



Hosted by York Welfare Benefits Unit

Friday 9th December 2011

@ Priory Street Centre, 15 Priory Street, York, YO1 6ET

AGENDA

- 09.30 **Registration and refreshments**
- 10.00 **Welcome:** Heather Theobald - Welfare Benefits Unit
- 10.05 **Introduction:** Jonathan Bradshaw - Professor of Social Policy at York University and chair of the Welfare Benefits Unit
- 10.10 **Guest speaker:** Kate Pickett - co-author of "*The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*"
- 11.10 **Guest speaker:** Nancy Kelley - Deputy Director of Policy and Research at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- 11.40 **Break**
- 12.00 **Workshops** – session one (see ‘workshop options’ below)
- 13.00 **Lunch** – as York is very busy this time of year, a light lunch will be provided. The organisers ask that you contribute £4 towards the cost of the lunch. Receipts are available for expenses claims.
- 14.00 **Workshops** – session two (see ‘workshop options’ below)
- 15.00 **Break**
- 15.15 **Information exchange and plenary** – an opportunity to discuss issues, share ideas, feedback from workshops and any other business. Includes NAWRA committee notices.
- 16.00 **Close**

GUEST SPEAKERS

Kate Pickett is professor of epidemiology at the University of York, and a National Institute for Health Research Career scientist. She co-founded the Equality Trust, a non-profit organisation seeking to explain the benefits of a more equal society, and is the co-author of *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*. Originally published in 2009, the book has been widely acclaimed and was voted one of the top 10 books of the decade by New Statesman magazine.

Nancy Kelley is Deputy Director of Policy and Research at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. She leads JRF's work on Place and Poverty. Nancy joined JRF from the British Refugee Council, where she was Head of UK and International Policy. She has also been a Principal Policy Officer for Barnardos and Chair of the Refugee Children's Consortium.

Jonathan Bradshaw was founding Director of the Social Policy Research Unit. He has served as Director of the Institute for Research in the Social Sciences and has been on the research committee of the International Social Security Association since 1998. Jonathan has published widely in the field of social exclusion and family welfare and was made a CBE in 2005 for his services to tackling child poverty.

WORKSHOP OPTIONS

1. Welfare Reform and disability issues – Sue Royston, Citizens Advice

This workshop will look at the major changes in the welfare reform bill which affect disabled people. It will concentrate on three main areas: the introduction of PIP to replace DLA for working age claimants, the proposed support for disabled people under Universal Credit and the time limiting of ESA (contribution based) for those in the work related activity group. It will explore what are the likely impacts on claimants of these changes and which claimants will lose most. We will also within the groups explore what key areas of advice might mitigate adverse effects of these changes.

Sue Royston has been working as a social policy officer for Citizens Advice for the last two years having previously worked as a welfare rights worker in a CAB. She has been responsible on behalf of the Disability Benefits Consortium (a coalition of over 60 charities) for briefing MPs and peers on disability issues in Universal Credit as well as representing the views of Citizens Advice on disability issues in general in the welfare reform bill. She gave oral evidence to the House of Commons Bill Committee on the ways in which the Welfare Reform Bill will affect disabled people and recently to the Work and Pensions Select Committee on PIP and on IB reassessment.

2. Welfare reform for children and families – Sam Royston, Poverty and Early Years Policy Adviser, The Children’s Society

Recent and coming changes to Child Benefit and Tax Credits, Maternity Benefits, the introduction of a household benefit cap, and the Universal Credit are profoundly shifting the welfare landscape for families with children. This workshop will overview the welfare changes, and presents an opportunity for discussion about how advice services can respond to the new environment. Key issues discussed will include:

- How new parents could be losing £1735 through changes to maternity benefits
- Why children are nine times more likely to be affected by the benefit cap than adults
- How tens of thousands of disabled children and young carers could lose big under the Universal Credit
- How the future of Free School Meals could mean some working parents end up paying for a pay rise

3. The abolition of council tax benefit and the new localised schemes –David Ponton Brown, Scarborough Borough Council

David will be leading a discussion around options for localising support and the likely impact on individuals, the voluntary sector and Local Authorities.

David Worked in Revenues and Benefits over 20 years, 13 as Benefits Manager at Scarborough BC. He was founder member of North Yorkshire Benefits Training Group in 2000 and helped launch the Benefits Take-up group with the Welfare Benefits Unit aimed at promoting best practice, effective joint working and enriching lives for people in North Yorkshire. He is Local Authority Chair of the North Yorkshire and the Humber Joint Operational Board (LA/Jobcentre Plus) and is a strong advocate of partnership working.

4. Mental health and the Work Capability Assessment – Patrick Hill, Manchester Mind

Patrick will consider ways that advisers can nudge a Decision Maker to accept that a claimant satisfies either:

- Schedule 3 of the ESA Regulations (Limited Capacity for Work Related Activity – Support Group); or
- Schedule 2 of the ESA Regulations (Limited Capacity - getting the requisite 15 points); or
- Regulations 29 (Exceptional Circumstances) & 35 of the ESA Regulations

Patrick will lead a discussion covering possible responses to the mental, cognitive and intellectual function parts of the ESA50 for claimants with bipolar disorder or

schizophrenia. The workshop will also consider possible side effects of some of the psychotic medication used in the treatment of these conditions (with some potential for satisfaction of physical descriptors).

Due to time restrictions, this workshop will **not** look at any other aspects of ESA (e.g. migration, appeals and/or calculations etc.).

SOCIAL EVENTS

Pre-meeting social evening

Thursday 8th December

If you are arriving on Thursday, why not join us from 7pm onwards at:

**Brigantes Bar
114 Micklegate
York
YO1 6JX**

The bar is 5 minutes walk from York railway station and serves delicious food.
Further details at: <http://tinyurl.com/korkyh>

3rd annual NAWRA Christmas party!

Friday 9th December

As it's nearly Christmas, why not join fellow NAWRA members for dinner and drinks at the popular Italian restaurant ASK? A set menu is available at £16.95 per head. **In order to guarantee your place you need to confirm your attendance in advance.** Please email daphne.hall@bristol.gov.uk by 4pm on Friday 4th November, stating your name, names of any colleagues coming with you and any dietary requirements.

**ASK
The Grand Assembly Rooms
Blake St
York
YO1 8QG**
(Menu at <http://www.askitalian.co.uk/#!/christmas>)

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Map showing venue location:

<http://g.co/maps/q4z4u>

By train:

When you arrive by train exit York railway station then turn right up Queen Street (the city walls will be on your left). Turn left at the first set of traffic lights (the junction of Queen Street and Blossom Street) and go through Micklegate Bar (the

gate through the city walls). Turn right at the Priory pub onto Priory Street. Priory Street Centre is located on the left. It is a 10 minute walk.

By coach:

National buses drop off passengers in Rougier Street (off Micklegate). Arriving by bus - head in the opposite direction from the city wall and turn right onto Micklegate. Go up the hill and Priory Street is on the left.

By car:

There is no parking at the Priory Street Centre. Limited disabled parking bays are allocated on a first come first served basis. If driving, it is cheaper and quicker to use the Park and Ride. See www.york.gov.uk/parking/ride/ for information.

By taxi:

A taxi rank can be found at York station. The following taxi companies have wheelchair accessible taxis:

- Station 01904 623332
- Fleetways 01904 645333