

## NAWRA Committee meeting – 1 Sept 2016 – Glasgow

**Present:** Alan Markey (Coventry Independent Advice Service, chair), Eri Mountbatten (Aberystwyth University Students' Union), Daphne Hall (Rightsnet), Jim McKenny (Kirklees Council), Corin Hammersley (Greenwich Council), Tom Messere (Maggie's / Big Book of Benefits), Maureen Arthur (Family Mosaic), Tamara Moreau (Benefits and Work), Terry Patterson (Manchester City Council); Julie Henry (Durham County Council), Kelly Smith (Child Poverty Action Group, minutes)

**Apologies:** Juan Ramirez (Derbyshire County Council), Jenny Wood (Eastbourne CAB)

### Action log:

	Action required	Who
1	Re-organise 'resources' tab on the website	Daphne and Shawn (Rightsnet)
2	Write a blog on disability issues in UC	Tom
3	Write a blog on alternative payment arrangements in UC	Julie
4	Give Daphne access to Twitter	Alan
5	Email Kelly with a short biography and a photo for the website	All
6	Investigate the use of Mailchimp or similar for emails to members	Kelly
7	Set up NAWRA email addresses for Jenny, Terry and Tamara	Alan
8	Contact Rights Advice Scotland about nominating a rep for Scotland	Alan and Kelly
9	Draft submission to AA and Business rates consultation	Julie
10	Draft submission to PIP review	Tom
11	Sit in on both UBI workshops at the Glasgow meeting in order to monitor member views of UBI for a further blog.	Eri

12	Write a blog on compliance testing of self-employed tax credit claimants	Jim
13	Circulate Michael Orton (Warwick University) <i>Secure and Free</i> report	Kelly
14	Set up a working group on UC and disability	Tom
15	Circulate details of CPAG's UC 'early warning system'	Kelly
16	Update and circulate financial report	Kelly
17	Submit expenses claims	All
18	Amend hosting guide to include our policy of not inviting representatives of the DWP or its contractors to our meetings.	Kelly

### 1. Welcome, minutes and matters arising

- a) Minutes of meeting on 10 March 2016 agreed.
- b) Branded lanyards were distributed.

### 2. Publicity and communications

- a) Website
  - o 2000 hits on the website
  - o **Daphne and Shawn (Rightsnet)** to re-organise the 'resources' tab
  - o **Tom** to write a blog on disability issues in UC
  - o **Julie** to write a blog on alternative payment arrangements in UC
  - o **Alan** to set up NAWRA email addresses for Terry, Jenny and Tamara
- b) Social media
  - o **All:** send any suggestions on the use of social media to Alan
  - o **Alan** to give Daphne access to Twitter

### 3. Governance

- a) Committee members
  - o Tamara has a new job at Benefits and Work and has re-joined the committee as rep for the East of England.

- There are vacancies for reps for Scotland and Northern Ireland. **Alan** and **Kelly** to contact Rights Advice Scotland about a nomination for the position of rep for Scotland.
  - Updated committee member list available on the [website](#)
- b) NAWRA development sub-committee report
- The sub-committee met on 11 Aug. Alan circulated the minutes to committee members by email on 1 Sept. **All** to check action points.

#### 4. Policy issues

- a) UC and disability
- **Tom** to set up a working group on UC and disability.
- b) [AA and Business rates](#)
- **Julie** to draft a submission to the consultation. Deadline is 26 Sept.
- c) [PIP: second independent review](#)
- **Tom** to draft a submission. Deadline is 16 Sept.
- d) Universal Basic Income
- A blog by Simon Duffy has been re-published on the NAWRA website. **Eri** to sit in on both UBI workshops at the Glasgow meeting in order to monitor member views of UBI for a further blog. **All** to contribute thoughts to Eri.

#### 5. Reports from consultation groups and other events

- **Daphne** to continue to attend DWP operational stakeholders group meetings.
- **Maureen** to continue to attend tax credits consultative group meetings.
- **Corin** to attend PIP stakeholder forum.
  - The online claim form contains different questions to the paper form and the help notes have been removed.
  - PIP renewal forms are being sent out a year before the end of a claimant's award creating potential loss of benefit for many claimants.
  - **Juan** to attend the next meeting.
- **Jim** and **Corin** to attend LGA Advisers Group meetings
- **Corin** attended an HMRC meeting on compliance testing self-employed tax credits claimants. It appears that this is being used to target people avoiding the right to reside test by becoming self-employed. **Jim** to write a blog on this.

## 6. Finance

a) 2016/17 finance report

**Kelly** to circulate the financial statement for 2016/17 updated with details of income and expenditure to end of the second quarter.

b) Committee member expenses

**All** - If your employer is not willing to pay please complete the new expenses claim form and send receipts to Kelly by email. Please make your claims promptly.

## 7. Future NAWRA meetings & workshops

- 2 Dec 2016 - Stoke on Trent (hosted by Staffordshire University)
- 3 Mar 2017 – Durham (hosted by Durham County Council). Workshop on tax credits and undeclared partners.
- 9 Jun 2017 – Wrexham (hosted by Rights Advice Cymru)

Tentative offers to host also received from Scottish Borders Council and South Somerset Council.

Agreed that the DWP and its contractors would not be invited to attend or participate in NAWRA meetings. **Kelly** to amend the hosting guide.

## 8. Any other business

None

## 9. Next committee meeting

Afternoon of Thurs 2 March 2017 - Durham (time and location to be confirmed)