



# Summary Minutes

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	DWP / LA POG
<b>Date/timings:</b>	11 July 2019 - 10:30 – 14:00
<b>Location:</b>	Room G.46, Caxton House, London
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>DWP:</b> Darren Baker (Chair), Carolyn Pollard (Secretariat), Kay Bendell, Sheena Parker, Amanda Sowerby, Amanda Langford, Eleanor Whittle (observer), Gary Mccann (observer) Adrian Jones, Nick Dale.</p> <p><b>LAs:</b> Paul Ellary (K&amp;C), Gwyn Thomas (Westminster), David Kinnair (Bham), Mark Gillmore</p> <p><b>Dial in:</b> Anne-Marie Read (DWP), Nic Vaughan (DWP), Joanne Hawkins (DWP), Patrick Togher (DWP), Karen Gibson (DWP), Wayne Norfolk (DWP), June Deans (Glasgow), Matthew Evans (Wrexham), Pamela Richardson (Gateshead), Paula Doherty (Dumfries &amp; Galloway) , Mandy Fathers (West Oxford)</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	Paul Selby (DWP), Jonathan Bottomer (DWP), Adrian Shooter (DWP), Chris Boylett (LB Newham), Lisa Fuller (Renfrewshire), Adrian Mills (Anglia Revenues)
<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions:</b></p> <p>Darren Baker opened the meeting. Introductions were made round the table and for those dialing in.</p> <p><b>2. Matters Arising (Previous Minutes/Action Points, previous LAWSG Minutes)</b></p> <p>The previous POG and LAWSG minutes were agreed and action points were discussed.</p> <p><b>3. LA Welfare highlight report:</b></p> <p>An update via the highlight report.</p> <p><b>4. Delivering future LA Engagement Events</b></p> <p>Walkthrough of the slides.</p> <p>12 Local Authority engagement events were held between October and December 2018.</p> <p>Our current plan is to hold a similar number of events across several locations in Autumn 2019.</p> <p><b>5. Migration/Move to UC</b></p> <p>It was confirmed preparations for the Harrogate pilot are complete. However, the regulations for managed migration are still to be heard.</p>	

**6. VEP linkage with Housing Benefit systems update**

Outline the projects phased approach to Housing Benefit (HB) integration work.

**7. Bexley update**

DWP are working to simplify the process of when a referral is made by an LA to DWP with the suspicion of fraud.

The trial now has 21 LAs live and will be running to the end of September 2019 and then the results will be analysed.

**8. Mixed age couples update**

HDD colleagues were looking again at some of the issues.

**9. Managed payments to Landlords demo**

A working demo of the service was provided.

The portal has been introduced to simplify and speed up the process for rent verification and requesting alternative payment requests (APAs) for Landlords in the Social Rented Sector. It is a secure way of transferring relevant tenant information directly to universal credit. The service has received positive feedback from landlords.

<b>Date, time and location of next LAWSG</b>	<b>The next Practitioners Operational Group is scheduled to take place on 12 Sept 2019, 10:30 – 14:00.</b> <b>Room G.35, Caxton House.</b>
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