

Tuesday 11 March and Wednesday 12 March 2025

On Zoom

AGENDA

Day 1: Tuesday 11 March 2025 (1.00pm to 4.00pm)

- 1.00 **Introductions and welcome**
Alan Markey, CEO of Coventry Independent Advice Service and NAWRA chair
- 1.10 **Child Poverty Strategy**
Sara Ogilvie, Director of Policy, Rights and Advocacy, Child Poverty Action Group and Alex Clegg, Economist, Resolution Foundation
- In July 2024, the Work & Pensions Secretary and the Education Secretary were appointed as the joint leads of a new ministerial taskforce to begin work on the government's [Child Poverty Strategy](#). The Strategy will be UK-wide, drawing on devolved and reserved levers and working closely with devolved governments.
- Sara and Alex will talk about what they want to see in the Child Poverty Strategy and will answer your questions.
- [Slido # 1220835](#)
- 2.10 **Break**
- 2.20 **Housing benefit and the benefit cap challenge(s)**
Kate Bradley, Housing Caseworker, Greater Manchester Law Centre
- Since Local Housing Allowance was increased in April 2024, Greater Manchester Law Centre (GMLC) is seeing many clients who have been pushed up into the benefit cap, especially households led by single mums. Often, this leads to rent arrears and homelessness. GMLC has been looking into the various ways to support benefit-capped households struggling to pay their rent, including through a Judicial Review challenge on the government's failure to review the levels of the cap following the uprating of benefits and

increases to Local Housing Allowance. Housing Caseworker Kate Bradley from GMLC will present on these issues and take questions.

[Slido # 3189161](#)

3.05 **Break**

3.15 **Ethnically Diverse Advice Providers Network**

Rita Chadha, Advice Services Alliance

The rise of the far-right, changes in language and institutional and legislative practice have led to more and more organisations looking at their own practice in relation to advice provision and race equity. But what of the organisations that solely focus on racialised individuals and communities. Often described as 'by and for' (led by, managed by and for specific communities) organisations, that have built up strong bonds of trust and confidence amongst specific communities of identity, face their own unique challenges around funder, institutional discrimination, prejudice and bias. This session provides an update on the work taking place in London around ensuring equity is valued for ethnically diverse advice providers.

[Slido # 3360934](#)

3.40 **NAWRA's AGM**

- Annual report
- Motions received
- Proposed changes to NAWRA's constitution

[Slido # 41321608](#)

4.00 **Close**

Day 2: Wednesday 12 March 2025 (9.30am to 12.30pm)

9.30 **Welcome and introductions**

Alan Markey, CEO of Coventry Independent Advice Service and NAWRA chair

- 9.40 **Awareness not advice: where Dangos fits**
Gareth Morgan, Ferret
- People get to expert advice too late, too often. But it's not possible to push the advice to people before they know that they need it. How do you solve the conundrum?
- [Dangos](#) is the way that Wales is trying to do it, through raising the awareness of non-advisers and giving them the skills and knowledge to share their awareness with the people they see day to day.
- We're just starting to deliver the fourth round of the online sessions and the results are terrific.
- [Slido # 3200879](#)
- 10.25 **Break**
- 10.35 **How should the Government be approaching disability and incapacity benefit reform?**
- Louise Murphy, Senior Economist, Resolution Foundation
- Understanding recent trends in benefit caseloads and setting out the priorities for policy makers.
- [Slido # 2320514](#)
- 11.05 **Break**
- 11.15 **Goodbye tax credits migration; Hello, income-related ESA**
- Facilitated by Tom Messere, Big Book and Zoey Corker, Leeds Council
- As tax credits prepare to shut up shop from April, the migration to UC from income-related ESA got to full speed from February.
- This workshop session is a chance to share your UC migration pain, experiences, tips and queries: frustrations at tax credit complexities or worries for more vulnerable clients switching from income-related ESA.
- This participatory workshop aims to share tips and tactics to inform our work and to update on current burning issues facing advisers.
- [Slido # 2116879](#)
- 12.10 **Information Exchange**
- [Slido # 1703887](#)
- 12.30 **Close**

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

www.nawra.org.uk