
Opening the Meeting

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Chair's Comments

The Chair highlighted that a constructive, positive first meeting had taken place with the new Minister for Pensions and Growth. The Chair noted actions in relation to PDP. It was noted that the Senior Leaders Forum had taken place, which was organised by DWP ALB participants and led by the Permanent Secretary, and had focused on cost of living challenges.

Conflicts of Interest

The Board noted Monica Kalia's previous position on the Board of StepChange.

Minutes of 27 September

The minutes for the meeting were approved.

Action Log

The Actions Log was reviewed and discussed by the Board. The Board agreed that requests for a number of the actions would be completed by the October meeting of the Board and the log reduced accordingly.

CEO Report

The CEO drew the Board's attention to: MaPS' control environment; KPIs and budget; debt advice volumes; P6 forecasting; staff surveys and Places for Growth.

Performance Pack

The Board reviewed and discussed the key performance headlines. The following aspects were noted and discussed:

- Digital Delivery Partner Statement of Work
- Challenges around recruitment in the digital space
- End of year forecasts were within 5% of target and as such recoverable.

Places for Growth update

The Board noted the progress update on the PfG programme. It was noted that the MaPS Board had an obligation to assess value for money both from the perspective of MaPS and from the perspective of taking into account clear directions from government. Board approved Option 5 which was the recommended approach.

Options for the Review of the UK Strategy for Financial Wellbeing

The following was set out:

- the options for the scope of a review in FY23/24
- what information would be available to inform that review
- how MaPS might engage with stakeholders and partners during the review
- some suggested areas of focus
- the options for the scale and structure of the view, including a proposed timeline for the review process, and publication of a report

The Board endorsed the direction of travel for the review of the UK Strategy for Financial Wellbeing.

Financial Wellbeing Dashboard

The Board were happy with the template being used which should continue to be used since it reflected discussion to date.

Cost of Living Paid Marketing Campaign

The Board endorsed the direction of travel noting that consideration should be given to inequality around disability in terms of facing the cost of living crisis.

ARAC Chair report

The verbal report on the ARAC of 11 October 2022 was noted.

Forward Plan

The Board considered and noted the forward plan.

AOB

It was noted that cover-notes needed to hit the key information.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 15:10.