



Summary Minutes

Title of meeting:	DWP / Practitioners' Operational Group
Date/timings:	16 July 2020 – 10:30 – 13:00
Location:	Skype & Audio
Attendees:	<p>DWP: Darren Baker (chair), Carolyn Pollard (Secretariat), Kay Bendell, Sheena Parker, Amanda Sowerby, Jonathan Bottomer, Paul Selby, Joanne Hawkins, Martin Lacy, Marie Savage, Michelle Heath, Richard Allen, Babu Ganatra, Trevor Pendergast, Niamh Parker, Jemma Argent (observer), Katherine Purser (observer)</p> <p>LAs: Paul Ellary (RBK&C), Matthew Evans (Wrexham), Gwyn Thomas (Westminster), Paula Doherty (D&G), David Kinnair (Bham), Lisa Fuller (Renfrewshire), Chris Boylett (Newham), Mark Gillmore (EK services), Pam Richardson (Gateshead), Mandy Fathers (West Oxford), Barry Jardine (Renfrewshire)</p>
Apologies	June Deans (Glasgow), Adrian Mills (Ang Revs), Helen Paine (Gateshead), Adrian Shooter (DWP)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Darren Baker opened the meeting.

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

The following Practitioners' Operational Group (POG) and LA Welfare Steering Group (LAWSG) minutes were agreed:

- POG – 20 February 2020
- Joint LAWSG / POG – 25 March 2020
- Joint POG / LAWSG / LA Funding Group – 30 April 2020
- LAWSG – 10 June 2020
- Extraordinary POG - Housing Benefit (HB) Award Accuracy Initiative re-launch – 17 June 2020

Action points were discussed.

Katharine Purser the Digital Group Head of Design, Architecture and Strategic Planning attended the meeting as an observer and introduced herself to POG members. She is aware of the data sharing requests from local authorities (LAs) and is keen to work closely with LAs going forward.

3. LA Welfare issues

A brief update was provided.

4. LA Partnership, Engagement and Delivery division recovery plan

The LA Partnership, Engagement and Delivery division recovery plan was discussed.

5. Update: HB Award Accuracy Initiative re-launch

An update was provided following the Extraordinary POG held on 17 June 2020.

6. Performance Measurements evidence gathering review process

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Performance Measurement team and POG members discussed the feasibility of when DWP could recommence Housing Benefit reviews.

8. Policy update

A number of housing Policy changes were discussed.

9. AOB

- Universal Credit (UC) data share
- Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding
- Additional Earnings Disregard
- MGP1
- UC Uprating April 2020 – Local Council Tax Reduction data share
- Debt Management

Meeting closed

Date of next POG	The date of the next Practitioners' Operational Group is 24 Sept 2020
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