



Thursday 9 and Friday 10 December 2021
Hosted by Coventry Independent Advice Service
On Zoom

AGENDA

Day 1: Thursday 9 December 2021 (1.00pm to 4.30pm)

- 1.00 **Introductions and welcome** Alan Markey, Coventry Independent Advice Service and NAWRA chair
- 1.10 **The Phil Hanns Memorial Lecture: The Value of Public Legal Education**
Professor Tara Mulqueen, School of Law, Warwick University
Public legal education is sometimes painted as 'DIY law' or as shifting the responsibility for resolving law-related problems onto individuals themselves, who are often not in a position to do so. This presentation will consider the value of public legal education alongside advice and representation and propose ways of navigating some of the tensions, real or perceived, between education and advice.
[Slido # 653746](#)
- 2.00 **Break**
- 2.10 **Judicial Review: using the pre-action protocol to get what your client wants**
Jessica Strode, CPAG
An increasing number of welfare benefit decisions are not open to appeal and fast paced and extensive welfare reform can result in poor decision-making, delays and inaccurate guidance being issued to decision makers. Using the judicial review pre-action protocol you can challenge decisions without a right of appeal, end delays for your clients, and enhance future decision making by improving decision-making guidance - all without using a solicitor or going to court.
[Slido # 627913](#)
- 3.20 **Break**
- 3.30 **Universal credit - to move or not to move - that is the question...**

Daphne Hall, rightsnet

The government has recently launched its 'voluntary' Move to UC campaign. As advisers know all too well, a voluntary move is fraught with risk. However, with the recently announced increase to the work allowance and decrease to the taper, it does mean that it is more likely that such a move could be beneficial. This interactive workshop is an opportunity for advisers to raise concerns, share experiences and ideas, and look at best practice for how we advise our clients going forward.

Slido # 278508

4.30 **Close**

Day 2: Friday 10 December 2021 (9.30am to 1.15pm)

9.30 **Welcome and introductions**

9.40 **Remote justice? Virtual benefits tribunals** Lindsay Owen, Islington People's Rights

The pandemic vastly accelerated the government's plans to digitise the court system. Hear the results of research into the pros and cons of video and telephone welfare benefits tribunals and discuss how best to support clients as tribunals increasingly move online. IPR's report entitled '[Remote Justice? Virtual benefits tribunals and disabled clients](#)' along with a [short briefing document](#) were published in November 2021.

Slido # 854496

10.20 **Building the younger generation of advisers** Kani Kundu, Advice Services Alliance

Kani will discuss the [Building the Younger Generation of Advisers report](#) that she completed with the Advice Services Alliance in October 2020 to look at the issues surrounding the advice sector workforce.

Slido # 341325

10.50 **Break**

11.00 **Reflections on universal credit** Lord Freud

Lord Freud is a Conservative member of the House of Lords.

Following a report for the Blair Labour government in 2007 entitled '*Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of welfare to work*', he was appointed as a DWP adviser in the Labour administration.

He was made a Conservative peer in 2009 and became Minister for Welfare Reform in the coalition government. Following the 2015 Conservative election victory he became Minister of State, responsible for Universal Credit.

He is author of '*Clashing Agendas: Inside The Welfare Trap*' described as the traumatic inside story of how the simple concept of universal credit became unimaginably complicated in execution, and then nearly self-destructed.

Slido # 558155

12.00 **Break**

12.10 **Coventry: UK City of Culture 2021**

Alan Markey (NAWRA Chair and Coventry Independent Advice Service) introduces a short film showing some highlights of the year so far.

12.20 **NAWRA updates and information exchange**

Slido # 627673

1.15 **Close**

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