

STAJAC meeting 24 June 2015

SPSO – informal views on practice statement re. welfare fund review role (paper 10.4)

1. Committee members have been copied into recent correspondence from the SPSO seeking the Committee's views on the initial draft of the SPSO practice statement regarding their new role in relation to reviews of decisions taken by local authorities on the social welfare fund.

2. The SPSO are currently meeting with a number of stakeholders to discuss this, prior to producing a draft for formal consultation. To allow the latter to be produced in good time, they would need the Committee's input by the end of July. This may best be achieved through discussion rather than written comments. (An opportunity to provide full written comments on the practice statement will come at the time of formal consultation).

3. It is therefore proposed that one or two members of the Committee meet with staff from the SPSO during July to discuss the draft practice statement (and proposed consultation questions).