP

Independent Childcare Consultant / Trainer /
Fostering Consultant / Accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator



- Accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator.
- Experienced Manager / Practitioner / Trainer.
- Experienced Fostering Panel Chair.
- Independent Reviewing Officer for Independent Fostering Provider.
- Member of Care Forum Wales Looked After Children Network Steering Group
- Serious Case Review Chair.
- Highly motivated, energetic individual who achieves results.
- Child centred and 'outcome driven' philosophy.
- Ability to engage the 'hard to engage' and form positive relationships.
- Ability to work using own initiative, work effectively under pressure and achieve results within timescales.
- Adept at networking.

Current Work:

- Accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator.
- Chair of 2 Local Authority Fostering Panels.
- Independent Reviewing Officer for Independent Fostering Agency.
- Form F assessor.
- Reg 32 Independent Visitor for Residential Home.

Social Work Experience:

- Serious Case Review Chair.
- Development of protocol with Local Authority for engaging 'hard to reach / engage / aggressive' clients; supporting Local Authorities to implement changes to safeguard children or providing clear evidence of the parent's inability to safeguard the needs of their children to assist Care Proceedings.
- Chair of North Wales Domestic Abuse Forum
- Manager and facilitator of the Caring Dads Programme
- Strategic development of a Specialist CAMHS Multi-Agency Panel.
- Project Manager NCH Cymru (1999 – 2008)
- Acting Assistant Director NCH Cymru North Wales (2007)
- Member of Local Authority LSCB

Fostering / Residential Experience:

- BAAF Consultant (2008 – 12)
- Fostering Panel Chair (2 Local Authority Panels, 1 Independent Fostering Provider Panel)
- Vice Chair of Local Authority Adoption Panel (2004 – 2007).
- Independent Reviewing Officer for Independent Fostering Provider.
- Development of Fostering Panels to Quality Assure practice.
- Development of training programmes for Foster Carers.
- Undertaking Form F assessments; particularly Kinship Carers.
- Introduction of National Minimum Standards in residential placements.

Trainer / Personal Development:

- BAAF Trainer (2008 – 12)
- Development of the understanding of the impact of trauma on children.
- Development of training programmes for Foster Carers

Accredited Mediator:

- Direct work with parents in conflict to facilitate contact arrangements.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Diploma in Social Work (Number 35863) CCETSW	1993
Postgraduate Certificate in Social Services Management University of Birmingham	2002
Diploma in Solution Focused Brief Practice Brief Practice London	2006
Accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator Clear ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)	2016

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:

Master of Arts (MA) Ethics of Social Welfare University of Keele	2006
Diploma in Higher Education (Applied Social Studies) University of Portsmouth	1993

Membership / registration of professional groups:

Registered with Care Council for Wales (W/1022333)
Member of Nagalro (1333) www.nagalro.com
Member of United Kingdom Association of Solution Focused Practitioners (UKASFP)
Enhanced CRB: 001207841540

Referees: Details provided on request.

Contact details:

craig@solutionsinmind.co.uk

07946850094

Website: www.solutionsinmind.co.uk

Linkedin profile: https://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=43999234&trk=nav_responsive_tab_profile

Testimonials:

Accredited Mediator:

Comments from parents who have engaged in this way of working:

"Thank you for helping put my family back together!"

"Your sensitivity was greatly appreciated by myself and my family"

"I am sure I speak for all your clients, when I say that you've listened and heard (it doesn't always follow), you've been kind, and resolute in making people believe in themselves, and supportive in so many ways. I am sure that there are a lot of people who do not want to let you down, and in turn therefore will not let themselves down".

"You could not have been more helpful, gripping the situation so comprehensively".

"It means so much to know that you were there to help when it mattered".

"Many thanks for all your help and kindness you have done for us".

"We have a long, long way to go, but if you hadn't had been there to help the only way we'd be going is separate ways. This is by no means 'Happy Families' but it is a start"

"Mark bought me flowers on the day of my interview, and he hasn't done that since I can't remember! I think you've performed a miracle!!".

"You have an uncanny knack of asking the right question which makes me think, opening up opportunities from what I thought were closed situations!"

The Court process encourages conflict. you learn to criticise the other parent and begin to believe the 'devil incarnate' your legal team creates really exists. Craig encourages each parent to see the positives in the other parent and this allows contact to be built not destroyed..

I wish we'd have met you years ago, it would have saved so much pain.

Craig made it possible for me to see my children after my ex had blocked my contact for over 3 years. He made my wife understand how important contact with their dad was and helped her understand how she was putting her hatred to me before what was best for the kids.

Craig helped me show the Judge that the concerns raised by my ex wife were not true.

You always made me realise how my behaviour and reactions impacted on the children.

Feedback from CAF/CASS officers:

I referred a complex and protracted private law case to Craig and following 6 sessions with the parties he was able to influence significant change. Without his intervention the outcome in that matter could have been very different for the children. I will continue to refer cases of a complex nature to him and would not hesitate to recommend his work.

Craig and I worked with a family who had been involved in Court Proceedings for many years. Craig's approach helped both parents become more aware and open about their positions and why they had been so stuck for many years. This work enabled the child to feel that she was eventually listened to by her father and the Court.

Feedback from Solicitors:

To be honest I have been surprised as to the progress made! The Father believes that had Craig been introduced into matters a year ago the protracted Court proceedings may have been avoided. I remain extremely impressed with Craig's work and would have no hesitation in referring further work to him and recommending him to other professionals.'

Craig Wilkinson's CV is impressive; having facilitated and managed the Caring Dads programme in North Wales. Clients benefit from one to one counselling that Craig provides. Craig invites the mother to a joint meeting with the father near the end of his work with the father to improve the relationship between the parents for the benefit of the child and which is aimed at increasing the mother's trust and confidence.

I have worked with Craig on several cases with which he has been able to help both parents who have been 'stuck' to adopt a different approach to resolve their difficulties. His experience of working with domestic violence perpetrators and victims enables him to address concerns raised in proceedings in an effective manner.

Instructions from a Judge:

He (the father) can avail himself to seek assistance of a counsellor or family mediator such as Craig Wilkinson who has experience in domestic violence cases and abusive relationship cases and can assist perpetrators in realising how their behaviour can affect others.

The final order will be conditional on the basis that the father has to engage with Craig Wilkinson before the case goes anywhere. Mr Wilkinson has worked successfully in the past with others, teaching them that any actions that he takes there will be a reaction and there may be unintended consequences.

Fostering Consultant:

Panel Chair since 2009:

- Craig is a skilled, knowledgeable and experienced Chair of the Fostering Panel, enabling all Panel Members to express their views. Panel can be a daunting experience for some people and Craig is able to communicate in a way that puts applicants at ease whilst also effectively asking sometimes difficult questions.

I have no hesitation in recommending Craig as a Fostering Panel Chair.

Agency Advisor
Fostering Service Manager
Fostering.duty@flintshire.gov.uk

- Craig has been the Independent Chair of our Fostering Panel since 2009. He shows a great passion for his work in fostering and demonstrates an extensive knowledge in this area. He strives to ensure children in care receive the best possible care and is proactive in identifying areas for development within the service that will improve quality for both children and foster carers. He is thorough in his approach to his work and actively involves all panel member in discussions. Craig encourages panel member's own development and is also welcoming of feedback about his own practice.

Lisa Hocking
Powys Fostering Service Manager

- Craig manages the Panel extremely well; he has a good rapport with Panel Members and Foster Carers. He is always respectful and honest and is able to sum up the reports in a positive manner even when dealing with difficult issues / Foster Carers.

Fostering Panel Member's Appraisal

- Craig is able to say just the right thing at the right moment to very nervous individuals who don't accept praise easily.

Fostering Panel Member's Appraisal

Independent Reviewing Officer *Craig has been the Independent Reviewing Officer for Prospects for Young People Fostering Agency since 2014. He is an asset to the service; bringing his range of knowledge and experience which enable him to carry out the foster carer annual reviews to a high standard. He challenges appropriately and has a professional manner that allows for open and honest discussions. He is also willing to share his knowledge and experience with the staff team, offering direction where needed and assisting us to broaden our contacts. Craig is a personable character and we will continue to commission his services.*

Alison Gregory, Fostering Service Manager