



Thursday 10 and Friday 11 September 2020

On Zoom

AGENDA

Day 1: Thursday 10 September 2020 (1.00pm – 4.30pm)

- 1.00 Alan Markey (NAWRA Chair, [Coventry Independent Advice Service](#)) **welcome and introductions**
- 1.10 Jack Maxwell ([Public Law Project](#)) will examine the issues raised by the *Johnson* decision on **UC assessment periods and paydays** and take questions.
- 1.50 **Break**
- 2.00 Jon Shaw ([CPAG in Scotland](#)) will lead a session offering a brief overview of the progress of (and delays to) the creation of a **new Scottish social security system**. We will have a quick look at some interesting aspects of the current one-off payments, consider changes to the DLA to PIP transfer in Scotland, and touch on some things to look out for once ongoing benefits are introduced. Includes Q&A.
- 3.00 **Break**
- 3.15 Jennifer Cowen ([Durham County Council](#)) will discuss recent developments in law and practice around **bereavement benefits** and offer an insight for advisers across the UK.
- 4.15 **Wrap up and close** by 4.30pm

Social evening: Thursday 10 September 2020 (7.00pm to 9.00pm)

In the evening all members are welcome to join a virtual NAWRA social evening, featuring a quiz session and other fun activities! Session will be led by NAWRA Chair, **Alan Markey**.

Day 2: Friday 11 September 2020 (9.30am to 1.15pm)

9.30 Alan Markey (NAWRA Chair, [Coventry Independent Advice Service](#)) **welcome and introductions**

9.40 Laura Robertson ([Poverty Alliance](#)) will present on findings from a Health Foundation impact study led by University of Glasgow on **mental health, welfare conditionality and employment support** in Scotland and the UK. She will highlight the current issues in the social security and employability support systems for people with mental health problems raised by key stakeholders in both the fields of employability and social security.

10.25 **Break**

10.40 **Using judicial review to challenge decisions:**

Jess Strode ([CPAG](#)) will look at the pre-action protocol, using real life examples of when judicial review is effective in resolving intractable welfare rights problems quickly and without going to court. She will highlight resources available to advisers and consider two instances where it has not been possible to resolve issues using the pre-action protocol and the steps CPAG are taking. These are (1) HMRC's refusal to award retrospective tax credits to a recently recognised refugee and (2) DWP's refusal to pay universal credit to a claimant who has applied for but not yet received a national insurance number.

We will be joined by **Michael Connor**, the appellant in [R \(Connor\) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions](#), who will discuss his personal experience of challenging the DWP.

11.45 **Break**

12.00 **Buzz sessions:** a new format for our final session of the conference. Speakers will have 10-15 minutes to present a topic or question and then there will be a Q&A session at the end. The topics are:

- Meeting the needs of the new Covid-19 advice seeker as well as (not instead of) our usual client groups. Is Covid-19 making the systemic structural exclusion of BAME communities worse?
Lindsay Poole ([Advice Services Alliance](#))
- How are advice services adapting to new ways of service delivery?
Corin Hammersley ([Royal Borough of Greenwich](#))

12.50 **Final questions, wrap-up and close by 1.15**

Yoga session: Deep stretch - Friday 11 September 2020 (2.00pm to 3.00pm)

Come and join **Daphne Hall** (NAWRA Vice-Chair, rightsnet) for an hour of deep stretch yoga. Feeling the stress of a busy week? Let your body relax into a deep stretch and feel the tension begin to dissipate. A gentle yoga session using the breath to help you unwind into the weekend.

The conference 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
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www.nawra.org.uk