

**Hosted by Sunderland City Council Welfare Rights Service**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

The National Glass Centre  
Liberty Way  
Sunderland  
SR6 0GL

**AGENDA**

- 9.30           **Registration and refreshments**
- 10.00           **Welcome:** Cllr Graeme Miller, Sunderland City Council
- 10.30           **Workshops:** session one (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 11.30           **Break**
- 11.40           **The Phil Hanns Memorial Lecture:**  
Prof Ted Schrecker, Professor of Global Health Policy in the Centre for Public Policy &  
Health, Durham University  
*Economics and health*
- 12.30           **Lunch** (not provided at the venue)
- 1.45            **Guest speaker:**  
Dr David Webster, Honorary Senior Research Fellow (Urban Studies), Glasgow University  
*Benefit Sanctions: Position and prospects*
- 2.30            **Break**
- 2.45            **Workshops:** session two (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 3.45            **Information exchange**
- 4.00            **Close**

## WORKSHOP OPTIONS

Each workshop lasts an hour and runs twice (once at 10.30am and again at 2.45pm). Please choose **two** from the following options.

*If you'd like to run a workshop at a future NAWRA meeting please contact [kelly@nawra.org.uk](mailto:kelly@nawra.org.uk)*

### **A. ESA safeguarding guidance; a tool for practitioners** – Corin Hammersley and Owen Stevens, Greenwich Council Welfare Rights Service

Safeguards are part of Employment and Support Allowance guidance, and can be utilised by welfare rights advisers and other support services who assist benefit claimants with mental health conditions, learning disabilities, or a cognitive or communication impairment. Greenwich Welfare Rights Service have used these safeguards to get ESA back into payment for destitute clients. This has regularly resulted in benefit being reinstated quickly, sometimes within hours, and without the need for a mandatory reconsideration or appeal. This workshop will outline what is within current safeguarding guidance, and hopes to show how referring to safeguarding guidance can be a valuable tool for advisors to consider when trying to resolve benefit issues.

### **B. Kapow! to the GPOW** – Mike Spencer, Child Poverty Action Group

Since June 2014, the UK rules on when a national of the European Economic Area will have a right to reside as a jobseeker have been progressively tightened. In addition, changes from April 2014 have prevented entitlement to JSA acting to passport a claimant through the residence test for housing benefit (apart from those who were in receipt of HB and JSA at that time, who have not had a break in their awards of these benefits). These rule changes are complex, but their result is often destitution or homelessness for EEA migrants and their families. At their heart is a requirement that after only short periods of time claimants must demonstrate “compelling evidence of a genuine prospect of work” (commonly known as the “GPoW test”) in order to continue having a right of residence as a jobseeker or to retain worker status. The DWP interpretation of “compelling evidence” is essentially that the claimant has a job offer or awaits the result of an interview.

In this workshop we will explore:

- The domestic and European law related to the GPoW test for JSA claimants who are EEA migrants
- The lawfulness of the GPoW regulations
- Arguments to challenge JSA refusals arising from GPoW
- Strategies for coordinated working to take GPoW challenges to the higher courts.

To benefit from the workshop you will need to have a basic understanding of the right to reside rules for EEA migrant workers, as well as an understanding of the JSA rules of eligibility.

### **C. Universal credit: the online claim form** – Mark Perlic and Ranjit Klare, Wolverhampton City Council Welfare Rights

Universal Credit has either arrived or will be arriving in your area soon. This workshop provides an opportunity to see what exactly is involved in the making of an on-line claim. Using a live dummy claim the different stages of the online claim will be explored from the entering of personal and banking details to the end message of when payment will actually be made. The live demonstration will underline just what information is needed at the point of claim and the challenges the online claim presents for both claimants and advisers.

## SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

**Cllr Graeme Miller** is [Sunderland City Council's cabinet member for health, housing and adult services](#) and portfolio holder for Welfare Reform.

**Prof Ted Schrecker** is [Professor of Global Health Policy in the Centre for Public Policy & Health, Durham University](#). Ted's academic background is in political science, and he has taught that discipline as well as environmental studies and population health (at the doctoral level) from an interdisciplinary perspective. For the past decade his research has addressed the consequences of transnational economic integration (globalization) for health and health equity; he also has a long-standing interest in issues at the interface of science, ethics, law and public policy. Ted is co-editor of the Journal of Public Health, and co-leads the Wolfson Research Institute's Special Interest Group on Health Equity in a Global World. He studied at Canada's Trent University, York University and The University of Western Ontario, and worked for many years as a legislative researcher and public policy consultant before coming to the academic world. Earlier this year, Ted co-authored the book [How Politics Makes Us Sick: Neoliberal Epidemics](#) with previous NAWRA guest speaker Clare Bamba.

**Dr David Webster** is [Honorary Senior Research Fellow \(Urban Studies\) at the University of Glasgow](#). His research on the labour market and social impacts of deindustrialisation includes work on Incapacity Benefit/Employment Support Allowance claims, their relationship to other aspects of worklessness and to population health, and the changing pattern of lone parenthood. He is also interested in urban development in China and in the UK private rented housing sector. David is currently involved in [research](#) that introduces a historical perspective into analysis of the current JSA/ESA sanctions regime. He regularly produces [briefings on the DWP's sanctions statistics releases](#).

**Corin Hammersley** is a Welfare Rights Officer within Greenwich Welfare Rights Service and delivers the welfare rights training programme on most aspects of social security and welfare reform. Corin also trains and mentors students at Greenwich University Legal Advice Centre's PIP Project. Previously, Corin worked at Howells Solicitors in Sheffield as a welfare benefits supervisor for the Community Legal Advice and other legal aid contracts, including the Upper Tribunal legal aid contract. She is also a committee member for NAWRA.

**Owen Stevens** joined Greenwich Welfare Rights Service in 2012. He is currently working as a specialist caseworker for carers of disabled people who live in the Greenwich borough.

**Mike Spencer** is the Legal Officer for the Child Poverty Action Group. His role is to pursue strategic test cases which promote the rights and welfare of children in poverty. He specialises in social security and public law, representing clients in Tribunals, the High Court and the UK and European appeal courts. Mike is the author of the asylum support chapters in the CPAG *Benefits for Migrants Handbook* and writes regularly for the *Welfare Rights Bulletin*. Mike trained as a solicitor at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP and was previously the solicitor for the Asylum Support Appeals Project, where he pursued strategic litigation on behalf of destitute asylum seekers. Mike was a finalist in the Social and Welfare category in the Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards 2015.

**Mark Perlic** has been a welfare rights practitioner since 1984. He has worked as a caseworker, trainer and manager. He presently works as part of the management team of Wolverhampton City Council's Welfare Rights Service. In addition to his work with Wolverhampton City Council, Mark writes and produces the ['DLA and AA Case Law Pack'](#) and the ['WCA Case Law Pack'](#) - publications which have proven hugely popular with those working in the field of welfare rights and decision-making across the country.

**Ranjit Klare** has worked in the field of welfare rights for 18 years in a number of different settings – community based advice work, benefit take-up and working within adult social care settings. Presently she works for Wolverhampton City Council Welfare Rights Service within its Macmillan Team as a Service Manager. Her specialism is maximising benefits for those affected by cancer.

## LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

Sunderland is situated at the mouth of the River Wear and dates back to 1179, when a small fishing village was granted a charter. Over the centuries, Sunderland grew as a port, trading coal and salt and was once famously hailed as the "Largest Shipbuilding Town in the World".

Ship building was first recorded on the River Wear in 1346, and the city went on to build the biggest and best ships in the world. Our ship building heritage is being celebrated in a new public space, Keel Square, which includes the Keel Line, an engraved list of over 8000 of the most significant ships built in Sunderland.

New industries now developing and thriving in the city include car making and technology.

It is one of the few cities in the UK to have a river and beautiful coastline surrounded by easily accessible countryside and is home to 275,000 residents with more than two million people living within a 30 minute radius.

For more information on the city and our economy and culture please look at [www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk/visitor-information-service](http://www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk/visitor-information-service)

The [National Glass Centre](#) is located on the banks of the River Wear at Monkwearmouth. The full address is Liberty Way, Sunderland SR6 0GL.



**By rail:**

Regular [metros](#) and [trains](#) operate between Sunderland and Newcastle. There is a direct rail link to Sunderland from Middlesbrough every hour.

On arrival at Sunderland or Newcastle train station you can take a metro to St Peters. The National Glass Centre is a 15 minute walk from St Peters metro station; walk along Dame Dorothy Street towards the coast and turn right at the roundabout with the National Glass Centre flags on it.

**By bus:**

There are two buses you can take from Park Lane Interchange bus station. The [700 Sunderland Connect bus](#) to St Peters Way, the National Glass Centre is a 3 minute walk from here. The [E1 bus](#) takes you from Park Lane Interchange to Roker Avenue which is only a few minutes' walk to the National Glass Centre.

**By bicycle:**

National Glass Centre is part of the [Coast to Coast](#) (C2C) cycle route from Cumbria to Sunderland.

**By car:**

- From the A19 take the exit for the A1231 towards Sunderland, stay on the Wessington Way, following the signs to The National Glass centre.
- Sat Nav user should use postcode SR6 0GL.
- There are 8 parking spaces for blue badge holders and a further 80 spaces, all of which are free of charge.
- There is also a drop off point near to the main entrance.

## ACCOMMODATION

**City centre hotels:**

- [Travelodge Sunderland High Street West](#)
- [Travelodge Sunderland Central](#)
- [Premier Inn Sunderland City Centre](#)

**Hotels and guesthouses located on the seafront:**

- [Best Western Roker Hotel](#)
- [Sunderland Marriott Hotel](#)
- [Lemon Field Hotel](#)
- [The Mayfield Guest House](#)

Or search:

[www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk/where-to-stay](http://www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk/where-to-stay)

## VENUE

The National Glass Centre was built to celebrate the heritage of glass making in Sunderland and develop a glass industry for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The National Glass Centre was the recipient of the first major Arts Lottery award in the North East and was the first Arts Lottery funded building.

For more information visit [www.nationalglasscentre.com](http://www.nationalglasscentre.com)

The conference will be held in the Riverside Suite.

## LUNCH

Lunch is not provided but options include:

- The National Glass Centre Brassiere are offering a bespoke menu. For further details on the menu and if you would like to pre order please contact Kelly Ann or Andrew on 0191 515 5512 quoting reference SCC11.
- There are a variety of local pubs within walking distance that serve food; The Wolsey, The Harbour View, The Queen Vic and Poetic License Bar.
- The Snow Goose Café and Marina Vista Italian Restaurant are located at the Sunderland Marina, which is a five minute walk from the National Glass Centre.
- Alternatively located at Marine Walk on Roker Seafront there is The Beach House Seaside Cafe and Bistro, So Wok Noodle Bar and Downeys Fish Restaurant.

## SOCIAL EVENING

NAWRA members will be meeting up for food and drinks from 7pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December at [The Cooper Rose](#), 2-4 Albion Place, Sunderland, SR1 3NG.

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)