



Summary Minutes

Title of meeting:	DWP / Practitioners' Operational Group
Date/timings:	19 November 2020 – 10:30 – 12:45
Location:	Skype & Audio
Attendees:	DWP: Darren Baker (chair), Carolyn Pollard (Secretariat), Amanda Sowerby, Alan Brown, Sheena Parker, Paul Selby, Jonathan Bottomer, James Hankinson, Joanne Hawkins LAs: Paul Ellary (RBK&C), Adrian Mills (Ang Revs), Matthew Evans (Wrexham), Gwyn Thomas (Westminster), June Deans (Glasgow), Paula Doherty (D&G), David Kinnair (Bham), Lisa Fuller (Renfrewshire), Chris Boylett (Newham), Mark Gillmore (EK services), Pam Richardson (Gateshead), Ben Hamilton (Manchester)
Apologies	Mandy Fathers (West Oxford), Helen Paine (Gateshead)

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 – 24 September 2020
- LAWSG - 22 October 2020

3. Update: LA Welfare issues highlight report:

An update was provided on the LA issues highlight report.

4. Update: LA-PED recovery plan

A summary of the LA Partnership, Engagement and Delivery division recovery plan detailing the progress updates and forward look was provided.

5. Update: Performance Management

An update of the Performance Management plan was provided.

6. Verify Earnings and Pensions and HB Award Accuracy Initiative

An update was provided.

7. Welsh Test and Trace Payments

The Test and Trace Scheme has now been launched in Wales.

8. Update: COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme

An overview of the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme was provided.

On Sunday 8 November 2020, the government [announced](#) a significant package of extra targeted financial support for those in need over the winter period.

9. AOB

Breathing Space Virtual Workshop for LAs

A workshop on “Breathing Space” was held on 18 November 2020. Breathing Space is a Treasury-led initiative intended to give debtors a 60-day window in which to get their affairs in order prior to starting repayment. The initiative goes live in May 2021.

Meeting closed

Date of next POG	The date of the next Practitioners’ Operational Group is to be confirmed
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