



# Summary Minutes

**Title of meeting:** Practitioners' Operational Group (POG)

**Date:** 27 September 2016

**Location:** Caxton House

**Attendees: DWP:** Adrian Shooter (Chair), Kay Bendell, Paul Selby, Greville D'Cunha, Gladys Nyakaisiki

**Dial-in:**, Malcolm Eadie, Pamela Thompson, Robert Irvine, Amanda Sowerby

**Local Authority Associations (LAAs):** Paul Ellary, June Deans, Mark Gillmore, Chris Boylett, Adrian Mills, Gwynn Thomas

**Dial-in:** Pamela Richardson, Jean Cheeseman, Matthew Evans, Paula Doherty

**Apologies:** Les Robertson, Sian Peters, Karl Thomas, Colin Wallbank, Andrew Hyatt, Charles Taylor, Iain Marshalsay, Carol Cleland, Frankie Cartwright

## 1. Welcome and Introductions:

DWP opened the meeting and introductions were made round the table and for those dialling in.

### Matters Arising

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Action points were updated and cleared where appropriate.

DWP provided a general update on Benefit Cap. DWP explained that POG's comments had been incorporated into the notification letters, together with comments from other stakeholders.

DWP explained that the housing benefit matching system (HBMS) Capital Rules should be transferred to Fraud and Error Service (FES) around December.

POG members requested that Debt Management provide a detailed update for the next meeting on the analytical activity to develop a forecast of the debt position over the next five years and the options being considered to tackle the increasing HB debt.

## **2. Fraud and Error Reduction Incentive Scheme (FERIS) 3 Project Update**

DWP provided an update on the latest FERIS 3 design proposals for 2017/2018. The assumption is the design will not change significantly from that of the 2016/2017. However the baselines/thresholds will need to be adjusted to take into account Wider use of Real Time Information (WuRTI) performance.

A further design meeting with Local Authorities (LAs) is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

DWP will send POG members an invitation to join the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The aim is to launch FERIS 3 around early-mid January 2017, with applications for funding expected to be received from LAs by early-mid February 2017.

POG members requested papers to be distributed prior to the FERIS meeting.

## **3. Potential Future Funding Options**

DWP updated POG about the work undertaken to review LA Funding arrangements and to consider alternatives to the Delivery Partnership Agreements (DPA). The intention is to consider a mixture of Grants and New Burdens to replace the DPA. DWP will update POG when these plans are finalised.

## **4. New Burdens Funding**

DWP advised POG of plans for proposals which will improve compliance with the New Burdens Guidance (also known as New Burdens Doctrine).

DWP is keen to involve key stakeholders including LAs and LA secondees in this review. DWP has advised the LAA Steering Group.

DWP sought POG's views on the most effective way of involving a cross section of LAs. POG suggested a notice to be included in HB Direct to reach a broader audience.

## **5. Automated Transfer to Local Authority Systems (ATLAS) update**

DWP updated POG on the issues around ATLAS files not being sent from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016. This was due to IT changes required for the benefit cap.

## 6. AOB

POG members asked DWP to investigate the timeline for delivery of the ATLAS alerts for Universal Credit (UC) benefit cap adjustments.

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next POG will take place on 29 November 2016;  
Caxton House

**Contact:** Mont Goldman

**Email:** [mont.goldman@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mont.goldman@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)