

Board Meeting Summary

June 2021

Opening the Meeting

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. No conflicts of interest were reported.

The Chair updated the Board on recent engagement with the DWP and wider members of the regulatory family.

Minutes and actions

The Board agreed the minutes of its May meeting.

It was agreed that a paper on “quick wins” in the Covid Digital Tools Collab Partner space would be circulated to the Board.

CEO’s Report

The CEO reported that the Executive were piloting meeting free periods and exploring options to remove unnecessary meetings. Conversations were still ongoing around Places for Growth to ensure clarity around the ask.

A PDP deep dive with DWP NEDs had explored the possibility of bringing forward delivery of the product.

The draft outcomes of the recent DR had now been received ahead of their submission to the Minister.

It was noted that MaPS may measure against the savings it produced for other departments, such as the NHS through alleviating mental health issues.

Management Information Report

The CFO reported his comfort with the current run rate, highlighting that the DWP had now imposed a limit of being within 1% at year end.

Limited Audit Assurance: Update on Executive Response/Action Plan

The Board noted the CEO’s Five Point plan to address the recent Limited Assurance Audit. The areas of focus would be more detailed objectives for directors, greater use of training, greater use of Directorate meetings and the Senior Management Team, and targeted clear communications.

CSR Update

The CFO reported that it was understood that the Secretary of State expected a zero-based ground up review to be conducted.

The Board concluded that it was happy to endorse changes to the general approach, so long as it remained within the established parameters, and subject to reporting back at the earliest opportunity.

Consumer Protection Strategy

The Board endorsed the Consumer Protection Strategy and agreed to move the forthcoming presentation of an update paper on the regulatory family to February/March 2022.

Update on MaPS' Dashboard

The Board received an update on the development of the dashboard and noted that a business case would be coming for Board approval.

Information Paper on the Government Communications Service

The Board acknowledged that communications was one of the four main levers of government and discussed how MaPS fitted with wider government considerations. The Executive confirmed that with GCS having implemented a recruitment freeze on all communications and marketing roles, any new hires would be fixed-term only.

FinCom Chair's Update

The subcommittee Chair updated the Board on recent work.

The Board discussed the importance of safe procurement processes and agreed that a short paper would be circulated to Board members outlining work to address the risks around fairness in the bidding process for bidders in the digital collaboration space.

ARAC Chair's Update

The subcommittee Chair reported satisfaction at the improvements across Audit and Risk since the appointment of a Chief Risk Officer.

The Board delegated the sign-off of the recent minor updates of the Compliance Framework to the subcommittee.

Adult Advisory Group

It was reported that the Debt Advice Steering Group had now been wound up, following its final meeting on 23 June and its role subsumed by the AAG.

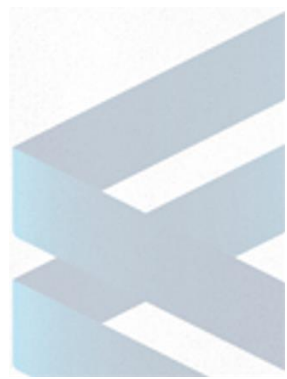
The Board agreed a change in the name of the Adult Advisory Group to that of the MaPS Advisory Group, and further agreed the appointment of two new members of the Group.

Summary of Complaints

The Executive provided a update and the Board noted that that whilst three complaints had been escalated to the Ombudsman, none had been upheld.

Review of Whistleblowing Policy

The Board approved the policy.



Review of Expenses, Gifts and Hospitality Policy

The Board approved the updated policy.

Annual Report and Accounts Procedure

The Board noted that the draft ARA had been reviewed with no substantive errors or omissions reported. The Chair highlighted that the report would come back to Board in due course for final sign-off once the data had been subject to the audit process.

Procedures for Meetings

The Chair outlined the approach which would be taken to Board and committee meetings once the COVID related restrictions on social distancing changed (expected on 19 July).

Forward Plan

The Board reviewed its forward plan with the Governance Team.

Any Other Business

It was agreed that the horizon scan document seen at ELT would, in future also be shared with the Board.

With no other business, the meeting was closed at 15.12.

