

**Minutes of a meeting held at 2nd Floor Markwell House
on Wednesday 12th October 2022**

Members Present:	Margaret Mansfield	MM
	Howard Connell	HC
	Bob Ayre (<i>via Teams</i>)	BA
	David Trace (<i>via Teams</i>)	DT
	Paul Coppel (<i>joined the meeting at 14:30</i>)	PC
Officers Present:	Christine Clucas	CC
	Martina Jay	MJ
	Alex Powell (Note Taker)	AP
Apologies:	Ruth Costain	RC
	Pam Pringle	PP

42/22	WELCOME AND MINUTES		
	As RC was unable to attend, MM took the Chair. The Minutes of the meeting 10 th August 2022, having been previously circulated, were approved.		
43/22	MATTERS ARISING		
	<p>40/22 Legal Merits Test in Childcare Proceedings MM asked HC if he would provide information re the Justice Reform Act at the next LAC meeting.</p> <p>37/22 HM ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LEGAL AID REVIEW – OPTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT See 45/22 below.</p>		HC
44/22	MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION AND DECISION		
	(a)	Update from the Legal Aid Certifying Officer (MJ)	
	(i)	<p>MJ advised that since the last meeting 43 new applications had been received and 31 Certificates issued.</p> <p>She is due to attend the Joint Consultative Committee with Legal Aid peers from neighbouring jurisdictions in Guernsey 3-4 November and will report back at the next LAC meeting.</p>	MJ
	(b)	Update on Staffing/Operational Matters (CC)	
	(ii)	<p>CC advised that there was no change with regard to Legal Aid office staffing.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there had been further issues with regard to submissions made to the Legal Aid Appeal Tribunal (see 36/22 (a) (i). CC cited an example of an appeal against the awarding of</p>	

		<p>Legal Aid on financial grounds being considered by the Tribunal which is not within its remit. She and MJ were concerned that expectations of appellants were being raised that the Tribunal would consider both financial and meritorious aspects of an appeal.</p> <p>MJ said that - unless obligated - she will not enter into dialogue with appellants who are not in receipt of Legal Aid as this is both time consuming and can be unhelpful/potentially create conflict.</p>	
45/22	HM ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LEGAL AID REVIEW – OPTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT		
		CC reported that the Committee's response to HMAG Options and Recommendations had been sent to the Attorney General's Chambers on 24 th August 2022. No feedback yet received.	
46/22	CONSIDERATION OF EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC RE:ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID		
		<p>Prior to the meeting, emails received from a member of the public who is aggrieved that whistle blowers are not automatically granted Legal Aid was circulated to the Committee. This correspondence has been ongoing for several months and was first referred to at the LAC meeting 09th March 2022 (Min 13/22 (b) (ii).</p> <p>Having considered the individual's correspondence and noting that points made by the individual in question will be taken into consideration in the course of the Legal Aid Review, a response was agreed by the Committee and AP was asked to action accordingly.</p>	AP
47/22	ANY OTHER BUSINESS		
		It was agreed that the next meeting would take place Wednesday 09 th November at 14:00.	

The meeting closed at 14:34

Minutes agreed
By
Chair



Date 09/11/22 .