

Minutes of Meeting of Legal Aid Special Interest Group Committee held on
Thursday 16 January 2025 at 8pm

Present: Paul Seddon
Rachel Perkins
Ann Henderson
Tracey Jack
Clint Nicholls
Steve Jepson
Carol Calver (ACL head of operations)

1. Action Points from last meeting

AP1 – AH to deal with
AP2 – CC to deal with
AP3 – PS gave update from PET
AP4 – AH to deal with
[AP1]

2. 2025 seminar

Discussion re dates and location. Agreed on either 9th or 16th June (post meeting note – 9th June confirmed) and Shakespeare Martineau (same location as last year) suggested as a location. CC confirmed that she would put in a request for AV **[AP2]**.

Suggested speakers include Matt Howgate (GDPR), Chris Ferrison/Scott Baldwin (Counsel's fees), LAA – including Stephanie Donohoe (Digital payment team)/paper-hearing FAS fees/DRA and Early Neutral evaluation hearing fee. CC believed that about 20 paying attendees were required to break even.

3. SPG/CCCG

SGP dates:
06.02.2025
20.05.2025
14.08.2025
13.11.2025

CCCG dates:
05.03.2025
11.06.2025
10.09.2025
03.12.2025

TJ confirmed she was able to attend all SPG and CCCG meetings in 2025.

LAA billing meetings:
14.03.2025
23.05.2025
01.08.2025
10.10.2025
19.12.2025

4. LAA FAS webinar and resultant Q&A – issues raised re Legal Aid/CCMS

Queries raised following this include paper hearing FAS U1 fee – suggested as subject for seminar. RP circulated

slides and Q&A document.

Further issues raised include:

- DRA/early neutral evaluation hearing – when these can be claimed as a final hearing. It was agreed that these two points should also be raised at the SPG/CCCG and LAA billing meetings.
- LAA requiring final position statements before considering merits for increasing scope to include cover for Final Hearings. Again, it was agreed that this would be raised at SPG/CCCG and LAA billing meetings.
- LAA handbook updates – claiming over codified rates p83 electronic handbook.
- LH rates – TJ to deal with
- LAG query 06.01.2025 – CC confirmed that this had been dealt with.
- Codified rate for play therapist – ISW or £100.80 child psychologist – to be raised at SPG/CCCG.
- Rates for ISW dealing with cognitive difficulties requiring interpreter.

CN agreed to enquire/liaise with PA group/PET. **[AP2]**

5. AOB

None

Next meeting – 27th March @ 8pm

AP1	Previous action points	AH/CC
AP2	2025 seminar	All
AP3	Prior authority group/PET	CN