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# nawra

national association of  
welfare rights advisers

To: All NAWRA members working in England and Wales

## **BI-ANNUAL NAWRA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2022**

### **CALL TO STAND**

In 2002, NAWRA members overwhelmingly decided to set up an elected committee to assist NAWRA's development, its capacity and its profile. Twenty years on, NAWRA is now represented on many DWP consultative groups, responds regularly to consultation documents and has developed excellent regional links.

Elections to the committee are now held once every two years. That time is now upon us! The continued success of NAWRA depends upon its members – so please consider standing for the committee.

The committee posts are structured on a regional basis, but have a national focus. Committee members are expected to contribute to NAWRA's continuing development and to act as a link to the advice services in their region. This involves work on policy issues and internal organisation.

The committee currently meets on Zoom between four and eight times each year, separate to the main NAWRA meetings. Aside from the meetings, most communication is by email.

NAWRA take seriously the need for diversity on the committee. We encourage local authority and non-statutory agencies to support representatives and we call for front-line workers, second tier staff and managers to stand. We are also happy to consider people who want to share the role with another colleague from the same region.

### **How to Stand**

If you are interested in standing for election, please complete the nomination form. The completed form should be returned to Kelly Smith, NAWRA Secretary, by email to [kelly@nawra.org.uk](mailto:kelly@nawra.org.uk) by **Friday 11 February 2022 at 5.00 p.m.**

You may only stand as a representative for the region in which you work. The form asks for a short statement setting out why you would like to be a member of the committee. It would be helpful if you could outline your background and how you would like to help NAWRA develop.

If you are considering standing but have a question you would like to ask please do not hesitate to contact Kelly Smith at [kelly@nawra.org.uk](mailto:kelly@nawra.org.uk)

## **Roles and Expectations**

The core activities of a committee member are to work towards achieving [NAWRA's aims and objectives](#). The committee will also elect a Chair, Vice Chair and other officers as necessary.

Those elected to represent NAWRA need to do so with regard to our aims, objectives and fair representation of our members' interests and concerns.

### **The following expectations are held for all elected representatives:**

- \* To work to achieving the aims and objectives of NAWRA
- \* To help organise NAWRA meetings alongside the host organisation
- \* To assist NAWRA in developing policy positions
- \* To help advance the needs, or profile, of advice agencies in your region
- \* To be accountable for actions to the full NAWRA membership.
- \* To value and encourage diversity within NAWRA and not to tolerate any form of harassment or discrimination
- \* To participate and contribute as much as possible (There is no requirement to attend all meetings of NAWRA but you will be expected to attend at least 2 of the 4 full committee meetings each year).
- \* To stand for a period of 2 years.

NAWRA relies on the support and contributions of its member organisations. We hope that the goodwill of members will continue and help us in the development of an infrastructure and an important voice for the advice sector. In turn, NAWRA helps its members to be better informed, to network, to develop professionally and to contribute to crucial policy work.

## **Voting Arrangements**

Where there are two or more candidates in any region elections will be by vote. Members will be issued with an email voting form and details of the candidates. Each member organisation has **ONE** vote only and can vote only for candidates within their region.

If there is only one candidate in any region they will be automatically elected unopposed. Members within that region will receive notification of this outcome instead of receiving voting forms.

**The full election results will be announced at the NAWRA conference on 3 and 4 March 2022.**

## **Current Committee Structure**

The regional structure is based on the government's designation of the [English Regions](#). Members in Wales can decide for themselves whether they are "north" or "south"!

The following regions representatives are subject to election:

- **North East**
- **North West** (not due for election this round)
- **Yorkshire and the Humber**
- **East Midlands**
- **West Midlands**
- **East of England**
- **London** (2 posts)
- **South East**
- **South West**
- **North Wales**
- **South Wales**

The following Committee members are nominated by their respective member organisations and are **NOT** subject to this election process:

- **Scotland (Link rep) x 2**
- **Northern Ireland**
- **CPAG rep (Finance/Membership)**

It is extremely important that we have a healthy number of people offering to stand for election, and an equally healthy turn out for the eventual election. I am therefore more than happy to clarify anything that may prevent individuals from either standing or voting.

**If you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kelly@nawra.org.uk](mailto:kelly@nawra.org.uk)**

Best wishes

Kelly Smith  
NAWRA Secretary