

**Thursday 3 and Friday 4 March 2022**

**On Zoom**

**AGENDA**

**Day 1: Thursday 3 March 2022 (1.00pm to 4.30pm)**

1.00      **Introductions and welcome**  
Alan Markey, Coventry Independent Advice Service and NAWRA chair

1.10      **The Plan - for a decent social security system**  
[Dr Michael Orton](#), Warwick Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick

The focus of this workshop is a recently published plan for a new social security system, produced by the [Commission on Social Security](#), and to which many NAWRA members have kindly contributed. The workshop will talk through [The Plan](#) and explain key elements. Three questions will then be posed, for discussion in breakout rooms:

1. Are there any gaps in The Plan?
2. How can the proposals in The Plan be operationalised?
3. Can NAWRA members play a role in influencing work seeking implementation of the proposals in The Plan and if so, how?

[Slido # 312084](#)

2.10      **Break**

2.20      **Building and maintaining local, national and digital networks to improve service delivery**  
Zoe Titchener, Coventry Citizens Advice

Zoe will talk about how you can connect with agencies in the sector; the opportunities and challenges of digital networking; and give some ideas and tools to build your networks.

[Slido # 845637](#)

- 2.50            **AGM**
- Annual report
  - NAWRA updates
  - Election of committee representatives
  - Equality and diversity working group update and motion

3.15            **Break**

3.25            **Updater part 1**  
Daphne Hall, rightsnet

Daphne will update on the latest information from the DWP operational stakeholder forum including the new ePIP form, 'holistic and empowered' decision-making, debt recovery policy and dealing with high value payments - with plenty of opportunities to discuss and ask questions.

[Slido # 952931](#)

4.00            **Information exchange**

[Slido # 557212](#)

4.30            **Close**

### **Social evening: Thursday 3 March (from 7.00pm)**

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

### **Day 2: Friday 4 March 2022 (9.30am to 1.00pm)**

9.30            **Welcome and introductions**

9.40            **Inflexibility in an integrated system? Policy challenges posed by the design of Universal Credit**

[Fran Bennett](#), Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford

Much of the widespread support for Universal Credit was based on the principle of integration, bringing six benefits and tax credits together. A decade on, [Fran Bennett draws on a recent paper with Jane Millar](#) analysing the design adopted to put this principle into practice - including monthly assessment, Universal Credit as a 'unitary concept', and its automated calculation - to explore the limits this may impose on future policy reforms.

[Slido # 277258](#)

- 10.40      **Break**
- 10.50      **Changing welfare benefits through strategic litigation – how Mind can help your case**  
Rheian Davies and Atif Kaudri, Mind
- We are Mind, the UK’s largest mental health charity. The benefits system does not always deliver for our beneficiaries. Strategic litigation can challenge that. Mind has not only wealth of legal experience in intervening and supporting judicial reviews (including *RF*, *MH* appeal and *TP & AR*), but we can also bring to these cases lived experience of people with mental health problems. Providing evidence of how systems may be operating unlawfully. Come and hear how we can work with you to keep the government accountable and provide better outcomes for our clients.
- [Slido # 067522](#)
- 11.50      **Break**
- 12.00      **Updater part 2**  
Tom Messere, Big Book of Benefits and Mental Health
- Tom will give a whistle stop tour through recent developments and updates - with plenty of opportunities to discuss and ask questions.
- [Slido # 048647](#)
- 12.45      **AOB**
- 13.00      **Close**
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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

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