



**Hosted by Stockton Borough Council Welfare Rights**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Stockton Baptist Tabernacle, The Square, Stockton on Tees TS18 1TE

## **AGENDA**

- 09.30      **Registration and refreshments**
- 10.00      **Welcome:** Neil Schneider, Chief Executive of Stockton Borough Council
- 10.05      **Guest speaker:** Phillip Edwards, Institute for Local Governance  
*The Continuing Impact of Welfare Reform.* Followed by Q & A
- 10.55      **Break**
- 11:15      **Guest speaker:** Dr Suzanne Moffat PhD, Newcastle University  
*Preliminary findings of the Do-Well study.* Followed by Q & A
- 12:00      **Workshops** session one (see 'workshop options' on following pages)
- 1:00      **Lunch** (not provided at the venue)
- 2.00      **Workshops** session two (see 'workshop options' on following pages)
- 3:00      **Information exchange/Plenary**
- 4.00      **Close**

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### **Phillip Edwards - Strategy and Implementation Manager, Institute for Local Governance**

Phillip has a wide range of experience as a researcher, author and manager in a public sector environment and has worked at the ILG for the last three years. His main role is to build links between the academic and practitioner communities in the region but has also undertaken substantial research into the implications of welfare reform. Before moving to the ILG, he was Head of Analysis and Performance at the Government Office and previously held posts as Head of Data Services at the Local Government Data Unit in Wales, Head of Social Policy Management at the Improvement and Development Agency and was a Principal Researcher at the London Research Centre.

He undertook a case study on the impact of welfare reform in Stockton as part of the ILG's research programme before project managing and contributing to a major regional analysis of the reforms. He has also published numerous reports in relation to social welfare and deprivation. Most notably, he was the editor and co-author of 'The Capital Divided', a comprehensive and influential review of social exclusion in London.

Phillip was a lead national negotiator for local authorities in the release of small area data from the Department for Work and Pensions and a member of the Social Exclusion Unit's Policy Action Team 18 on Better Information. In the North East, he is a founder board member of the regional observatory (North East Regional Information Partnership) and, on its demise, helped create and support the North East Research and Information Network. He is a founder member of both the North East Child Poverty Commission and the Child Poverty Policy Network.

### **Suzanne Moffat – Senior Lecturer, Institute of Health & Society at Newcastle University**

Suzanne trained as a speech and language therapist, working in Newcastle upon Tyne, London and Mumbai before embarking on a post-doctoral research career in 1990. Until 2000, she worked on environmental epidemiology studies investigating the health of communities living near industry. Since 2000, she has undertaken a number of studies which have focused on health, welfare and well-being among older people. Her current and long-term interests are in the health and well-being of older people, the impact of changes to the welfare state on older people, tackling health and social inequalities and applying research to policy and practice. The Do-Well study is a randomised controlled trial, economic and qualitative process evaluations of domiciliary welfare rights advice for socio-economically disadvantaged older people recruited via primary health care.

## WORKSHOP OPTIONS

Each workshop lasts an hour and runs twice (once at noon and again at 2.00pm). Please choose **two** from the following options.

1. **Welfare Advice Networks** – Marie Kerr, Stockton Advice & Information Service

With the ever decreasing funds available for advice provision this workshop will look at how organisations can work together through joint working & referrals processes. Marie has been working on developing the Stockton Welfare Advice Network and will share her experiences at the workshop looking at the advantages of joint working as well as the pitfalls involved in developing partnership working.

2. **PIP 1 Year On** – Julie Henry, Durham Welfare Rights

Julie has taken a lead role in monitoring the evolution of PIP since it was introduced in the North East in April 2013. Julie will share her findings with the workshop and explore ways in which we can assist claimants in the future.

3. **ESA Substantial Risk - Regulation 29(2)(b) and Regulation 35(2)(b) - The Case Law View** – Marc Perlic, Wolverhampton Council

An essential workshop for anybody working with ESA claimants. As Tribunals struggle to deal with the ever changing case law around 'substantial risk' this workshop will clarify the current position and identify ways in which advisers can argue their clients' case with decision makers and Tribunals.

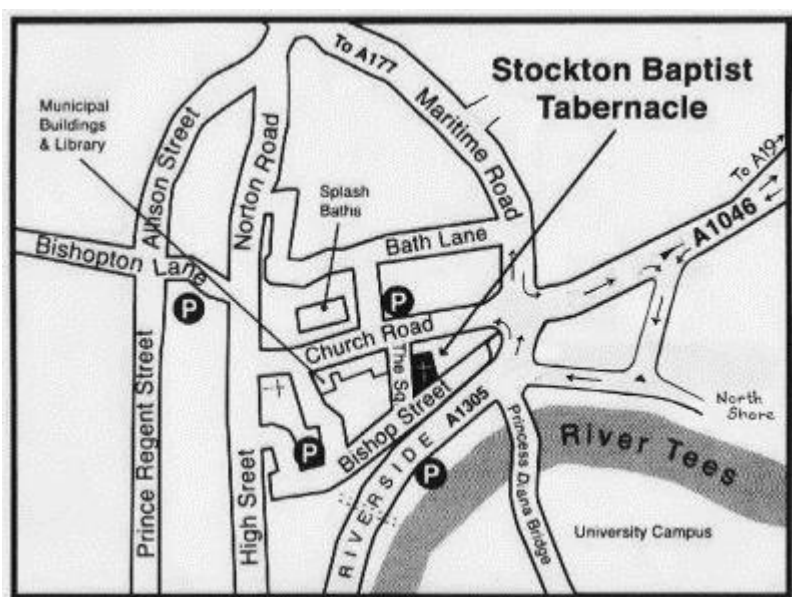
4. **Discretionary Welfare UK** – Terry Patterson, Manchester City Council

As welfare reform bites this workshop looks at how reduced benefits and diminishing discretionary schemes are affecting your local residents, clients and services. It will provide an overview of changes and a chance to look at what is really happening on the ground.

To assist with the workshop Terry would like to invite any information small or large on discretionary welfare UK and what it means, etc - ahead of the meeting, also to seek to build up a potential position statement for NAWRA for times ahead. Please e-mail Terry on [terry.patterson@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:terry.patterson@manchester.gov.uk)

## THE VENUE

The meeting will be held at the Stockton Baptist Tabernacle, The Square, Stockton on Tees TS18 1TE. Sat Nav users should use postcode TS18 1AR.



Parking is available at the Castlegate Centre.

### Directions:

#### By Car

- From the A66 West; exit for the A135, turn right at the junction heading North into Stockton. Follow the signs for Castlegate Shopping Centre.
- From the A66 East; exit for the A135, turn left at the junction and follow the signs for Castlegate Shopping Centre.
- Access to the car park can be gained from Tower Street or Riverside Park Road.
- Sat Nav users should use postcode TS18 1AR.
- Parking at Castlegate is £1 for up to 3 hours, £2 for 3-5 hours and £3.50 for 5-24 hours Monday – Saturday.

#### By Bus

- Busses to Stockton High Street are provided through Arriva, Stagecoach, Leven Valley Coaches, Compass Royston and Tees Valley Luxury Coaches. For bus timetables and further information please contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or log on to [www.traveline.org](http://www.traveline.org)

## By Rail

- Thornaby is the nearest main line railway station.

Information on Stockton can be found at [www.thisisstockton.co.uk](http://www.thisisstockton.co.uk)

## ACCOMMODATION

The hotel closest to the venue is [Premier Inn Stockton-on-Tees/Middlesbrough](#), Whitewater Way, Thornaby, TS17 6QB

## SOCIAL EVENING

Join fellow NAWRA members from 7pm on Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> June at The Thomas Sheraton, 4 Bridge Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1BH

If you have any queries about the meeting please contact  
Kelly Smith, NAWRA Secretary [kelly@nawra.org.uk](mailto:kelly@nawra.org.uk)  
[www.nawra.org.uk](http://www.nawra.org.uk)