



national association of
welfare rights advisers

Friday 1 March 2019

Salford Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton, Salford, M27 5DA

Hosted by Salford City Council
Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Service

AGENDA

- 9.30 **Registration** - tea & coffee
- 10.00 **Introductions**
- 10.05 **Civic welcome:** City Mayor of Salford Paul Dennett
- 10.30 **Guest speaker:** Professor Lisa Scullion - Professor of Social Policy,
School of Health and Society, University of Salford
- Social (in)security? Learning lessons from lived experiences of the
benefits system across the UK*
- 11.15 **Break**
- 11.30 **Workshop session one** (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 12.30 **Lunch** (not provided at the venue)
- 1.45 **Guest speaker:** Catherine Connors - Principal Officer, Salford
Welfare Right and Debt Advice Service, and CPAG trainer
- Welfare reform – the vital role of advice services in safeguarding
vulnerable adults and children*
- 2:15 **Workshop session two** (see 'workshop options' on following
page)
- 3.15 **Panel discussion:** Mixed age couples - Pension Credit and Housing
Benefit take up campaigns
- 3.45 **Information exchange/workshop feedback/NAWRA updates**
- 4.00 **Close**

WORKSHOP OPTIONS

Each workshop lasts an hour and will be run twice. Please choose **two** from the following options:

A. Right to reside and universal credit – Glenys Harriman (Housing Systems)

Workshop Level: - Intermediate

Brexit has brought in the “EU settlement scheme” which will make it a lot easier – in the short term – for some EEA nationals & non-EEA family members to claim Universal Credit (and other benefits).

However not all will be able to take advantage of this and will still need to demonstrate they have a “right to reside” to qualify.

We’ll look at how to apply for “settled status”, who has a right to reside, the problems UC claimants are facing in passing the “habitual residence test”, and some possible solutions.

B. Universal credit and mental health – Tom Messere (Big Book of Benefits & Mental Health)

Workshop level: Intermediate

This workshop focuses on the additional barriers that UC's "hostile environment" can create for those living with mental distress. Despite the mental health focus, it will also be useful for those working in other health and disability areas. Depending on the group the issues for participants to choose from include:

- Barriers to benefits: Does UC help or hinder? General survival tips in UC's chaotic and dysfunctional world
- Migration over from ESA: when to avoid bad switches or if switching how to do it smoothly and avoid a fresh WCA
- UC's rather different take on doing benefits, applying the WCA and work conditionality while you wait
- Bear-traps that remain even if SDP is now protected. And how far is it?
- Making work pay? Not if you are unwell or disabled.

What is to be done? Can UC ever become fit for purpose for people with health and disability issues?

C. Human rights and universal credit – Ryan Bradshaw (Leigh Day Solicitors)

Workshop level: Strategic

An exploration of how Universal Credit can be challenged, and systemic change achieved, utilising the tools available to practitioners under the Equality Act 2010 and the European Convention on Human Rights. Including details of the strategic litigation that may attract third party funding.

D. Dealing with deficit budgets: practical tips for welfare rights advisers – Anne Whittle and Sean Finnegan – (Salford Debt Advice Service)

Workshop level: Practical

- Understanding debt advice in the wake of welfare reform and other changes to the financial landscape
- Understanding the consequences of deficit budgets
- Practical tips for those of us who are not specialist debt advisers to help the most vulnerable keep afloat

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	Focusing on planning and put practical knowledge, and/or theory in to practice

SPEAKERS

Paul Dennett, City Mayor of Salford

Paul was elected Councillor for Langworthy in 2012 and held the Strategic Assistant Mayor position until 2016 focusing on equalities, cohesion, technology, change, urban transformation, innovation, prosperity, growth and workforce.

Paul has a long history of campaigning on social issues and since becoming the elected City Mayor has campaigned for equality, financial inclusion, the living wage, social value, to tackle poverty and critically providing the public/private environment to tackle the housing crisis.

In July 2016 Paul was appointed Greater Manchester Combined Authority Portfolio Lead for Low Carbon, Waste and Environment. In May 2017 Paul was appointed Greater Manchester Combined Authority Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure.

Professor Lisa Scullion, Professor of Social Policy at University of Salford

Lisa is Associate Director at the Sustainable Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU). Lisa's research focuses on welfare and work. She led the University of Salford's involvement in a five year ESRC funded project focusing on welfare conditionality and is currently leading a two year project funded by the Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT) focusing the experiences of Armed Forces Service leavers within the mainstream social security system. Lisa leads the Salford Anti-Poverty Taskforce, a research and knowledge exchange collaboration with Salford City Council. Through this Taskforce she is delivering a programme of research to support Salford's Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Catherine Connors – Principal Officer, Salford Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Service, Salford City Council and CPAG trainer

Catherine started in advice in 1992, volunteering in a community advice centre in Sheffield. She has worked for Salford City Council for 25 years in a number of roles; as a Welfare Rights Officer in Salford's Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Service, latterly in a Sure Start Children's Centre. Catherine moved into the Integrated Commissioning Team in Children's Services in 2010 and supported the development of the City Mayor's Tackling Poverty strategy and action plan and leads the City's Financial Inclusion Practitioner's Group. She is a member of the Salford Sanctions Taskforce, sits on the editorial board of the Anti Poverty Taskforce and is an Honorary Research Fellow at SHUSU. She works as a freelance trainer for Child Poverty Action Group.

EXHIBITOR

[**Advice Pro**](#) is a fully-managed, secure web-based case management system developed specifically for advice organisations and being used in a variety of other settings including by housing associations, local authorities, universities and public and commercial services. It captures client personal and socio-economic details and casework information over a wide range of matter types.

LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

How to get here:

Road: You are aiming for the town hall in Swinton. This is on Chorley Road and the post code for your sat nav is M27 5DA. Salford is accessible from the west if you aim for junction 16 of the M60 or via the M602. From the north you aim for the M62 and again the M60 onwards to Swinton. From the east you're again aiming for the M60 or the A580. From the south aim for the M60 or the A56.

Please note that parking in Swinton is very poor and time-limited. The Civic Centre visitors car park is likely to be full and the only other pay and display car park is the Church Street car park at [Swinton Gateway](#) and also likely to be full. Anyone parking in Swinton may need to park some way from the Civic Centre complex.

Air: Swinton is approximately 15 miles from Manchester airport. At peak times by car or public transport this journey can take 1 hour or more. There is a regular train and tram service from the airport into Manchester where you can connect with trains or buses to Swinton.

Rail: Trains to Manchester from all over the UK are frequent and your train will be coming into either Victoria or Piccadilly (or both if you're coming from Newcastle). You can walk to Salford Central station in 26 minutes from the former and 13 minutes from latter.

If your train stops at Manchester Oxford Road please see the information below re: buses as it may be a better stop for you.

From Salford Central it's a 10 minute train journey to Swinton and then less than 10 minutes' walk to Salford Civic Centre. There are 6 trains between 7am and 9:45am but please remember these are Northern train services and some may not run.

Bus: There is a bus stop right outside Salford Central railway station. If you're arriving at Piccadilly there is a free bus (number 2) from Piccadilly concourse to Salford Central. From there you have a choice of train or bus to Swinton.

Buses heading down Bridge Street are heading to Salford (bar the 50) so you can get a 36, 37 or 38 to right outside Salford Town Hall.

Additionally you can get a V1 or V2 to the Worsley Road/Hello Hotel stop on the East Lancs. Road and it's a 10 minute walk up Partington Lane to Chorley Road and the Civic Centre. At peak hours the purple V1 and V2 First Manchester buses may not get you as close to the Civic Centre but they run much more frequently than other services and they run from 100m away from Oxford Road railway station.

Cycle: There is a bike shelter outside the Civic Centre. There is no scenic route. The least traffic option from south Manchester is through Media City and Trafford Park. For more detail on route options email debbie.witton@salford.gov.uk

Accommodation in Salford:

The most central hotels a short walk to the pub the night before and for travel to Swinton for NAWRA are:

- [Manchester Salford Central Premier Inn](#)
- [Travelodge Manchester Central](#)

There are plenty of other options available in Manchester city centre but both of the above are an 8 minute walk from Bridge Street and Salford Central railway station which are the key locations for getting easily to Swinton on the day for the NAWRA conference as described above.

If you prefer to stay within walking distance of the venue but a bus/train ride away from central Manchester stations and Thursday social pub venue:

- [Hello Hotel](#)

Eve of the conference – Thursday 28 February 2019

We will meet in [The Moon Under Water](#), 68 to 74 Deansgate, Manchester (but almost Salford) M3 2FN. The pub serves a variety of food but if none of it appeals you have most of Manchester's restaurants and bars within a square(ish) mile.

After the conference – Friday 1 March 2019 from 4pm

In the usual spirit of NAWRA meetings we will be retiring to the pub for a post-meeting drink or two.

**The meeting is open to NAWRA members only.
See www.nawra.org.uk for information on joining us.**

If you have any queries about the meeting, please contact

Kelly Smith, NAWRA Secretary kelly@nawra.org.uk

or

Debbie Witton, Salford City Council Debbie.witton@salford.gov.uk, 0161 793 3117