



Summary Minutes

Title of meeting:	DWP/ LA Welfare Steering Group
Date/timings:	13 th December 2018 - 11:00 – 14:00
Location:	LGA Smith Square, Beecham Room
Attendees:	<p>DWP: Claire Elliott (Chair), Darren Baker, Kay Bendell, Carolyn Pollard (Secretariat), Karen Polston, Annette Madden, Nic Vaughan (DI), Geoff Scammell, Graham Roberts, Tracy Williams (DI), Susan Johnson.</p> <p>Scottish Gov: Kirsty Le Grice (DI), Linda Davies (DI)</p> <p>LAs: Sam Ashton (London Councils), June Deans (Glasgow), Matthew Evans (Wrexham)</p> <p>Dial in: Adrian Mills (Anglia Revenues),, Sarah Price (Merthyr Tydfil, Andrew Stevens (East Kent), Pamela Richardson (Gateshead), Helen Paine (Gateshead), Jayne Henderson (Newcastle), Michael McClements (COSLA), Howard Mason (Manchester), Jennifer Wynter (Hackney), Peter Meehan (COSLA), Simone Hines (N&B).</p>
Apologies	Rebecca Bowers (DWP), Rose Doran (LGA), Lisa Hayward (WLGA), Ian Brown (Wiltshire), Andy Cameron (Leeds), Tim Savill (Bham), Frank McGregor (SG), Dave Kinnair (Bham), Susan Donald (Aberdeenshire).

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Claire Elliott opened the meeting. Introductions were made round the table and for those dialing in.

2. Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

The action points were cleared.

3. UC issues log

Updates to key issues in the log and closed issues in agreement with group members.

UC update

The latest UC statistics were published on 13 November and the headline analysis shows

- 1.3 million claimants now on UC
- Of these, 470,000 (36%) were in employment at 12 July 2018.

We can also confirm that as of today: we have:

- 26 UC Service Centres
- 637 Jobcentres in Universal Credit Full Service and the rollout of the Full Service

was completed on 12 December 2018.

As of 12 November there are 596 landlords on the LLP which includes 12 in Northern Ireland.

The Universal Credit Bulletin

Provides local authority staff at a working level with details and updates on Universal Credit and Universal Support. The latest issued UC3 /18 LA Bulletin was issued 30/11/18.

LA Full Service Support Pack

The UC LA full service support pack Version 19 was issued in September 2018. This incorporated service improvements, June budget announcements, policy/process changes and user feedback. At the recent LA Engagement events, a large number of local authorities said that they found this pack really useful and used it to train and support their staff.

Version 20 is being developed and will be released in the first quarter of 2019.

4 Managed Migration

A Managed Migration event was held on 17 October with Stakeholders chaired by Neil Couling and the message was how DWP want to work in partnership around the design and potentially with some of the delivery, so claimants can move to UC with the minimum of disruption.

This is going to be followed up by a series of workshops on four themes:

- 1) Service Design
- 2) Delivery Model,
- 3) Communication and Orientation
- 4) Vulnerable claimants

The focus will be safeguarding claimants and ensuring a smooth transition with uninterrupted support.

Over £3billion will be spent over 10 years on Transitional Protections for 1.1 million households, to ensure no one loses out at the point they move onto Universal Credit.

There will be a minimum of 3 months notification period informing claimants that they will need to make a new UC claim.

Claimants who move to UC will also have access to the legacy benefit run-ons announced at the budget 2018, the UC Transitional Housing payment, advances and Universal Support to aid transition to UC.

5. LA Funding Group Update

LA Funding Group update was provided.

Agreement to a new funding allocation methodology has been made.

Formal approvals are being progressed:

- Clearance has been obtained on the overall HB administration subsidy (HBAS) funding level for 2019/20.
- The departmental efficiency reduction, to be applied to the HBAS funding.

HDD are to use the management and financial information to inform the calculation of New Burdens funding for 2019/20 for the following activities:

- Natural Migration
- Management Activities
- Housing Expertise and Complex Cases
- Debt Migration

6. LA/CAB Meeting feedback

An overview of a Universal Support / CAB meeting was provided. LA attendees were lead through the new service CAB would be providing going forward,

The service provided will be national, and include a helpline and web chat, and will also involve working in conjunction with local Bureaus. Pilots are being delivered in two phases, in Nov 18 and Jan 19.

Date, time and location of next LAWSG	The next LA Welfare Steering Group is scheduled to take place on 14th February 2019, 11.00 – 14:00. Room G.35, Caxton House, London
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