

NAWRA

Committee meeting – 18 June 2020 – on Zoom

Present: Alan (chair), Daphne, Corin, Tom, Michael, Gareth, Craig, Zoey, Kelly (minutes)

Apologies: Atif, Maureen, Juan, Julie, Terry

Debrief on recent online conferences

- **Daphne** edited the banter out of the saved Zoom chat records and will email the serious bits to each speaker so that they are able to follow up on points raised.
- **Kelly** to download Eventbrite registration data and add to CPD records. However, it is acknowledged that there is no mechanism by which we can verify attendance.
- **Alan** to edit and upload the presentations to YouTube and **Kelly** to circulate to members by email with a note explaining that it's a lot of work!
- **Kelly** to invoice Advice Pro the usual £200 for sponsorship of the event.
- **Alan** to circulate feedback received about the events.

Future conference plans

- Agreed that we will consider whether it would be feasible to either live-stream or record a face-to-face conference in future.
- Some discussion about moving the conferences in future to Jan/May/Sep.
- Agreed that the next online session would take place on 30 July. It will be focussed on how members are adapting their advice services to the new working environment and sharing best practice. **Alan** and **Corin** to present a short session each then use the breakout rooms on Zoom for small group discussions.

Communications and publicity

- **Alan** to continue to re-organise website resources.
- **Daphne** to draft a summary of resources available from Rightsnet.
- **Tom** and **Daphne** to look at revising the benefits updaters chart.
- **All** to consider topics for future editions of the NAWRA newsletter.
- Lindsey Poole of ASA has asked if any NAWRA committee member would be interested in joining the Advice Sector Group of the Administrative Justice Panel. **Alan** to email details to Zoey and Julie.
- **Kelly** to email all members to ask if they would like their colleagues to be added to the mailing list.
- Agreed that we would promote NAWRA's new online conferences to recruit new members:
 - LGA social security advisers group - **Corin**
 - CPAG - **Kelly**
 - Targeted adverts on Facebook? - **Alan**
 - Google funding - **Gareth**

Governance

- The CPD scheme is now launched. NAWRA is its own awarding body. We will award 4 CPD points to members who attend a full day conference. **Kelly** to keep attendance records and email members.

Policy and campaigns

- **All** to read and comment on Alan's draft research brief circulated by email on 3 March.
- All agreed to co-sign Carers UK joint letter. **Tom** to contact the organiser.
- **Daphne** to email stakeholder forum about GPOW.
- **Alan** and **Daphne** to draft a statement on the hardship caused by the NRPF restrictions.

Finance

- **All** to send expense claims to Kelly promptly.
- Kelly invoiced NAWRA members for their 2020-2021 membership fee. **Kelly** to circulate the Finance report updated to the end of the first quarter of 2020/21 in early July.

Future meetings dates and locations

- Friday 11 September 2020 at Renfield Centre in Glasgow (hosted by Glasgow City Council). This will now take place on Zoom across two days. **Kelly** to contact the venue about a refund or postponement.

Speaker/ workshop ideas:

- Jon Shaw (CPAG in Scotland) on decision making in Scottish benefits
 - Future changes when the DWP returns to business as usual
 - CPAG's Early Warning System (E&W or Scotland)
 - Keven Higgins (Advice NI)
 - European Anti-Poverty Network
 - Peter Kelly from Poverty Alliance
- Friday 4 December 2020 at City Hall, St. Peter's Street, Norwich NR2 1NH (hosted by Equal Lives)

For 2021, we have offers from Greenwich (Corin), Coventry (Alan), Durham (Julie) plus a standing arrangement to return to Edinburgh in Sep 2021. **Alan, Corin** and **Julie** to liaise to arrange dates.

Next meeting: video conference by Zoom at 2pm on 2 July 2020 – **Kelly** to send the link by email.