

Friday 24 June 2022

Durham Town Hall, Market Place, Durham DH1 3NJ

Hosted by Durham County Council Welfare Rights Service

AGENDA

- 9.30 **Registration and refreshments**
Tea & coffee served in the main hall
- 10.00 **Introductions**
- 10.05 **Civic welcome**
- 10.15 **The Terry Patterson memorial lecture:** Henry Parkes, Senior Economist,
Institute for Public Policy Research
No-one left behind: Supporting people with complex needs on universal credit
Henry is an economist working in the Centre for Economic Justice at IPPR. He
authored the recently published report [No-one left behind: Supporting
people with complex needs on universal credit](#)
- 11.00 **Break**
- 11.15 **Workshop session 1** (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 12.15 **Lunch** (not provided at the venue)
- 1.30 **Guest speaker:** Olivia Vicol, Work Rights Centre
Universal credit eligibility quiz
To counter the exclusion of people with pre-settled status from benefits,
[Work Rights Centre](#) has recently developed a [universal credit eligibility quiz](#).
The quiz turns the convoluted right to reside criteria applied to claimants
with pre-settled status into a tool that is accessible to all, on any device. The
quiz is free to use, completely confidential, and available in six languages.
Olivia will give a demonstration and take questions.
- 2.00 **Workshop session 2** (see 'workshop options' on following page)
- 3.00 **Break**

- 3.15 **Guest speaker:** Chris Graham, retired welfare rights manager
Reflections on a career in welfare rights
- 3.25 **Information exchange/workshop feedback/NAWRA updates**
- 4.00 **Close**

WORKSHOP OPTIONS:

Each workshop lasts an hour and runs twice (once at 11.15am and again at 2pm). When you sign in you will be asked choose **two** from the following four options.

Unfortunately, some rooms in Durham Town Hall are not accessible to people with limited mobility. We will arrange the workshops so that the options chosen by delegates with limited mobility are in the accessible rooms.

If you would like to run a workshop at a future NAWRA meeting please contact kelly@nawra.org.uk

A. PIP acceptable standard Rule 4

James Cunningham, Durham Welfare Rights

A discussion of Regulation 4 - is it misunderstood and under used? How can advisers use it to maximise awards for their clients?

Workshop level: Intermediate/Theoretical/Practical

B. Child DLA and the mobility component

Kathryn Gaines and Julie Kirkby, Durham Welfare Rights

This workshop will look at the issues advisers face when applying for highest rate mobility on the grounds of severe mental impairment and challenging behaviours. We will look at the regulations and the DLA decision makers guide. We will also be discussing good practice when it comes to completing an application or requesting a mandatory reconsideration.

Workshop level: Intermediate/Practical

C. DWP and the issue of Duty of Care (Ginger Beer, Snails and the DWP)

Duncan Wall, Durham Welfare Rights

When we have a Secretary of State claiming that the DWP do not owe a duty of care, this workshop is a critical examination of that claim. What is a Duty of Care and why is it so important? What part does Statutory Duty play? Can there be a Statutory Duty and a Duty of Care – and are they the same thing? Constitutional considerations and the Bill of Rights. And don't worry about the snails – all will be revealed.

Workshop level: Intermediate/Theoretical

D. Mixed age couples overview

Pamela Carysforth, Training & Development Manager from UCNNotes (Housing Systems)

Pamela has over 20 years' experience in welfare rights and will be joining us to put you through your paces with an interactive training quiz.

The Mixed Age Couples rules affect many couples, especially in the years running up to retirement, and getting the right advice is of paramount importance to avoid unnecessary income losses.

In this session Pamela will run through a training quiz, to highlight the rules and raise awareness of some of the loopholes and mechanisms to maximise entitlement and avoid losses where possible. This is a complex area, so don't expect to get all the answers right – but rest assured you are more likely to remember things you get wrong and Pamela will be there to give insight and explanations along the way!

Unfortunately – no prizes for winning the quiz, it's a learning tool – not a competition.

Workshop level: Intermediate/Practical

NAWRA workshop levels:

Introductory	Assumes little or no prior knowledge of the topic or a refresher session
Intermediate	Assumes a reasonable working knowledge of welfare benefits work or some knowledge of the specific topic under discussion
Advanced	Assumes a good working knowledge of welfare benefits work or detailed knowledge of the topic under discussion

Practical	Focusing on developing good practice or offering some 'hints and tips'
Theoretical	Focusing on policy debates or discussion of emerging theory
Strategic	Focusing on planning and put practical knowledge, and/or theory in to practice

LOCATION AND TRANSPORT



The conference will take place in-person at [Durham Town Hall](#), Market Place, Durham DH1 3NJ.

How to get here:

Road: Durham is easily accessible by road and the city centre is situated just 2 miles from junction 62 of the A1(M). If you are driving to the Town Hall you will need to head towards the city centre. The Town Hall does not have its own car park but parking is available in the city centre car parks. Your best option may be parking at one of the three [park and ride stations](#) that serve the city centre and are based on major routes.

Rail: Trains from many UK towns and cities travel direct to Durham. The station lies on the UK East Coast main line, one stop south of Newcastle. It is just over 3 hours by train from Birmingham, 2½ hours from Manchester, 2 hours from Edinburgh and just 45 minutes from York. A rail strike is planned for 23 June.

Bus: Many buses serve the city centre from all across the region. The only bus that travels into the market place is the [Cathedral bus](#). Otherwise, the buses stop at either Claypath or Milburngate Bridge and the Town Hall is a short walk away. The [Traveline website](#) is a good way to plan your journey to Durham.

On foot: The Town Hall is situated in the Market Place, about a 10 to 15 minute walk from the railway station. The venue is signposted.

Cycle: National Cycle Routes [14](#) and [70](#) go through Durham city.

ON THE DAY

Inside the Town Hall

The oldest section of the Town Hall is the Guildhall and it dates from 1356. It was originally a timber formed building which was rebuilt in stone in 1535. Today's conference will be held in the Main Hall with workshops being run in various rooms throughout the Town Hall.

Refreshments

Tea and coffee will be available on arrival, and then during both the morning and afternoon breaks. These will be available in the Main Hall.

Lunch

Lunch is not provided. Options include:

- Local pubs and restaurants
- There is a selection of cafés and sandwich shops around the market place and you could always bring your lunch back into the Lantern Room if you choose.

ACCOMMODATION

The most central hotels are:

- Bridge Hotel (next to the railway station)
- Premier Inn Durham Walkergate or Broomside Park (the latter is not within walking distance of the city centre)
- Travelodge Durham, Station Lane
- Radisson Blu Hotel
- Durham Marriott Royal County Hotel

See www.thisisdurham.com for more information on accommodation, attractions and planning your trip.

SOCIAL EVENINGS

Eve of the conference – Thursday 23 June from 7pm

We will meet in The Bridge Hotel, 40 North Road, Durham DH1 4SE. The Bridge serves a variety of food until 10pm. www.bridgehoteldurham.com

After the conference – Friday 24 June from 4pm

In the usual spirit of NAWRA meetings we will be retiring to the pub for a post-meeting drink or two.

We look forward to seeing you either at the Bridge Hotel the night before or at the Town Hall on the day. We hope you enjoy your trip to Durham.

Our keynote speaker today is a lecture in memory of [Terry Patterson](#), NAWRA rep for north west England and hugely missed.



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

or

Julie Kirkby, Durham Welfare Rights Service Julie.kirkby@durham.gov.uk

www.nawra.org.uk