



Summary Minutes

Title of meeting:	DWP / LA POG
Date/timings:	24th January 2019 - 10:30 – 14:00
Location:	Room 5.21 / 5.22, Caxton House, London
Attendees:	DWP: Darren Baker (Chair), Kay Bendell, Carolyn Pollard (Secretariat), Karen Polston, Sheena Parker, Alan Brown, Alan Sullivan, Nic Vaughan, Paul Selby, Mark Griffiths, Richard Ward, Marie Savage, Joanne Hawkins, Nigel Carleton, Wayne Norfolk, Judith Hartshorne, Brooke Ahmed, Michaela Capanna, George Beresford, LAs: Lisa Fuller (Renfrewshire), Gwyn Thomas (Westminster), David Kinnair (Bham) June Deans (Glasgow), Adrian Mills (Anglia Revenues), Paula Doherty (Dumfries & Galloway), Pamela Richardson (Gateshead), Chris Boylett (LB Newham)
Apologies	Marion Joass (DWP), Jonathan Bottomer (DWP), Adrian Shooter, Mandy Fathers (West Oxford), Lisa Hayward (WLGA), Paul Ellery (K&C), Gary Trent (VOA), Matthew Evans (Wrexham)
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions:</p> <p>Darren Baker opened the meeting. Introductions were made round the table and for those dialing in.</p> <p>2. Managed Migration:</p> <p>Transition is now complete, with the roll-out of UC Full Service into every Jobcentre throughout the country.</p> <p><u>Key changes following the SSAC consultation:</u></p> <p>Extension to the deadline day</p> <p>The deadline for claimants to move on to Universal Credit following the issue of their Migration Notice will be extended from one month to three months.</p> <p>Two Week Run-On</p> <p>We accept that it is particularly challenging for out of work claimants to adapt to monthly payments when moving from legacy benefits that were paid weekly or fortnightly.</p> <p>Proposing the introduction of a two week run on of Employment Support Allowance (Income Related), Jobseekers Allowance (Income Based) and Income Support for claimants to help them manage the move to Universal Credit.</p> <p>This is in addition to the existing 2-week Transition to UC Housing Payment.</p> <p>Working with our partners and stakeholders</p> <p>We are committed to co-designing the process with claimants, charities, experts</p>	

and others (incl. LAs, HMRC), making sure that it works for everyone.

An initial event was held on 17th Oct with over 70 stakeholders to discuss managed migration (incl. timetable, communications strategy and perceived challenges).

Ongoing engagement will continue with some workshops already held and others planned to support collaborative working.

3. Matters Arising (Previous Minutes/Action Points, previous LAWSG Minutes)

The previous minutes were agreed, no questions were raised.

4. UC Update

The latest UC statistics were published on 22 Jan 2019 and the headline analysis shows:

- 1.6 million claimants now on UC – an increase of 10%
- Of these, 580,000 (37%) were in employment at 13 December 2018 compared to 41% in December 2017.
- 26 UC Service Centres
- All 637 Jobcentres now in Universal Credit Full Service (rollout completed 12/12)
- There are 648 landlords on the LLP which includes 15 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. And work is underway on Version 20 which we hope to issue by the end of March 2019.

5. Third Party Deductions – Legacy Benefits – Overview of the Scheme

There was a walkthrough of the presentation.

Outlining the policy of the scheme, the benefits of where a deduction may be taken, rules and safeguards, and the priority order of benefits to be recovered.

Third Party Deductions – Universal Credit

There was a walkthrough of the presentation and overview of improvements along with the key changes to the TPD process in Universal Credit.

6. Mixed Age Couples - Changes to entitlement conditions from 15 May 2019

Background and next steps for the changes to entitlement conditions for MAC from 15 May 2019 were discussed.

This will be discussed at the next POG if required, and Housing Policy Division thanked POG and all LAs for their continued support.

7. Data Sharing and Automation ideas

A consultation letter was shared and discussed regarding 2019/2020 digital/technological spending.

8. LA Data Sharing Timeline

The timeline was shared and discussed.

9. Update on Bexley

An update was provided on the “Bexley” initiative which is looking to improve the Housing Benefit fraud referral process.

10. SHBE Change Requests

The 2019 LA IT system changes regarding supported housing were discussed.

11. Housing Benefit decisions for Specified Accommodation

POG member’s views were welcomed, on a notification gap regarding Supported Housing Benefit decisions for UC claimants.

Date, time and location of next LAWSG	The next Practitioners Operational Group is scheduled to take place on 14th March 2019, 10:30 – 14:00. Room 5.21/22, Caxton House.
Secretariat:	Carolyn Pollard
Email:	carolyn.pollard@dwp.gsi.gov.uk