

NAWRA

Committee meeting – 19 January 2022 – on Zoom

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

Apologies: Julie, Maureen

Communications and publicity

- **Tom** and **Daphne** to look at revising the benefits updaters chart.

Governance

- NAWRA's committee members are elected for a two year term. The current term will come to an end in March 2022. The NAWRA members in each region vote for their representative on the committee. **Kelly** to email all members inviting nominations. **All** current committee members who would like to serve another term to send their completed nomination form to Kelly by 11 Feb. All agreed that Scotland would be represented by two reps.

Policy and campaigns

- Equality and diversity:
Atif gave an update. **Daphne** to draft an email to the working group about our proposal to offer membership to small organisations working with clients with protected characteristics for free or at a reduced fee. **Kelly** to arrange a meeting group in early Feb in order to gather their recommendations, then **Atif** and **Daphne** to use these to draft a proposal to put to the AGM on 3-4 March. **Dan** to recruit volunteer help at his workplace to do outreach work to harder-to-reach potential member organisations.
- Future-proofing the advice sector:
Alan to initiate work with Advice UK on developing good practice and discussing NAWRA's role, with the possibility of hosting a joint event.
- Dan has circulated a draft response to the consultation *Housing Legal Aid: the way forward*. **All** to read and offer comments.
- **Dan** and **Corin** to speak with Owen Stevens and Martin Williams at CPAG about the Ombudsman's recommendation that the DWP pays compensation to ESA claimants who were underpaid following their transfer from IB.

Finance

- As at 31 December 2021, NAWRA had 286 members. Income from membership fees this year totals £22,690. We have spent £1023.44 on IT-related items (Zoom licence, Mailchimp, Jetpack, SurveyMonkey, domain renewal and web hosting) and £9,200 on CPAG's admin/management fee. **Kelly** to circulate finance report by email.

Next conference

Our next conference will take place on 3 and 4 March 2022 on Zoom (no host).

Workshops and speakers (see attached):

- Zoe Titchener (Citizens Advice Coventry) on building and maintaining local, national and digital networks to improve service delivery
- Atif and colleagues on Mind's strategic litigation
- Daphne on digital disability applications for benefits
- Daphne/Tom on the benefits updater chart?
- **Dan/Gareth** to contact JRF
- **Alan** to contact Michael Orton

Future meetings dates and hosts

- 3 and 4 March 2022 (on Zoom – no host)
- 10 June 2022 (Durham? **Kelly** to contact Julie)
- September 2022 (Edinburgh?)
- December 2022 (on Zoom)

WRAC has offered to host a future meeting.

AOB

None.

Next meeting

23 Feb 2022 from 2-4pm on Zoom – **Kelly** to send the link by email.

Kelly to set up Zoom links and calendar invitations for committee meetings for the rest of 2022