



national association of
welfare rights advisers

**Hosted by Glasgow City Council
Welfare Rights & Money Advice Team**

Friday 12th September 2014

Renfield Centre
260 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JP

AGENDA

- 9.30 **Registration**
- 10.00 **Welcome:** Matt Kerr – Glasgow Councillor and Chair of Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty
- 10.15 **Keynote speaker:** Dr David Webster – University of Glasgow
After Oakley: Next steps in dealing with the benefit sanctions regime
- 11.00 **Break**
- 11.15 **Information exchange and NAWRA updates** – including reports on our recent membership surveys about your experiences of PIP and the WCA
- 12.00 **Lunch** (not provided at the venue)
- 1.30 **Workshops** - session one (see ‘workshop options’ on following page)
- 2.30 **Change over between workshops**
- 2.45 **Workshops** - session two (see ‘workshop options’ on following page)
- 3.45 **Feedback from workshops and issues arising**
- 3.55 **Closing remarks**
- 4.00 **Close**

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

Please contact Kelly Smith at Kelly@nawra.org.uk with any queries.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr David Webster – University of Glasgow

David is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow (Urban Studies) at the University of Glasgow. His research on the labour market and social impacts of deindustrialisation includes work on Incapacity Benefit/Employment Support Allowance claims, their relationship to other aspects of worklessness and to population health, and the changing pattern of lone parenthood. He is also interested in urban development in China and in the UK private rented housing sector.

David is currently involved in [research](#) that introduces a historical perspective into analysis of the current JSA/ESA sanctions regime.

Matt Kerr – Glasgow Councillor and Chair of Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty

Matt is a Labour councillor for Glasgow City Council's Craigton ward. He also chairs the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty, a cross-party network of Scottish local authority members and officers, together with other public and third sector organisations with a specific interest in anti-poverty and social justice policy issues. The Forum is primarily concerned to highlight problems of poverty, inequality and social justice in Britain today. It is also interested in developing and replicating 'good practice' in anti-poverty strategy development amongst its members.

WORKSHOP OPTIONS

Workshops all run twice (once at 1.30pm and again at 2.45pm) so please choose **two** of the following:

A. **JSA sanctions - a quick tour of how to challenge** – Tom Lamb, Dundee North Law Centre

Recent statistics from the DWP indicate more than one million sanctions have been applied since the new regime was introduced. There appears to be both a relatively low number of appeals and relatively poor success rate at appeal. This workshop gives a brief tour of the regulations for JSA sanctions, considers what we may argue at Tribunal on the more common sanctions for failure to actively seek work or failure to attend interviews. It poses the question why there appear to be so few appeals. Tom has experience in representing at Tribunal on JSA appeals and has past experience working in welfare rights.

B. **Evictions and the bedroom tax - grounds for avoiding eviction and why benefit entitlement can save a person's home** – Peter Kinghorn, Dundee North Law Centre

Peter will consider the importance of entitlement to benefits in prevention of eviction and whether the imposition of the "Bedroom Tax" has had any significant impact. Peter Kinghorn, as a Principal Solicitor has over 30 years experience (in private practice and within Dundee North Law Centre which he established) of keeping people in their homes by maximising benefit entitlement, challenging eviction proceedings and improving conditions of living for tenants in Dundee and Angus.

C. **PIP: Issues, tips, tactics, arguments and the example of mental health** – Tom Messere, author of Mind's 'Big Book of Benefits and Mental Health'

This practical workshop is a chance to swap ideas and think creatively about what to put on PIP2s and what to argue at PIP reconsiderations or appeals. Now is both the best of times - we can argue as creatively and outrageously as we want :-) - and the worst of times - so can the DWP :-(. There are no sure fire tried and tested approaches to learn nor PIP case law to play with, but we do have our combined wit, wisdom, skills and experience honed under DLA and ESA.

After a brief catch up on the latest developments on PIP, we will take a look at the example of the sometimes "tricky" area of mental health, remembering how we pushed the barriers of DLA before, noting some of the challenges PIP presents and suggesting where some solutions might lie.

With creative juices beginning to flow, we will then divide into small groups for lively discussion and swapping of issues, ideas, tactics and experiences. We will start by focussing on mental health, but then extend to examples, scenarios and interest in other areas. Hopefully we can develop a bank of ideas and solutions to post as a helpful resource on the NAWRA website to be added to by others.

And finally if time and enthusiasm permits - a brief look at a couple of PIP issues that perhaps we can lobby on: the arbitrary postcode lottery for DLA supersessions and the yawning 'disability gap' in the bang on time Universal Credit that is to come at some point not yet known.

D. **DLA High Mob Reg 12. (1A) severe visual impairment - ultra vires?** – David Hornell, North Ayrshire Council Money Matters

This workshop will address the decision of the Upper Tribunal in case CSDLA 235/13 which found that Reg 12(1A) breached the claimant's human rights and in enacting the Regulation the Secretary of State had acted without regard to the Equalities Act 2006.

The workshop will also address all the issues in this case and the Secretary of State's subsequent appeal to the Court of Session.

LOCATION & TRANSPORT

The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JP is part of St Stephen's parish church in Glasgow city centre. For details see: www.rssccentre.org.uk

By train:

- Charing Cross station is a 2 minute walk
- Anderston station is a 12 minute walk
- Queen St station is an 18 minute walk (alternatively, catch a train one stop from the lower level to Charing Cross)
- Glasgow Central station is a 17 minute walk (alternatively, catch a 2, 3, 4 or 4A bus from Hope St outside Central station)

By car:

There is street parking (parking meters and disabled bays) outside the centre. There is a multi-storey car park in Elmbank Crescent (at the back of the Kings Theatre).

By bus:

- Intercity to Buchanan Bus Station. The bus station is a 14 minute walk from the Renfield Centre.
- Westbound: the following services, operated by First Bus, stop in Bath St about 50 yards from the Renfield Centre: 4, 4A, 19, 747. The number 18 terminates in Holland St adjacent to the centre. The 2 and 3 service also operated by First Bus stops in St Vincent St, from where it is a 5 minute walk to the Centre.
- Eastbound: the following services, operated by First Bus, stop in Sauchiehall St (Dental Hospital stop) about 50 yards from the Renfield Centre: 4, 4A, 19, 747. The 2 and 3 services stops in St Vincent St from where it is a 5 minute walk to the Renfield Centre.
- For full local timetable information, call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or go to their website at www.travelinescotland.com.

By taxi:

There are taxi ranks located at Buchanan Bus Station, Glasgow Queen Street rail station and Glasgow Central rail station.

There is an official taxi rank on Holland Street adjacent to the Centre.

ACCOMMODATION

Ibis Glasgow City Centre and Premier Inn Glasgow City Charing Cross are budget options close to the venue.

PRE-MEETING SOCIAL EVENT

Join members of Glasgow welfare rights team and the NAWRA committee at The Griffin pub, 266 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JP from 7pm on Thursday 11th September.