

LINDSAY BURLEY CBE FRCPE FRCGP FRSA

Lindsay is one of the top mediators in Scotland. She is accredited as a business coach and mediator and is a partner in Eskhill & Co. Previously Chief Executive of Borders Health Board, she enjoyed a varied thirty year NHS career as a consultant physician and an executive director. Lindsay has held several non executive Board positions and is now Chair of NHS Education for Scotland. Lindsay was made CBE in 2011 for services to the Health Services in Scotland.



Mediator and Coach

Lindsay trained in mediation with Core Solutions in 2003. Since then she has completed 200 mediations. Much of her mediation work has been in workforce and commercial disputes. She is experienced working with professionals as parties and advisers and is a member of the Mediator Panel of the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission as well as Scottish Mediation's NHS Complaints. Lindsay also carries out Pro Bono mediations in Edinburgh Sheriff Court. She has a particular interest in mental health and has accumulated significant experience working with clients who have experienced mental health problems.

Lindsay brings skills and experience in managing people and change in complex settings to coaching and mediation. She offers executive and team coaching to a wide range of private, public and voluntary organisations, focusing on the performance of top managers and board directors. She has a particular interest in, and experience of, the relationship between the Chair and Chief Executive. Building on her mediation experience, she offers Conflict Coaching as a specialty and is accredited in Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI).

Mediation style

Preferring a facilitative approach, Lindsay's experience allows her to range across the spectrum from facilitative to evaluative as appropriate. She works hard to keep the parties positive and focussed on the future, without avoiding the difficulties evoked by their past history. She is used to coping with strong emotions and anger that conflict may provoke.

Previous experience

Lindsay graduated in medicine from Edinburgh University in 1973. She trained in general practice and internal medicine, specialising in geriatric medicine. In 1991 she moved into full time senior management in the NHS as Director of Planning and Development with Lothian Health Board. These positions allowed her to develop a wide range of services, as well as offering significant experience in managing people, organisations and understanding the complexities and ambiguities of large public sector agencies.

In 1995 Lindsay was appointed Chief Executive of Borders Health Board, a post she held until 2003. She was a member of the Millan Committee, whose report on mental health legislation underpinned the 2003 Mental Health Act in Scotland.

Other relevant experience

Lindsay took up post as Chair of NHS Education for Scotland in 2010, having been a non-executive director since 2002. From 2003 to 2010 she chaired the National Waiting Times Centre Board. She was a member of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council from 2006 to 2013, and represented the Council on the UK Healthcare Education Advisory Committee. Other board experience includes membership of the Court of Napier University and a director position with the Tabula Rasa Dance Company. She was Chair of the Scottish Association for Mental Health from 2009 to 2015. Lindsay also held an honorary Senior Lecturer appointment with the University of Edinburgh (Faculty of Medicine) until 2013.

“Lindsay’s pre-meeting was helpful and reassuring, and the day was welcoming and conducive to focusing on a positive outcome. On leaving mediation, I felt the way ahead was clear.”