



Title of meeting:	DWP/ LA Welfare Steering Group
Date/timings:	16 October 2019 - 11:00 – 14:00
Location:	Room 1.25, Caxton House
Attendees:	<p>DWP: Clare Elliott (chair), Carolyn Pollard (Secretariat), Darren Baker, Kay Bendell, Graham Roberts, Joanne Hawkins, Adrian Shooter, Jane Autherson</p> <p>LAs: Sam Ashton (LC), June Deans (Glasgow), Lisa Hayward (WLGA), Andrew Cameron (Leeds), Sarah Price (MT), Anil Gupta (COSLA), Ian Brown (Wiltshire)</p> <p>Dial in: Nic Vaughan (DWP), Sheena Parker (DWP), Alan Brown (DWP), Moira Smith (SG), Susan Johnson (DWP), Helen Paine (Gateshead), Howard Mason (Manchester), Simone Hines (IN&B), Paul Knevett (LGA Districts)</p>
Apologies	Rose Doran (LGA), Peter Meehan (COSLA), Matthew Evans (Wrexham), Ian Keating (LGA), Adrian Mills (Ang Revs), Natalie Keogh (DWP), Asha Vyas (Havering), Ian Adams (Islington), Susan Donald (Aberdeenshire), Pam Richardson (Gateshead), Tim Savill (Bham), Jayne Henderson (Newcastle), Linda Davies (WG)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

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

2. Matters Arising (Previous Minutes/Action Points, previous POG Minutes)

The previous POG and LAWSG minutes were agreed.

Action points were discussed, see below.

3. LA Welfare Highlight Report

Kay Bendell asked if any members had anything to raise regarding the highlight report which consists of a one-page slide showing issues to be discussed, issues for closure and issues under investigation.

4. **LA Funding Group update**

Adrian Shooter provided an update from the last LAFG on 20 Sept 2019.

The main item was an overview of initiatives to improve the accuracy of HB awards which he would cover in more detail under a separate agenda item.

Adrian confirmed the next LAFG had been scheduled on 5 Nov 2019.

5. **Move to UC update**

Nic Vaughan provided an update on the Move to UC pilot in Harrogate.

6. **Effective Management of HB Caseload and initiatives to improve accuracy**

Adrian Shooter presented and provided an overview of initiatives to improve the accuracy of HB awards, this includes the new HB award measure and full case reviews (CMI 2), self-employed reviews, mandating HBMS and spend to save proposals for 20/21.

7. **AOB**

DWP preparations for a no-deal Brexit – impact on front line services

DWP are working across all service lines to prepare to leave the EU including managing any potential economic impact.

Help to claim

Work was ongoing in this space but no update to share.

Meeting closed

Date, time and location of next LAWSG	The date of the next LA Welfare Steering Group is 16 January 2020, Room G.42, Caxton, 11.00 – 14:00.
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