

NAWRA

Committee meeting – 29 April 2021 – on Zoom

Present: Daphne (chair), Alan, Atif, Tom, Michael, Gareth, Craig, Zoey, Maureen, Julie, Kelly (minutes)

Apologies: Juan, Corin

Communications and publicity

- **Tom** and **Daphne** to look at revising the benefits updater chart.
- **Daphne** to draft an email to encourage members to contribute to the [Resources page](#)

Governance

- **Kelly** to email NAWRA members in north west England asking for nominations to be regional committee representative.

Policy and campaigns

- Equality and diversity
 - **Atif** to set up a working group on equality and diversity and drafts its terms of reference.
 - **Kelly** to email the ASA competition winners with a personal invitation to the June conference.
 - **Daphne** to share equality and diversity survey results with members.
- Remembering Terry Patterson
 - **Kelly** to designate Richard Machin's presentation at the June conference as the Terry Patterson Memorial lecture after checking with Richard.
 - **Corin** to nominate a small Greenwich-based organisation as recipients of a donation from NAWRA in Terry's memory.
- Will Hadwen and Gary Vaux have been investigating social media groups offering benefits advice and making contact with the moderators of some pages. **Alan** to reconvene the subgroup.
- DWP is holding UC stakeholder workshops 5-19 May 2021. **Gareth** to attend workshop 2 (calculators), **Daphne** to attend workshop 4 (messaging and advice). **Maureen, Julie** and **Zoey** to discuss attendance at workshops 1 and 3.
- **Daphne** spoke at DWP Business Strategy Directorate away day on why it is difficult for claimants to engage with the DWP.
- **Daphne** to speak at Housing Systems conference in May 2021.
- **Tom** facilitating workshops at IMA conference in June 2021.

- Julie gave a presentation to the AJC advice sector panel.
- Dangos in Wales has been a success and could be replicated more widely. This might be of particular interest to regional mayors in England. The evaluation report is due in September 2021. **Tom** and **Gareth** to circulate.

Finance

- As at 31 March 2021, NAWRA had 266 member organisations. Income from membership fees this year totals £21,680. In a normal year, a large part of our income would be spent on the cost of hosting four face-to-face conferences but this year has of course been very different. Other than the annual CPAG administration fee, almost all of our spending has been IT-related (website security certificate, survey software, email software and a Zoom subscription). This leaves us with a surplus of £11,540. **Kelly** to draw up a budget for 2021-22 based on two online and two face-to-face conferences a year, and all committee meetings online.

Future meetings dates and locations

In light of feedback from members, the meeting decided to hold two face-to-face conferences and two online conferences per year and to review the situation in 2022-23.

- 10 and 11 June 2021 on Zoom (hosted by Greenwich Welfare Rights) – note new dates
- 10 September 2021 at Renfield Centre, 260 Bath St, Glasgow G2 4JP (hosted by Glasgow City Council)
- December 2021 (hosted by Coventry Independent Advice Service)

Ideas for future speakers and workshops:

- AJC advice sector panel (Julie)
- See also the list of offers from members recently circulated to the committee.

Next meeting: on Zoom at 2pm on 1 July 2021 – **Kelly** to send the link by email.