

# Summary Minutes

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	DWP/ LA Welfare Steering Group
<b>Date/timings:</b>	12 June 2019 - 11:00 – 14:00
<b>Location:</b>	Room G.42, Caxton House, London
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>DWP:</b> Clare Elliott (chair), Gary Todd (Secretariat), Darren Baker, Kay Bendell, Amanda Sowerby, Nic Vaughan, Graham Roberts, Susan Johnson, Joanne Hawkins, Adrian Jones, Alan Brown  <b>LAs:</b> Sam Ashton (LC), June Deans (Glasgow), , Rose Doran (LGA), Tim Savill (Bham), Simone Hines(N&amp;B), Michael McClements (COSLA), Lisa Haward (WLGA), Andrew Stevens (East Kent)  <b>Dial in:</b> Matthew Evans (Wrexham) Adrian Mills (Anglia Revenues), , Pamela Richardson (Gateshead), Ian Brown (Wiltshire), Linda Davies (WG), , Asha Vyas, Peter Meehan (COSLA)</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	Ian Adams (Islington), Susan Donald (Aberdeenshire), Jayne Henderson (Newcastle), Rebecca Bowers (DWP), Andrew Cameron (Leeds), Sarah Price (Merthyr Tydfil), Helen Paine (Gateshead), Howard Mason (Manchester), Martyn Lindsay (SG), Richard d'Souza (DWP)
<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions:</b>  Introductions were made round the table and for those dialing in.</p> <p><b>2. Matters Arising</b>  The minutes of the previous meetings were agreed.  Action Points were discussed.</p> <p><b>3. New LA Welfare Issues Log:</b>  Amanda Sowerby provided an update via the highlight report which consists of a one- page slide showing issues to be discussed, issues for closure and issues under investigation.</p>	

**4. Move to UC**

Update in relation to a recent webinar was provided and the next part of the webinar was discussed.

**5. VEP Integration**

A presentation was given on the forthcoming changes to the VEP service.

**6. Self – Employed Review and Bexley**

**Self Employed Review** – Analytics recommended considerable savings could be made if LAs were asked to review self-employed cases which had not been reviewed over the past twelve months. This was initially trialled over three LAs and dramatic results were seen.

Thanks were given to all LAs who participated.

**Bexley** – The process of an LA suspecting fraud was explained and the ways to simplify the process.

Bexley and two more LAs were included in the trail and initial findings were positive.

There were hopes to launch a larger trial with 23 LAs later in the year.

**7. MOU 2019-20**

The MOU 2019-20 was discussed.

**8. AOB and close**

<b>Date, time and location of next LAWSG</b>	<b>The date of the next LA Welfare Steering Group is to be confirmed, 11.00 – 14:00.</b>
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Gary Todd
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:gary.todd2@dp.gov.uk">gary.todd2@dp.gov.uk</a>

