



Friday 7 June 2019

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

Hosted by the University of Greenwich and Greenwich Welfare Rights Service

AGENDA

- 9.30 **Registration and refreshments**
- 10.00 **Opening address**
- 10.05 **Guest speaker:** Councillor Danny Thorpe, Leader of Greenwich Council
- 10.25 **Guest speaker:** Marsha De Cordova MP
Shadow Minister, Work and Pensions, Disabled People
- 11.05 **Guest speaker:**
Deven Ghelani and Zoe Charlesworth, Policy in Practice
Policy in Practice's new Living Standards Index for London shows how Universal Credit impacts individual families
- 11.45 **Break**
- 12:00 **Workshops:** session one (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 1:00 **Lunch** (not provided at the venue)
- 2:15 **Guest speaker:**
Corin Hammersley, Royal Borough of Greenwich
Greenwich Benefits Safeguarding Alert
- 2:30 **Guest speakers:**
CPAG and Public Law Project
Using Judicial Review to challenge benefit decisions
- 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 12:00 and again at 2:45). When you sign in you will be asked choose **two** from the following 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) to ensure that your choice of workshops are scheduled to be in accessible rooms.

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

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

A. Identifying vulnerability among Universal Credit claimants

Owen Stevens, Child Poverty Action Group
Workshop level: Introductory and Strategic

This workshop looks at DWP's approach to identifying vulnerability among Universal Credit claimants. The workshop then reviews local approaches by advice organisations and local authorities to identifying vulnerability and complex needs and working with DWP to put processes in place to avoid negative outcomes for these claimants.

B. Changes for pensioners

Rebecca Lough and Haja Turay, Greenwich Welfare Rights Service and Gareth Morgan, Ferret
Workshop level: Practical

This workshop will provide an update on recent welfare reforms which will affect people over pension age. This includes implications for the pension age now rising above 65, changes to Pension Credit with the introduction of child elements, and changes for mixed aged pensioners. Gareth Morgan will also look at the short and longer term consequences for mixed-age couples. Some possible scenarios will be explored.

C. What proposals should be made in the next UK White Paper on social security/welfare benefits?

Dr Michael Orton, University of Warwick

Workshop level: Intermediate and Strategic

This session will stimulate thinking about the future of social security/welfare benefits and in particular, promote input to a project called the [White Paper Commission on Social Security](#). That project is taking a Commission of Inquiry approach to identifying what would be a better social security system (focusing on working-age benefits). The Commissioners, who are all Experts by Experience i.e. people with lived experience of claiming benefits, are issuing a Call for Solutions. This includes questions such as what should be done about Universal Credit, disability benefits and sanctions, plus whether there should be a guaranteed minimum income level. The session will work through the questions - and responses to them.

D. Tips and pitfalls when claiming Universal Credit

Karen Mills, Greenwich Universal Support Team

Workshop level: Introductory and Practical

This workshop will give an overview of the online application process for Universal Credit, highlighting some of the common pitfalls, and tips on how to ensure the application is completed. The workshop will also discuss experiences of making an application over the phone.

SPEAKERS

Marsha De Cordova MP has worked in the charity sector for over 10 years, campaigning on the issue of social security. She is also a trade unionist and a member of Unite the Union where she represented disabled workers on the London & Eastern Regional Committee and the National Disabled Members Committee. In 2014 she was elected as a Councillor for Larkhall ward in Lambeth, sitting on the Equalities Impact Assessment Panel. In 2017 she overturned an 8,000 Conservative majority to become the MP for Battersea and in October 2017 she was named as the new Shadow Minister for Disabled People.

Zoe Charlesworth and **Deven Ghelani** from [Policy in Practice](#) will tell us what impact national and local policies are having on low-income households and explore how data analysis can be used to design better support.

Policy in Practice has built a new tool that helps councils turn rich data into real help for low-income families. Using data from collaborating London councils, the Living Standards Index for London tracks the financial security and impact of Universal Credit on over half a million low-income families in the capital. Deven Ghelani will share findings from the latest research. Working with councils like Greenwich, this ambitious project tracks income, employment and poverty for low-income households over two years, on a monthly basis.

Focusing on vulnerable groups such as working-age pensioners, self-employed people and carers, Zoe will then show how councils can:

- Identify the impact of Universal Credit on individual households
- Engage people by showing the impact of different scenarios
- Target support effectively
- Track change to understand what's working

Zoe and Deven will demonstrate what can be revealed when local authorities collaborate with their data, and how advisers can use data to target proactive support.

Corin Hammersley has worked in welfare rights since 2007 in various organisations including the private sector (under legal aid contracts) and in local government, and also as a freelance trainer. In Greenwich, Corin manages the Welfare Rights Service and Universal Support services, and has been leading on the boroughs preparations for Universal Credit for the last few years. Corin is a committee member for the Local Government Association Social Security Advisers Group and NAWRA representative for London.

[CPAG's Judicial Review Project](#) aims to encourage and support the advice sector to use judicial review to resolve their clients' welfare rights issues without going to court. Judicial review can provide a 'quick win' in cases of poor administration and unlawful decision making, and using [CPAG's letter templates](#), is easy to use.

Public Law Project runs the [Access to Judicial Review project](#). They bring strategic cases intended to increase access to the court. They work with other lawyers, campaigners and civil society groups to help them identify and pursue public law issues affecting their beneficiary groups. They provide training, publish guides and provide second tier advice. They make targeted and effective contributions to the policy debate, responding to relevant consultations preparing briefings for Parliamentarians and guides to assist the judiciary. They undertake and publish high quality empirical research. Most recently they have started to explore financial barriers to judicial review.

Dr. Michael Orton is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Warwick. He has undertaken work on social security over several years, using approaches that are solutions-focused, participatory and based on consensus building. Michael previously worked for Citizens Advice and in an anti-poverty policy role in a local authority finance department.

LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

The conference is being held in [Queen Anne Court 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 service](#) 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 is 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](#)

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 Queen Mary Court opposite.

SOCIAL EVENING

NAWRA members will be meeting up for food and drinks from 7pm on Thursday 6 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.](#)

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

www.nawra.org.uk