

NAWRA

Committee meeting – 3 Oct 2024

Present: Daphne (Chair) Corin, Gareth, Michael, Lee, Maureen, Tom, Kelly (minutes)

Apologies: Julie, Atif, Andrew, Rachael, Alan, Dan, Greg

Communications and publicity

- **Dan** to reconvene the social media working group, involving Will Hadwen and Gary Vaux.
- **Alan** to set up a NAWRA email address for committee members without one. **All** to email Alan at alan@nawra.org.uk to request a NAWRA email address.
- **Greg** and **Lee** to write content for new area of the website for [NAWRA in Scotland](#).

Equality and diversity

- Notes from working group meetings can be found on the [NAWRA website](#).
- So far, eight 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.
- An equality and diversity monitoring survey was sent to all NAWRA members with two reminders in July and Aug 2024. There were 307 respondents (around 24% of mailing list members). Keith Thompson (Northumberland Council) and Pamela Carysforth (Jigsaw Housing) from the equality and diversity working group have volunteered to analyse the results.
- The next working group meeting will take place on 9 Dec 2024 on Zoom. **Kelly** to send a reminder email to working group members.

Governance

- Agreed to add a review of the NAWRA constitution to the agenda for the away day. **Kelly** to circulate link: www.nawra.org.uk/about-nawra/
- Clive Davis was a longstanding NAWRA member while working for Newcastle City Council. Recently retired, he has offered to volunteer for NAWRA. Clive will attend the strategy day on 14 Oct 2024.

Policy and campaigns

- Council tax support schemes in England:
 - Kelly has set up a new page on the website and added links to the consultations we know about. <https://www.nawra.org.uk/resources/council-tax-reduction-schemes-in-england/> **Corin** to draft a call out to members.

- Accreditation and advice sector workforce development:
 - **Dan** and **Rachael** to discuss advice quality standards. Agreed to add this to agenda for away day.
- Stephen Timms is now DWP Minister for Social Security and Disabilities. **Daphne** to collate from Rightsnet details of W&P committee discussions from his time as chair.
- Pension credit delays are likely to increase because of the introduction of means testing for the winter fuel allowance. **Daphne** to draft a survey of members and compare the results to those from the survey in Nov-Dec 2022.
Gareth to meet pension credit DWP officials on 8 Oct 2024 and will report back.

Finance

- Kelly updated the finance report to the end of the second quarter of 2024-25 and circulated it to the committee on 1 Oct 2024.

Next conference

- Thursday 5 December (1.00pm – 4.00pm) and Friday 6 December 2024 (9.30am – 12.30pm) on Zoom. Housing Systems (uc notes) has offered to host.

Future conferences

- March 2025 – Wales?
- Friday 6 June 2025 – Stockport Town Hall (hosted by Greater Manchester Law Centre)
- September 2025 – host needed
- December 2025 – host needed

Potential hosts

- WRAC? Swansea Council? Hire a venue in Cardiff? (**Gareth** and **Tom**)
- Woolwich? (**Corin**)
- Central Bedfordshire Council (online)
- Central Borders CAB (online)

Potential speakers and workshops

- **All** to add their ideas of potential speakers and workshops to the '[Future NAWRA conferences – ideas and offers](#)' working document on GoogleDocs.

Future committee meetings

- The next NAWRA committee meeting will take place on Teams in mid Jan 2025. **Kelly** to circulate calendar invitation and Teams link.
- NAWRA committee strategy day will take place on Mon 14 Oct 2024 at Citizens Advice, First floor, Wellington House, 31 – 34 Waterloo Street, Birmingham, B2 5TJ from 9.30am (for a 10am start) to 4pm. This will be a hybrid meeting. Expenses can

be claimed for attendance.