

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

Friday 2 Sept 2016

Renfield Centre
260 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JP

AGENDA

- 9.30 **Registration and refreshments**
- 10.00 **Welcome:** Matt Kerr, Glasgow City Council Councillor (Executive Member for Social Justice)
& Chair of the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty
- 10.15 **Guest speaker:** Malcolm Torry, Director, Citizen's Income Trust
Would a Citizen's Income be good for people with disabilities?
- 11.00 **Break**
- 11.15 **Guest speaker:** Paul Spicker, Emeritus Professor of Public Policy, Robert Gordon University
What's wrong with social security, and what can Scotland do to set it right?
- 12.00 **Lunch** (not provided at the venue)
- 1.15 **Workshops:** session one (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 2.15 **Break**
- 2.30 **Workshops:** session two (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 3.30 **Information exchange and NAWRA updates**
- 4.00 **Close**

WORKSHOP OPTIONS

Workshops all run twice (once at 1.15pm and again at 2.30pm) so please choose **two** of the following:

A. Is it time for a Basic Income in the UK?

Barb Jacobson (Basic Income UK) and Becca Kirkpatrick (UNISON West Midlands Community)

The concept of a Basic Income is rapidly gaining momentum across the world of social and welfare policy. This workshop will aim to introduce attendees to the idea of a Basic Income (aka Citizens Income). We will explore where this idea has been piloted elsewhere in the world and where they are considering it today. Specifically, we will have opportunities to discuss both challenges and opportunities for a working model here in the UK.

The workshop will be facilitated by Barb Jacobson and Becca Kirkpatrick. Barb is co-ordinator of [Basic Income UK](#) and on the board of [Unconditional Basic Income Europe](#), a network of organisations and activists in 25 countries. She is also an advice worker at a small central London charity which helps people with benefits, housing, and debt. She has been active in community organising since 1982.

Becca Kirkpatrick works as a community organiser in Birmingham. She has been a trade union activist since 2006 and is currently chair of the UNISON West Midlands Community branch. She also cares part-time for a disabled loved one.

B. Advice needs for pensioners

Gareth Morgan (Ferret Information Systems)

A session looking at the practical issues facing pensioners with the new Pension Credit schemes, pension freedoms, annuity sales and other changes.

Ferret Information Systems was established in 1987 and is the largest company in Europe in the field of law dealing with welfare benefits and similar areas of determinative, compliance, and regulatory law.

C. Where to get additional funding and assistance for clients

Helen Waddington (Perennial: Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society) and Ross Craig (Turn2us)

- Occupational charities:

Find out how to access additional support including financial grants for your clients.

This includes:

- claimants affected by the benefit cap
- sanctioned claimants
- clients waiting for benefit claims awards
- clients with a reduction of income and no recourse to Social Fund payments or grants

No longer able to represent clients at tribunals or do home visits to complete benefit forms? Find out about the help provided by occupational charities and how to access this support for your clients.

- Turn2us is a national charity which helps people in financial hardship to access welfare benefits, charitable grants and support services – online, by phone and face to face through partner organisations and volunteers. This section of this workshop will provide you with an overview of their:

- charity
- direct grant giving fund (Turn2 grant giving fund (Turn2us's Elizabeth Finn Fund)

- website (including their award winning benefits calculator and grants search database; detailing information on over 3000 Grant Funds)

D. Single parent awareness

Lisa Wright (One Parent Families Scotland)

This workshop will explore issues to consider when advising single parents. It will look at the differences in the impact of welfare reform on single parents compared with other parents (eg. conditionality and sanctions). We will also examine attitudes towards single parents in their dealings with authority eg. DWP, how they're treated in their community and are portrayed in the media. There will be information about the work of One Parent Families Scotland and details of our lone parent helpline and practitioners' helpline.

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

SPEAKERS

Matt Kerr is a Labour councillor for Glasgow City Council's Craigton ward and Executive Member for Social Justice. 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.

Dr Malcolm Torry is Director of the [Citizens Income Trust](#) and a Visiting Senior Fellow in the Social Policy Department at the London School of Economics. He is the author of [Money for Everyone: Why we need a Citizen's Income](#) (Policy Press, 2013), [101 Reasons for a Citizen's Income](#) (Policy Press, 2015), and [The Feasibility of Citizen's Income](#) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

Prof Paul Spicker is a writer and commentator on social policy. His published work includes sixteen books, several shorter works and over 80 academic papers. His work on housing and welfare rights is based in his early career; since then, his research has included studies related to benefit delivery systems, the care of old people, psychiatric patients, housing management and local anti-poverty strategy. He has also been a consultant on social welfare in practice, doing work for a range of agencies at local, national and international levels. After teaching at Nottingham Trent University and the University of Dundee, he held the Grampian Chair of Public Policy at Robert Gordon University from 2001-2015. He is now an Emeritus Professor of RGU and a Fellow of [CROP](#), the International Social Science Council's Comparative Research Programme on Poverty. His website, [An Introduction to Social Policy](#), is one of the most used sources in the field on the Internet.

LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

[The Renfield Centre](#), 260 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JP is part of St Stephen's parish church in Glasgow city centre.

By train:

- Charing Cross station is a 2 minute walk
- Anderston station is a 12 minute walk
- Queen Street 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 4 or 4A bus from Hope St outside Central station)

By [underground](#):

Cowcaddens, St Georges Cross and Buchanan St stations are within walking distance.

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.
- The 3, 4, 4a and 77 operated by First Bus stop in Bath St (westbound) and dental hospital on Sauchiehall St (eastbound).
- The number 18 terminates in Holland St adjacent to the Renfield Centre.
- The number 2 stops in St Vincent St.
- For full local timetable information, see [Traveline](#).

By taxi:

There are taxi ranks located at Buchanan bus station, Glasgow Queen Street rail station and Glasgow Central rail station and on Holland Street adjacent to the Centre.

By bicycle:

The venue is close to national route [75](#) and [756](#). The nearest [cycle hire docking stations](#) are at Charing Cross station and Waterloo Street.

ACCOMMODATION

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

SOCIAL EVENING

NAWRA members will be meeting up for food and drinks from 7pm on Thurs 1 Sept at [The Raven](#), 81-85 Renfield St, Glasgow G2 1LP.

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