

Hosted by the University of Greenwich and Greenwich Welfare Rights Service

Friday 3rd June 2016

Queen Anne Building, Royal Naval College
King William Walk, London SE10 9NN

AGENDA

- 9.30 **Registration and refreshments**
- 10.00 **Opening address**
Javier Bonet, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of University of Greenwich, Research & Enterprise
- 10.15 **Guest speaker:**
Councillor Denise Hyland, Leader of the Council
- 10.30 **Guest speaker:**
Paul Gregg, Professor of Economic and Social Policy, Commissioner on the Social Mobility
and Child Poverty Commission
The labour market since the crash and the changing face of poverty
- 11.15 **Break**
- 11.30 **Workshops:** session one (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 12:30 **Lunch** (not provided at the venue)
- 1:45 **Workshops:** session two (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 2.45 **Guest speaker:**
Amanda Finlay CBE, Vice Chair, the Low Commission on the Future of Advice and Legal
Support
The Low Commission legacy: a review of the work of the Low Commission
- 3:30 **Guest Speaker:**
Jo Silcox, Harrow Law Centre
Upper Tribunal Legal Aid: What is still available and how it can be accessed?
- 3.45 **Information Exchange**
- 4.00 **Close**

WORKSHOP OPTIONS:

Please note: some of the rooms within the Royal Naval College do not have disability access. If you would have difficulty accessing rooms via stairs, please contact Kelly at NAWRA (kelly@nawra.org.uk) with your workshop choices to ensure that they are scheduled to be in accessible rooms.

A. ESA Safeguarding Guidance – A tool for practitioners?

Owen Stevens, Welfare Benefit Officer, Royal Borough of Greenwich

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. Experiences of the digital roll out of Universal Credit

Sonia Meikle & Michelle Thake, Croydon Welfare Rights Service, London Borough of Croydon

The digital roll out (referred to by the DWP as the full roll out) represents the next stage of Universal Credit being introduced. This is the phase whereby nearly all new claims for legacy benefits will end, and working-age claimants will claim Universal Credit instead. This phase is due to be completed by June 2018.

The London Borough of Croydon has been one of the first locations to experience the digital roll out of Universal Credit. This workshop from Croydon Welfare Rights Service will present Croydon's experiences so far, and how Croydon have structured their support services with DWP funding, and any trends which are emerging.

C. Welfare reform v human rights: Cuts, claimants and the courts

Mike Spencer, CPAG

Mike Spencer will present an overview of human rights social security cases over the last 6 years, including challenges to the benefit cap, bedroom tax, work programme and localisation. When is a cut a human rights breach? Which rights have had some bite and which have been damp squibs? Can the next round of cuts be implemented without coming unstuck in the courts?

D. Working with students in the advice sector – A win/win for everyone

Sally Gill, Director of Greenwich University Legal Advice Centre; Juan Ramirez, Rushcliffe Advice Network & NAWRA Committee member for East Midlands; Faye Deverell, Senior Supervising Solicitor, Nottingham Trent University

Sally Gill joined the University of Greenwich in 2013 and set up the Greenwich University Legal Advice centre which won first place in the National Attorney General & LawWorks Awards for "Best New Student Pro Bono Activity" 2015. Sally will explain how the Legal Advice Centre has been set up to provide advice clinics run by law students for different areas of social welfare law, and specifically the development of the PIP form filling service.

Juan Ramirez has over 20 years' experience in the field of welfare benefits advice and representation. He is a member of the benefits subject team on the editorial board of Adviser magazine and chair of Derby Unemployed and Claimants' group. He is currently working in partnership with Nottingham Trent Law School to develop hands on training for law students and community advisers on representing claimants at tribunals. Juan has been researching the different models of partnership work with students currently operating in the advice sector and will discuss how this can be a positive 'win win' both as additional help within the advice sector, as well as great experience for students.

Juan will also be joined by Faye Deverell from Nottingham Trent University, who will also explain how partnership work with students has been developed locally within the east Midlands.

E. Personal Injury Payments : Protecting Entitlement to Benefits

Lorraine Podmore, Director & Welfare Benefit Consultant, Richardson Laine Limited

Lorraine Podmore is a highly experienced welfare rights adviser with experience working in the voluntary and statutory sector and in private practice, developing a specialism in welfare benefits and personal injury cases.

Lorraine will lead a workshop to explore the effect of personal injury payments on entitlement to means tested benefits. This workshop will specifically look at the advantages and disadvantages of setting up a personal injury trust and when the best time is to set up a PI trust, the differences in the rules relating to claimants under pension age and claimants over pension age, and claimants who lack capacity to make decisions. The workshop will also look at the rules for Court of Protection capital disregards in relation to personal injury payments.

If you'd like to run a workshop at a future NAWRA meeting please contact kelly@nawra.org.uk

SPEAKERS

Professor Paul Gregg

Paul Gregg is a Professor of Economic & Social Policy in the [Department of Social & Policy Sciences, University of Bath](#). He is a member of the government's [Commission on Social Mobility](#). He is a commissioner on the [Living Wage Commission](#) that sets the living wage and he is a research fellow for the [Resolution Foundation](#). He has previously been part of the Foundation's work on the minimum wage, the design of Universal Credit and full employment. Paul was also a member of the ACEVO commission on youth unemployment and undertook a major a review of personalised support and conditionality in the welfare system for the DWP. Between 1997 and 2006, he was member of the Council of Economic Advisers at HM Treasury, where he worked on unemployment, welfare reform and child poverty. Paul is director of the [Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy at Bath](#) and his research has covered Britain's performance on wages, youth unemployment, workless households, child poverty, intergenerational mobility and the drivers of social disadvantage.

Amanda Finlay CBE

Amanda Finlay CBE was formerly a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Justice, responsible for legal aid and legal services strategy. Now retired, she is Vice Chair of the [Low Commission](#) and last year chaired the advisory group for the [research report on advice services and health outcomes](#). Amanda is a Council and Executive Board member of Justice, and has been a member of the Justice Working Group that recommended [a new approach to court and tribunal proceedings](#). She is a trustee of LawforLife, the foundation for public legal education, which is responsible for the website [Advicenow](#), which provides a wealth of information on social welfare and other issues. She is also a trustee of LawWorks, a member of the Civil Justice Council Working Group on Self Represented Litigants (and one time member of the CJC), and a public governor of Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust.

Jo Silcox

Jo has 30 years' experience in welfare rights - providing advice, training and representation at both First-tier and Upper Tribunals. Jo has worked in the voluntary sector and for local authorities, and was the Social Security Law Caseworker at the Free Representation Unit for eight years. Jo now works at [Harrow Law Centre](#) which was set up six years ago to provide advice in social welfare law for residents of Harrow. They specialise in homelessness, complex welfare benefits issues, EU social welfare law, public law, community care, asylum applications, refusals and support, refugee rights, and children and young people's rights. Jo also works at the Money Advice Unit at Hertfordshire County Council, and carries out welfare benefits training on a freelance basis.

LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

The conference is being held in the [Queen Anne Building at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich](#). It is marked [number 2 on the campus map](#).

The venue is easily accessible by public transport. You can plan a journey using the [TfL Journey Planner](#) and the destination postcode SE10 9NN.

By boat:

[Thames Clipper](#) run the [RB1 express service](#) every 20 minutes from central London to Greenwich Pier which is a two minute walk to the venue.

By Docklands light railway:

Cutty Sark station is five minute walk from the venue.

By train:

Turn left out of Greenwich station and it's a twelve minute walk.

By bus:

Buses 129, 177, 180, 188, 199, 286 and 386 pass near the venue. Buses do not accept cash. If you don't have an Oyster card then use a 'contactless' debit card.

By bicycle:

The venue is on [National Cycle Route 1](#). There is cycle parking outside the Discover Greenwich Visitor Centre and The Old Brewery. The nearest [cycle hire docking station](#) is on Saunders Ness Road at the northern end of the Greenwich foot tunnel.

ACCOMMODATION

The closest hotel to the venue is the [Ibis Greenwich](#);

Other hotels in Greenwich:

- [Devonport House](#)
- [Novotel Greenwich](#)
- [Premier Inn Greenwich](#)
- [Travelodge Greenwich](#)

Alternatively, try [Air B&B](#) or [Hotels Combined](#)

There is also hotel accommodation in North Greenwich and Canary Wharf which is easily accessible by public transport to Greenwich.

LUNCH

Lunch is not provided however there is a University café in the building opposite, Queen Mary Court.

SOCIAL EVENING

NAWRA members will be meeting up for food and drinks from 7pm on Thursday 2nd June at [The Gypsy Moth](#), 60 Greenwich Church Street, London, SE10 9BL.

The meeting is free to attend but open to NAWRA members only. Find out more about [joining](#).

Please book your place in advance using [Eventbrite](#)

If you have any queries about the meeting please contact
Kelly Smith, NAWRA secretary
kelly@nawra.org.uk

www.nawra.org.uk