



Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board

**MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2008. 10.30 AM START**

Present

Mrs Anne Spaight
Dr. Amit Arora
Ms Simone Baker
Mrs Jean Cooper
Mrs Judith Holt
Mr Zubair Khan
Dr Ronald Pearce
Mrs Sarah Playforth
Mrs Clair Poole
Mr Douglas Ross
Professor David Scott
Professor Tom Sensky
Mrs Sarah Vines
Ms Teresa Waldron
Dr Michael Webley

VISITORS

Ms Janis Creane – Department for Social Development N.I.
Ms Debbie Pollard – Wembley DBC
Mr Bill Hughes – Disability and Carers Service
Mr Gareth Roach – Health and Benefits Division
Ms Norma White – palantypist for Ms Waldron
Ms Carol Attfield – signing interpreter for Mrs Playforth
Mr Stephen Hudson – signing interpreter for Mrs Playforth

SECRETARIAT

Mrs Lynne Bell
Mr John Hicks

APOLOGIES

Sir Richard Tilt
Ms Gill Saunders
Mr Stanley Millar
Eq 2025
Mr Chris Booth
Dr. Ben Ko
Dr. Mohammad Obaidullah
Mrs Alison Sargent

Agenda Item 1 – Opening remarks and Apologies.

1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and reminded those present to speak clearly and to avoid speaking over each other as there was a palantypist and signing

interpreters present. The Chair informed Board members that the Secretariat would be moving to Caxton House in November.

1.2 Mrs Sargent, Ms Waldron and Dr. Webley had attended an induction session and Dr. Webley commented on how helpful it had been. The Chair encouraged new members of the Board to visit a Disability Benefit Centre to meet and talk to Decision Makers.

Action Point – Any Board member wishing to visit a Disability Benefit Centre are asked to contact the Secretariat who will make arrangements.

1.3 Ms Thompson had been invited to attend this Board meeting to talk about Professionalism in Decision making and Appeals, She was unable to attend but had spoken to the Chair and will attend a Board meeting on 9 December 2008. Sir Richard Tilt and Ms Saunders of the Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) were unable to attend, the Chair reported that she had met with Sir Richard and would be attending a future SSAC stakeholder and Board meeting.

1.4 Apologies had been received from Dr. Ko, Dr. Obadullah and Mrs Sargent, EQ2025 and SSAC.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of the Full Board Meeting – Tuesday 10 June 2008.

2.1 The minutes were agreed with minor amendments.

Agenda Item 3 – Matters arising.

3.1 A member of the Social Security Advisory Committee will attend the February 2009 meeting.

3.2 There had been further changes in the Secretariat, Mrs Bell who was known to a number of Board members, had rejoined the Secretariat. The Chair thanked the secretariat for its hard work.

Agenda Item 4 – Taking the review forward.

4.1 The Chair invited Mr Cockett to update the Board.

4.2 Mr Cockett discussed the review of the Board noting Board members' positive reaction to the review.

Revised Agenda item 5 – Update from DLAAB Northern Ireland

5.1 The Chair invited Ms Creane to update the board. Ms Creane reminded the meeting that it was in November 2006 that the dis-establishment of DLAAB (NI) was announced. The first stage of the necessary legislation had been before the N.I.

assembly on 17 June and was now in Committee stage. It was hoped that a final decision would be known by the end of the year. Meetings are still going on and recently the NI Board had met with N.I. devolved representative of Equality 2025 and had received a presentation on cancer.

5.2 The Chair reported that she would attend the next DLAAB (N.I.) Board meeting.

Revised Agenda item 6 – Recruitment update.

6.1 The Secretariat reported that it was currently recruiting to fill three vacancies on the Board, for a nurse, a psychiatrist and a Social Worker. Adverts had been placed in a number of publications and their websites as well as the DLAAB web pages and the public appointments website. The closing date for returned applications was 23 September.

Revised Agenda Item 7 – WWEG event, public consultation.

7.1 Mrs Poole, on behalf of the Chair, had attended a public consultation event related the Green Paper No One Written Off: Reforming Welfare to Reward Responsibility.

7.2 Mrs Poole gave an overview of the main proposals in the Green paper and the Board agreed to consider the paper in more detail and provide comments.

7.3 The Chair thanked Mrs Poole for attending his meeting at such short notice and remarked that this was a topic that the board might return to.

Revised Agenda Item 8 – Equality Impact Assessments.

8.1 The Board were informed about Equality Impact Assessments. Equality Impact Assessments are a method for systematically considering the effects of a policy or proposal to ensure key groups are not disadvantaged by public authority decisions and to identify opportunities to positively promote equality. Doing such an assessment demonstrates that due regard has been given to equality duties.

8.2 As a Non Departmental Public Body, DLAAB is a 'public authority'. The Board will need to consider the equality implications its advice to Ministers, its annual report and its recruitment exercise.

Revised Agenda Item 9 – Dates of future Board meetings.

9.1 There will be a Board meetings on Tuesday 9 December and Tuesday 10 February 2009. All Board members are asked to note take note.

Revised Agenda Item 10 – Any other business.

10.1 None.

Meeting closed.