

# Legal Support Advisory Group meeting Tuesday 25 April 2023

## Note of meeting

### Members present:

Cathryn Hannah (MoJ Legal Support and Fees, Chair) (CH); Chris Minnoch (Legal Aid Practitioners' Group); Richard Miller (Law Society) (RM); Lindsey Poole (Advice Services Alliance) (LP); Fiona Rutherford (JUSTICE) (FR); Rob Bancroft (EHRC) (RB); Natalie Byrom (Legal Education Foundation) (NB); Hazel Genn (UCL) (HG).

### Apologies:

Lubna Shuja (Law Society); Clare Carter (The Access to Justice Foundation); Phil Robertson (Bar Council).

### Additional Attendees:

MoJ Legal Support Policy Team (LS)

MoJ Legal Aid Policy Team (CLA)

### Welcome & introductions

1. CH welcomed attendees and noted the apologies. CH confirmed Alex Chalk KC (AC) has been appointed Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice. The Lord Chancellor's previous role in MoJ covered prison policy, legal aid and legal support.

### Update on minutes and actions from last meeting

2. The previous minutes were agreed. CH went through the actions from the last meeting, the majority of which were completed. MoJ to pick up the final action to come back to.

### Securing Interest on Lawyer Client Accounts (SILCAs):

3. LS introduced the paper on securing interest on lawyer client accounts (SILCAs) and welcomed the views of the members. LS noted this was exploratory work only and MoJ was in the early stages of research.
4. LSAG members provided feedback. There was discussion on international funding models and the aims and objectives of future research.

5. LS confirmed that MoJ will continue exploring this workstream and thanked the group for their contributions.

## **Civil legal aid policy update:**

### ***Review of Civil Legal Aid:***

6. CLA provided an update on the review of civil legal aid and welcomed views of the members.
7. LSAG members provided feedback and discussed the review.
8. CLA will share the new Terms of Reference (ToR) once finalised by Ministers. The ToR will improve the clarity on objectives, outcomes, and timelines, and reflect initial stakeholder feedback on the review of civil legal aid.
9. CLA will share details and milestones of each of the workstreams in the review of civil legal aid in the next round of engagement. CLA will pick up points raised at LSAG in specific workstream sub-groups.

### ***Early Legal Advice Pilot:***

10. CLA provided an update on the Early Legal Advice Pilot (ELAP) and welcomed views of the members.
11. LSAG members provided feedback and discussed initial implications and possible next steps of ELAP.
12. CLA will prepare a lessons learned report due to be ready in Summer, including a review of the pilot's findings. This report will be shared with LSAG when published.

### ***Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service:***

13. CLA provided an update on the Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service, discussing procurement for HLPAS providers and work to raise awareness of the service among potential users. CLA welcomed views of the members.
14. LSAG members provided feedback and discussed the Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service.
15. CLA will review conclusions following the latest tender, and continue work to raise awareness of support available under HLPAS

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

16. N/a

Action	Owner(s)	Deadline	Update
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MoJ will investigate whether they can publish the modelling on the impact of interest rate changes on mortgages/possession/money claim workload	MoJ	tbc	MoJ to review
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