



Ministry  
of Justice

# Legal Support Advisory Group meeting

## Wednesday 23 February 2022

### Summary Note of meeting

#### Members present:

Stephanie Hack (MoJ Access to Justice, Chair); Christina Blacklaws (Lawtech UK), Richard Miller (The Law Society – attending for Stephanie Boyce); Natalie Byrom (Legal Education Foundation); Clare Carter (The Access to Justice Foundation); Chris Minnoch (Legal Aid Practitioners' Group), Lindsey Poole (Advice Services Alliance); Phil Robertson (Bar Council); Fiona Rutherford (Justice).

#### Apologies:

Apologies were received from Hazel Genn (UCL); Robert Bancroft (Equality and Human Rights Commission), Stephanie Boyce (Law Society),

#### Additional Attendees:

Other attendees: MoJ Legal Support Policy Team; MoJ Legal Aid Policy Team, MoJ Analytical Services, MoJ Digital.

#### Welcome & introductions

1. Stephanie welcomed attendees and explained that Fiona Rutherford had left her role at MoJ to join Justice and that an interim Access to Justice Director, Daniel Flury, had started this week but was unable to attend the meeting today.

## **Update on minutes, and actions, from last meeting**

2. The previous minutes were agreed. MoJ went through the actions from the last meeting, all of which were either completed or covered by agenda items.
3. Natalie Byrom reiterated that her action points related to the fact that it was important that those who accessed legal support online needed to know that the information they got was accurate.
4. This was the first hybrid meeting with some MoJ staff joining from a meeting room. Some members expressed concern that this was not an effective format.

**Action: LSAG members to provide MoJ with feedback on how hybrid meetings might work more effectively for LSAG in the future.**

## **Update on spending review allocations and Legal Support portfolio strategy**

5. MoJ updated the group on the latest position of the Spending Review allocations. The reshuffle had meant the new Secretary of State had needed to consider the department's bid himself and that it was hoped to have information confirmed by Treasury soon. There was no confirmed news, but information would be shared with members as soon as MoJ were able to. The uncertainty over allocations also made it difficult to develop a clear strategy for the future of legal support, although the team had done some initial thinking on this as part of the allocations process.

**Action – MoJ to share initial thoughts on future strategy within 6 weeks, for the group to provide their views.**

## **LSLIP Mid-Grant Report**

6. MoJ presented an overview of the findings from the Legal Support for Litigants in Person (LSLIP) mid-grant report. There were several key learnings from the mid-grant review that will inform future projects. This includes the value of flexible funding arrangements, the added value of effective partnership working, the importance of allowing enough time for services to bed in and several learnings surrounding how to collect consistent data that balances reward and burden.

**Action – MoJ analysts to add total numbers to the summary slide pack and recirculate it to members. MoJ analysts will also consider some of the suggestions made for the final LSLIP evaluation.**

## **Legal Needs Dashboard update & demonstration**

7. MoJ gave a demonstration of the latest prototype of the legal needs dashboard.

**Action –MoJ to provide further background and demonstration to Lindsey Poole, Fiona Rutherford and Phil Robertson and any other members who would like further detail.**

### **Any other business (AOB)**

8. The date of the next meeting is likely to be April/May 2022.