

NAWRA

Committee meeting – 8 Sep 2022 – in Bristol (and on Zoom)

Present: Daphne (chair), Michael, Gareth, Dan, Atif, Maureen, Corin, Julie, Kelly (minutes)

Apologies: Alan, Juan, Tom, Craig

Communications and publicity

- **Tom** and **Daphne** to work on revising the benefits updater chart.
- **Dan** to reconvene the social media working group, involving Will Hadwen and Gary Vaux.

Equality and Diversity

- Notes from working group meetings can be found on the [NAWRA website](#).
- So far, two organisations working with people with protected characteristics have been invited to join NAWRA for free and have accepted this offer. **All** to consider nominating any organisation that they feel meets the criteria for free membership. **Atif** to promote it in the information exchange at the Bristol conference.
- **Kelly** to investigate the design and print of a leaflet promoting our free membership offer.

Governance

- Recruitment of a second rep for Scotland due to take place in Sept 2022. **Kelly** to circulate an email to members asking for nominations. [update: Craig requested a delay]

Policy and campaigns

- **Alan, Corin** and **Dan** to attend the ASA conference in Manchester on 4 and 5 October. **Kelly** to book a 'marketplace' stall for NAWRA. **Kelly** to check on the whereabouts of the NAWRA banner. [update: now online due to rail strike]
- **Dan** to feedback on progress of the Early Legal Advice Pilot Scheme. **Julie** to contact Dan about the pilot in Middlesbrough.
- The UC50 is still not routinely sent out to trigger the WCA. Central England Law Centre is pushing with NAWRA for a standard letter to go out to claimants. **Dan** has a case and meeting next week. **Daphne** to draft letter to minister.
- Benefit uprating (inc lack of uprating of benefit cap or DHP budgets and impact of two child limit). **Gareth** to consider doing a presentation at a future conference.
- Sangeeta Enright (Cystic Fibrosis Trust) is interested in rules for council tax support schemes across the country. There is a disparity as to whether UC is taken into account as income. This means some claimants, particularly those with the LCWRA element have to pay more for their council tax once they come off legacy benefits. Policy & Practice also looking at this. Schemes are up for consultation in Sep 2023.

- Daphne and Alan met Henry Parkes from IPPR to discuss joint work with NAWRA.
- Michael Orton's next Commission on Social Security event will take place on 10 Oct 2022. **Kelly** to circulate details to members when available.
- General election campaign preparation (a short manifesto?)
- There are various discussions ongoing about the future of advice sector. **Dan** and **Corin** to bring everyone together and organise a Zoom roundtable event.

Finance

- As at 30 June 2022, NAWRA had 259 members. Some organisations have been slow to pay so their fees will appear in the Q2 summary. Income from membership fees this year totals £20,230. We have spent £10,000 on CPAG's admin/management fee, £340 on meetings and £47 on newsletter software. In early October, **Kelly** to update finance report to the end of Q2 and circulate by email.
- **Kelly** to invoice Advice Pro for £100 for sponsorship of refreshments at Bristol meeting.
- **All** to submit expenses claims for attendance at Committee meetings using the claim form, if employers will not pay.

Next conference

Our next conference will take place on 9 September 2022 in-person in Bristol (hosted by Bristol Advice Network)

Future conferences

- 7 and 8 December 2022 (on Zoom)
- March 2023
- June 2023
- September 2023

Potential hosts:

- Nottingham (**Juan** and Richard Machin) – possibly at Nottingham Law School
- Ipswich (Heather Carmichael at Citizens Advice Ipswich) – Zoom conference. Suffolk County Council and other welfare rights advisers across Suffolk may also be involved. Chloe Smith, MP for Norwich North is now Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. Unfortunately, Ipswich cannot host in Dec 2022.
- Cardiff (Tom Evans at Qualia Law)
- Edinburgh (**Craig**)
- GMWRAG (**Dan**)
- WRAC (**Gareth** and **Tom**)

Future committee meetings

- 2-4pm on 20 Oct 2022 (on Zoom). **Kelly** to re-send link.

- **Alan** and **Daphne** to arrange a longer strategic planning meeting.

AOB

None.