

**Minutes of Meeting of Legal Aid Special Interest Group Committee held on
Tuesday 28th February 2017 – 2pm to 3:10pm**

Present: Paul Seddon
Rachel Perkins
Charlotte Flanders

Apologies: Bob Baker
Samantha Bagnall
Linda Kann

Agenda

- 1 – 2018 Contract Consultation
- 2 – Election/Nomination/Constitution
- 3 – VHCC feedback
- 4 – Conference 20th March

1. 2018 Standard Civil Contract Consultation

PS updated re this morning's SPG meeting. The draft contract documents have been released to the Law Society, Bar Council, LAPG and ASA, and they have until 20th March to respond. PS advised he thought the ACL LAG should be consulted, particularly, on Section 6 of the Specification (assessments) and there is a possibility that he may be discretely co-opted to do so by either the Law Society or LAPG. He will brief Claire Green accordingly **(AP1)**.

2. 2017/18 Committee

PS confirmed 4 nominations to date. CF to check constitution in event of less than 6 nominations (ie co-opting/open a second ballot) **(AP2)**.

If 7 or more nominations, ballot will take place from Tuesday 7th March until Thursday 16th March. RP has warned DP of timetable (post meeting) and there are no problems with this. Also in event of 7 or more nominations, then personal statements will be required from all nominees.

Constitution

PS/CF discussed 2 points to continue looking into – 1) changing constitution to committee length of 2 years/ 50% of vote rather than 50% of membership required for changes to constitution and 2) the possibility of a need to dissolve the LAG in the case of a major change to the structure of the ACL. PS advised that MC's last day as CEO is 10th March. CF to discuss/email MC prior to his departure **(AP3)**.

3. VHCC feedback

PS advised this was raised at SPG this morning. He has requested that all committee members provide any salient queries on all VHCC matters e.g. the number of communications handled every week (CCFS/2 Counsel/Family/non-Family etc) by 20th March **(AP4)**

4. Conference

Confirmed attendees to date 28 (includes some committee members). Closing date for bookings is tomorrow (1st March) but this could be extended.

Confirmed speakers (and estimated time for each):

Matthew Gold – 1 hour

Carol Storer – 45 mins

Claire Green/Ken Corniss – 1 hr

Antony Leal – 1 hour (RP requested/suggested he speak on CCFS in CCMS)

PS advised he would “fill” if required. Discussion also re potential Judges from Manchester area to continue to approach. Suggestions included Ian Besford, DJ Moss, another that CF couldn’t remember the name of (to advise PS if recalls). **(AP5)**

Discussion also took place as to whether a panel session take place before the luncheon adjournment, with the AGM being moved to the end of the day.

PS also to liaise with Stephen Barker as to whether he would be able to attend as discussed at Jarrow on 3rd February. **(AP5)**

| Actions from this meeting | | Owner | By when |
|---------------------------|---|-------------|------------|
| AP1 | PS brief CG re draft contract documents | PS | ASAP |
| AP2 | CF to check constitution re nominations | CF | ASAP |
| AP3 | CF to discuss/email MC prior to departure re constitution | CF | ASAP |
| AP4 | List queries on all types of VHCC matters | ALL MEMBERS | 20th March |
| AP5 | Continue to approach Judges for seminar | PS/CF | ASAP |
| AP6 | Liaise with Stephen Barker re seminar | PS | ASAP |