



Thursday 10 and Friday 11 June 2021

Hosted by Royal Borough of Greenwich Welfare Rights Service

On Zoom

AGENDA

Day 1: Thursday 10 June 2021 (1.00pm to 4.30pm)

1.00 **Introductions**

1.10 **Welcome** Danny Thorpe (Leader, Royal Borough of Greenwich)

1.25 **LGA's Reshaping Financial Support Project** Rose Doran (Local Government Association)

The LGA has been working with a group of councils to explore, in detail, local approaches to improving outcomes for low income and disadvantaged households. This has included delivery of local welfare schemes, welfare rights and debt advice as well as wider work on poverty prevention and integrated support. Key considerations have included partnership working, leadership and data-sharing.

The pandemic has brought financial hardship and economic vulnerability into even sharper focus. As a consequence the LGA adapted and expanded its programme to work with a much wider range of councils and partners.

This session will summarise the work we have done, some of the key learning, and how we plan to use that learning to inform both the national and local approach to supporting households throughout social and economic recovery.

2.10 **Break**

2.20 **Social welfare advice in healthcare settings** Dan Hopewell (Bromley by Bow Centre)

Bromley by Bow Centre has recently undertaken research into [how social welfare advice can work collaboratively in health care settings](#). Dan Hopewell will discuss their work on establishing social welfare legal advice in healthcare settings, and on supporting the development of social prescribing in London.

3.00 **Greenwich social prescribing model** Aideen Silke (Public Health, Royal Borough of Greenwich)

Aideen Silke, Senior Health Improvement Specialist at Royal Borough of Greenwich, will give an overview of the social prescribing model in Greenwich, and how it helped the borough to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.15 **Break**

3.25 **Benefits safeguards – recent developments** Owen Stevens (CPAG)

In recent years DWP failures associated with, and in some cases contributing to, claimant deaths have been criticised by coroners, the Independent Case Examiner, and the National Audit Office. Owen Stevens, of the Child Poverty Action Group, will summarise DWP's response to these criticisms – from changes to guidance affecting the day-to-day administration of awards to structural changes within DWP. We will reflect on the implications for DWP's planned managed migration of legacy claimants to UC.

4.15 **Wrap up and close** by 4.30pm

Social evening: Thursday 10 June 2021 (7.00pm to 9.00pm)

In the evening all members are welcome to join a virtual NAWRA social evening on Zoom.

Day 2: Friday 11 June 2021 (9.30am to 1.15pm)

9.30 **Welcome and introductions**

9.40 [Terry Patterson Memorial Lecture: COVID-19 and social security: what has happened so far, what needs to happen in the future?](#) Richard Machin (Nottingham Trent University)

This presentation analyses the changes that the UK government has made to the social security system as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It argues that although the government's response was necessary, it did not go far enough. A temporary lifting of some prejudicial elements of the social security system was welcome but this still leaves an overly complex system characterised by unacceptable delays in payment, inadequate support for many vulnerable groups, and inconsistent experiences for recipients of different benefits. This presentation will look at fundamental reforms of the social security which are required to provide a more sustainable system in the post-pandemic period.

Richard Machin's journal article is available in the Feb 2021 edition of *Critical Social Policy* at [COVID-19 and the temporary transformation of the UK social security system](#).

10.30 **Break**

10.40 **Beyond the SDP Gateway** Julia Service and Jane Crawford (Housing Systems)

This session will investigate the Universal Credit Transitional SDP Element. After a quick review of the basics, we will use case studies to inspire discussion around some of the lesser known / controversial aspects of the Element.

11.40 **Break**

11.50 **Update on challenges to exclusion of pre-settled status as valid right to reside for access to benefit** Martin Williams (Child Poverty Action Group)

There are currently two pending challenges to the rule which prevents "pre-settled status" from being a sufficient right to reside to satisfy the test for access to universal credit and the other benefits where a right to reside is required:

- [Fratila v SSWP](#) – now adjourned to await the CJEU case, although CPAG has asked the Supreme Court to lift the stay on implementing the Order of the Court of Appeal.
- *CG v DfC* – heard in the Court of Justice of the European Union on 4th May.

Martin will give an update on what we know about these cases by the time of the NAWRA meeting with a view to thinking about what practical steps need

to be taken by claimants and their advisers who may benefit from the judgments (even in the post 31/12/2020 period).

12.20 **NAWRA updates** (our work on equality and diversity, other reports/Information Exchange)

1.00 **Round up and close** by 1.15

Yoga session: Friday 11 June 2021 (2.00pm to 3.00pm)

After the hurly-burly of the conference why not take an hour to restore and recharge in a yoga session with Daphne (NAWRA vice-chair, rightsnet) focusing on breath and gentle movement - come and unwind for the weekend...

Open to all levels - different options will be offered - and you are invited to take breaks whenever feels right - just focusing on the breath is a great stress reliever!

The conference is free to attend but open to NAWRA members only.

[Find out more about joining](#)

If you have any queries about the conference please contact

Kelly Smith, NAWRA secretary

kelly@nawra.org.uk

www.nawra.org.uk