

Hosted by Edinburgh City Council's Advice Shop

Friday 8 September 2017

Edinburgh Council
Level 7
City Chambers
249 High Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1YJ

AGENDA

- 9.30 **Registration and refreshments** sponsored by Advice Pro
- 10.00 **Welcome:** Mark Upward, Advice Services Manager, City of Edinburgh Council and Alan Markey, Chair of NAWRA
- 10.15 **Guest speaker:** Dr Jim McCormick
The Future Shape of Scotland's Social security Landscape: an update on progress so far
- 11.00 **Break** sponsored by Advice Pro
- 11.30 **Workshops** - session one (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 12.30 **Lunch** (not provided at the venue)
- 1.45 **Guest speaker:** Prof Christina Beatty
Where has Welfare Reform taken us so far?
- 2:15 **Guest speaker:** Ben MacPherson MSP
Making the most of Scotland's Social Security powers
- 2.30 **Workshops** - session two (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 3.30 **Information exchange**
- 4.00 **Close**

WORKSHOP OPTIONS

Each workshop lasts an hour and runs twice (once at 11.30am and again at 2.30pm). 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

NAWRA workshop levels:

Introductory	Assumes little or no prior knowledge of the topic or a refresher session
Intermediate	Assumes a reasonable working knowledge of welfare benefits work or some knowledge of the specific topic under discussion
Advanced	Assumes a good working knowledge of welfare benefits work or detailed knowledge of the topic under discussion

Practical	Focusing on developing good practice or offering some 'hints and tips'
Theoretical	Focusing on policy debates or discussion of emerging theory
Strategic	Focus on planning and putting practical knowledge, and/or theory in to practice

- A. Mandela Room: **Scottish social security powers update** – Jim McCormack, Scottish Social Security Advisory Committee
Workshop level: **Theoretical/Strategic**

An opportunity to explore how the new social security powers being devolved to Scotland will be structured and what opportunities there may be for improving the customer journey.

- B. Dunedin Room: **Sanctions and conditionality research** - Sharon Wright, Glasgow University
Workshop level: **Intermediate/Strategic**

As the long-term study of the impacts benefit sanctions and work-related conditionality nears an end, this will be an opportunity to reflect on how sanctions are affecting claimants and what recommendations can be made to improve incentives for claimants.

- C. Main Council Chamber: **PIP update** - Ed Pybus, Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland
Workshop level: **Intermediate/Practical**

A chance to learn more about developments in Personal Independence Payment and how recent tribunal decisions and changes to legislation are affecting opportunities for claimants.

- D. Diamond Jubilee Room: **Welfare Rights and Early Years collaborative working** - Graham MacKenzie, NHS Lothian & Roddy Samson formerly of Granton Information Centre
Workshop level: **Intermediate/Practical**

A community based project led by NHS Lothian has brought welfare rights advice into early years services to tackle child poverty. This innovative partnership has produced some excellent client outcomes and explored how advice services and community based health provision can collaborate to reach excluded and vulnerable households.

SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Ben MacPherson MSP

Ben recently celebrated one year as a MSP and is a member of the social security committee in Holyrood. He has a degree in philosophy and politics from York University and another in law from Edinburgh University. When practicing as a solicitor his speciality was pensions so he is well placed to be a member of social security committee in Holyrood as well as being parliamentary liaison officer to the office of the First Minister.

@BenMacpherson

Jim McCormick

Jim is chair of the independent Disability and Carers Benefits Expert Advisory Group, a member of the Social Security Advisory Committee and Associate Director Scotland for Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

@JimMcCormick16

Christina Beatty

Christina is a Professor of Applied Economic Geography at the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam University. She is the joint author with Steve Fothergill of *Welfare Reform in Scotland: the challenges ahead for child poverty* and recently published a paper on the impact on welfare and public finances of job loss in industrial Britain.

@CBeatty_CRESR

Judith Paterson

Judith Paterson is the Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland Welfare Rights Co-ordinator. Judith has worked in the field of social security law and advice for more than 25 years and is currently leading a Scotland-wide, second tier welfare rights service for Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland. Her work involves contributing to social policy work and analysing legislation and issues arising from casework for their impact on individuals, families and services. She is a member of the Social Security Advisory Committee.

Ed Pybus

Ed is a welfare rights worker with Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland. He specialises in benefit for children and families with disabilities and represents CPAG on the DWP's PIP Forum and the Scottish Government's Stakeholders group.

Dr Graham MacKenzie

Graham is a Consultant in Public Health with NHS Lothian where his remit is maternal and child health, screening and quality improvement. Graham has published a paper on reducing the impact of maternal and child poverty in north Edinburgh.

@gmacscotland

Roddy Samson

Roddy was for many years the senior adviser at Granton Information Centre. He is now working part-time with NHS Lothian.

Sharon Wright

Sharon is Senior Lecturer in Public Policy at Glasgow University and is an international expert in welfare reform and the marketisation of employment services. She is Director of Research and REF Champion for Urban Studies as well as an Expert Adviser to the Scottish Parliament Social Security Committee.

Sharon's interests lie in poverty and inequalities, transitions between work and welfare, activation and behaviour change.

LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

The meeting will take place in the main Council Chamber of the City Chambers, 249 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ and workshops in rooms nearby.

See the [city centre street map](#).

By rail:

Edinburgh Waverley train station is on the main London, Birmingham, Inverness, Perth and Aberdeen lines. The station is on Market Street in the city centre. As you exit walk to the right then left up Cockburn Street then turn right at the top onto the High Street. The City Chambers are 300 metres up the High Street. It's a steep walk that takes less than 10 minutes.

By bus:

Buses come into the city centre from all over the UK as well as local services.

From the bus station walk south through St. Andrews Square, turn left onto Princes Street then right onto North Bridge. At the first junction turn right onto the High Street. The City Chambers are 400 metres up the High Street. It's a moderate walk that takes 15 minutes.

By bicycle:

Edinburgh is on [National Cycle Route 1](#) Local cycle map is [here](#)

By car:

Edinburgh city centre can be accessed from the M8 or M9 to the west, the A1 or A68 to the east, the A7 or A702 from the south and the A823(M) from the north.

Although there is only very limited metered parking around the High Street, there are a number of public pay car parks within walking distance.

Of these, the Greenside and St. James Centres car parks, on Leith Street, or Castle Terrace car park just off Lothian Road are the closest.

General parking spaces are indicated on the [Edinburgh parking map](#).

ACCOMMODATION

[Travelodge Edinburgh Central](#)

33 St. Mary's St, Edinburgh, EH1 1TA
Tel: 0871 984 6137

[Premier Inn Edinburgh Central](#)

82 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, EH3 9DG
Tel: 0871 527 8366

Or search: www.hotelscombined.com or www.visitscotland.com

SOCIAL EVENING

NAWRA members will be meeting up for food and drinks from 6pm on Thursday 7th September 2017 at Villager Bar, 49-50 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EJ. www.villagerbar.com

When quoting NAWRA you will be entitled to a 20% discount on food and drinks!!

If you have any queries about the meeting please contact

Mark Upward, Advice Shop, Edinburgh Council

Mark.upward@edinburgh.gov.uk

Craig Samuel, NAWRA's Scotland representative

craig@nawra.org.uk

www.nawra.org.uk