

# Community Mediation

A & B had been neighbours for around five years and had got on well. Difficulties arose between their children as they got older, resulting in a number of allegations and counter allegations being made to both the council and the police regarding the children's behaviour. The main allegations concerned verbal abuse and using one of the gardens as a cut-through.

Party A and B had initially approached each other when the difficulties first arose but these discussions would quickly result in raised voices and slammed doors to the point that they were no longer speaking and communicating only via the council or police.

The parties were visited separately to discuss how things were from their point of view. Both parties expressed their frustration and upset at the situation and a wish to be able to get on with their lives without fear of the police or council coming to the door. The both also expressed a wish to be able to move on from these difficulties acknowledging the fact that they would be living next to each other no matter what happened.

Both parties agreed to mediation but it was difficult to set a mutually suitable date. We therefore arranged for a shuttle mediation where the mediators were able to pass on positive messages and look at ways forward for the future. With the help of the mediators the parties were able to create an agreement both of them felt they could live with and chose to build in a review period so they could monitor how this agreement was working.

We contacted both parties at the end of the review period and they both felt the agreement had been working well. They felt that they had a better understanding of each other's needs and they were now able to choose appropriate times and ways of approaching each other if difficulties arose.

### **Moray Community Mediation**

