

# NAWRA

## Committee meeting – 23 Nov 2022 – on Zoom

**Present:** Alan (chair), Daphne, Michael, Tom, Dan, Julie, Corin, Craig, Kelly (minutes)

**Apologies:** Juan, Gareth, Maureen, Zoey, Atif

### Communications and publicity

- **Tom** and **Daphne** have updated the benefits updater chart and will present it at the NAWRA meeting on 8 Dec 2022.
- **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.
- The next working group meeting will take place at 1pm on 13 Dec 2022 on Zoom. **Kelly** to send a reminder email to working group members and the full membership. **Atif** to invite members to join the working group at the NAWRA meeting on 7-8 December 2022.

### Governance

- Recruitment of a second rep for Scotland to go ahead in the new year.

### Policy and campaigns

- The Early Legal Advice Pilot Scheme has gone live in Greater Manchester and Middlesbrough. A total of 40,000 people have been invited to seek help via council tax letters. Dan reported back. Not optimistic. Julie has had no news from Middlesbrough.
- The UC50 is still not routinely sent out to trigger the WCA. Central England Law Centre (CELC) wants a note to automatically go into the claimant's journal when they submit a fit note advising them that they should expect the UC50 and to contact work coach if don't receive it. Carla Clarke at CELC is talking with Tom Royston about potential litigation. **Daphne** to re-send our previous letter to Victoria Prentis to the new secretary of state Guy Opperman. **Kelly** to add to website and email members.
- Local authorities in England are responsible for designing their own council tax support schemes. There are large differences between schemes. Benefit calculators have collated all the information about each local authority's scheme. However,

there has been no comparison of levels of arrears and types of scheme. **Corin** to contact Policy in Practice.

- Alan and Daphne attended an event about talking about social security more effectively. **Kelly** to circulate [the report](#) to members. It calls for better co-ordination of messaging between organisations.
- General election campaign preparation (a short manifesto?) to influence the current government and opposition parties.
- There are various discussions ongoing about the future of advice sector. **Dan** and **Corin** to bring everyone together and organise a Zoom roundtable event. Alan, Julie and Daphne interested in attending.

#### Finance

- As at 30 Sep 2022, NAWRA had 290 members. Income from membership fees this year totals £22,570. We have spent £10,000 on CPAG's admin/management fee, £1268 on meetings and £414 on newsletter software and SurveyMonkey subscription. In early January 2023, **Kelly** to update finance report to the end of Q3 and circulate by email.
- **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 Wed 7 and Thurs 8 December 2022 on Zoom (hosted by the NAWRA committee)

#### Future conferences

- 10 March 2023 in person at Northway Community Centre, Dora Carr Close, Oxford OX3 9RU (with thanks to Atif) **Kelly** to set up meeting with Atif to discuss plans.
- June 2023 – Nottingham (or online if they can't host an in-person event) **Juan** to confirm Nottingham date and venue.
- September 2023 – Scotland? (online unless Nottingham can't do an in-person event)
- December 2023 – Online meeting hosted by Citizens Advice Ipswich? **Kelly** to contact Heather Carmichael at Citizens Advice Ipswich to suggest this date.

#### Potential hosts:

- Nottingham (**Juan** and Faye Deverell) – 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.
- Cardiff (Tom Evans at Qualia Law)
- Edinburgh (**Craig**)
- GMWRAG (**Dan**)

- WRAC (**Gareth** and **Tom**)

Next committee meetings

- 2-4pm on 25 Jan 2023 on Zoom
- 1-5pm on 9 March 2023 in person at Northway Community Centre, Dora Carr Close, Oxford OX3 9RU

AOB

None.