

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission Board

Summary Minutes of the Commission Board meeting 21 July 2009

Members:

Janet Paraskeva – Chair
Deborah Absalom
Rosemary Carter
Stephen Geraghty
Bill Griffiths
Alan Hardy
Susan Park
Maeve Sherlock
Keith Woodhouse
Stephen Leonard

Also attending

Simon McKinnon (Item 4)
Russell Wilkinson (Item 4)
Jenny Stewart (Item 4)

Paul Wright - Commission Lawyer

Maria Jobson - Board Secretariat

Apologies:

Heather Jackson

1 Minutes and Matters arising from 23 June meeting

- 1.1 The minutes were agreed as a full and correct record of the meeting.
- 1.2 There were no matters arising.

2 The Commissioner's Report

The report provided a detailed summary of progress and developments in key areas of the Commission since the Board last received an update on 23 June. Key points for the Board to note were highlighted as:

Welfare Reform Bill

- 2.1 The Welfare Reform Bill had its final House of Lords Committee session on 2 July, with third reading after summer recess. Two members of the House of Lords Committee restated their opinion that driving Licence/passport removal should be a matter for the courts.
- 2.2 On the 13 July it was announced that Lord David Freud had replaced Lord Skelmersdale as Shadow Work and Pensions Minister in the House of Lords.

Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008

- 2.3 The consultation on provisions allowing for the offsetting of liabilities in child support cases (that is, allowing parents, who both had or have had a carer role in respect of at least one of their children and both owed the other maintenance, to pay only the difference between the two liabilities

to settle the debt) and collection of arrears of maintenance from the estates of deceased non-resident parents, began on the 29 June 2009 and will run until 9 August 2009. This is part of the continuing process of implementing debt management measures contained in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008.

- 2.4 The consultation is aimed at parents who live apart, representative organisations for parents who live apart, representatives of the legal profession and members of the general public with an interest in child maintenance issues.

Independent Case Examiner Annual Report

- 2.5 The Independent Case Examiner (ICE) has published his report for the year ending 31 March 2009 and can be found on the Commission Website.
- 2.6 There has been a reduction both in CSA complaints received by ICE and in complaints upheld, and the report also acknowledges CSA improvements. Overall complaints have reduced from 62,100 in 2005/2006 to 27,800 for 2008/2009.

Commissioning

- 2.7 The Commission has placed an advert in the Official Journal of the European Union asking organisations to indicate their interest in working with us to deliver the future scheme. The deadline for responses was 15 July 2009.
- 2.8 The Commission will shortly start the first stage of a two stage selection process. Firstly organisations will be asked to complete a Pre-Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ) and secondly, those organisations which demonstrate that they can meet the requirements, will receive an Invitation to Tender (ITT).

Financial Management

- 2.9 The Audit Committee finalised the Annual Report and Administrative Accounts on the 6 July, which the Commissioner signed off on the 8 July. These were laid in Parliament on the 16 July.

Commission Businesses

Child Maintenance Options

- 2.10 A review of the first year of Child Maintenance Options and a high level view of the potential future strategy for the service will be presented to the October Board.
- 2.11 On 6 July the Marketing Campaign in the Central ITV Region was launched. This ITV Region covers 15% of the UK population.

- 2.12 Phase 2 of the Mystery Shopping exercise took place between 5 and 26 June. A review of all findings from the exercise will be carried out at the end of September.

CSA

Business Performance

- 2.13 Performance of CSA continues to improve against key targets.

Supporting Jobcentre Plus

- 2.14 The transfer of people and offices to Jobcentre Plus has now completed. By the end of June 2009 a total of 643 people and eight locations had been transferred to support Jobcentre Plus through the economic downturn.

3 Future Scheme Programme: Review of 2011 Delivery Confidence

- 3.1 The Programme is making good progress The Programme recommends no amendment to the delivery date of 2011. A review of progress will be held on a regular basis.
- 3.2 The Board acknowledged the enormity of the task in hand and wished to thank the team for the extra hours and hard work that had been put in to getting the programme to this stage.

4 Strategic risk update

- 4.1 The Board discussed the strategic risks.
- 4.2 The Board agreed that the nominated Risk Owner should be delegated by the Commissioner.

5 Board Review

- 5.1 The Board reviewed the Forward Look and then the Chair summarised the common themes from her recent meetings with individual members. The main outcomes were:
- 5.1.1 Members had greater clarity on the role of the Board and the Sub Committees and felt they were able to challenge, and were committed to working together as a Board;
 - 5.1.2 Non-executive Directors would like to be more involved in some of the strategic work that comes to the Board i.e. working with Executive Directors or producing and presenting future papers;
 - 5.1.3 All Board members agreed that a day should be held soon to discuss the strategic work plan for the year ahead.

5.2 The Board briefly discussed ways in which the conduct of business and distribution of papers will work in future.

6 Any Other Business

6.1 The next meeting of the Board will take place on 22 September.