



## Advice Summit

Thursday 5 June 2025

Stockport Town Hall

Edward Street, Stockport, SK1 3XE

Sponsored by:

# LEIGH DAY



Reserve your place before 14 May 2025 at  
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/nawra/1615670>

### AGENDA

- 09.30 **Registration and refreshments** (no access to venue before 9.30)
- 10.00 **Welcome** – Alan Markey, Coventry Independent Advice Service & NAWRA Chair
- 10.10 **Development of advice over the last 50 years** – Geoff Fimister, writer and consultant on social security issues; Co-Chair of the Disability Benefits Consortium; Head of Policy, Inclusion Barnet; and a founder member of NAWRA

- 10.35      **The value of advice**
- Willem van de Ven, Advice UK
  - Dr Juliet Stone, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University
  - Prof Tara Mulqueen, School of Law, University of Warwick
- 11.15      **Break and refreshments**
- 11.30      **Extending the reach of advice**
- Lara Christie and George Coffey, Inverclyde Council
  - Gareth Morgan, Dangos
  - Alice Stevens, Ulaw
  - Martin Williams, Child Poverty Action Group
- Followed by table discussions.
- 12.25      **Feedback from tables**
- 13.00      **Light lunch** sponsored by Ferret and Big Book of Benefits
- 14.00      **Workforce development and professionalisation**
- Amy Taylor, Stockport Council
  - Robert Wilson, Institute of Money Advisers
  - Lindsey Poole, Advice Services Alliance
  - Nezahat Cihan, London Legal Support Trust
- 14.45      **Advice as a statutory duty?**  
Alexander McColl, Garden Court North
- 15.15      **Panel Q&A** chaired by Patrick Butler, the Guardian's social policy editor
- Willem van de Ven, Advice UK
  - Dr Juliet Stone, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University
  - Lindsey Poole, Advice Services Alliance
  - Gareth Morgan, Ferret
- 15.45      **Conclusions and agreement of action points**
- 16.00      **Reception**
- 16.45      **Close**

## SPONSORS

- **[Leigh Day](#)** is a top 100 law firm committed to claimant only cases ensuring that individuals have the same access to justice as the UK Government and large corporations. The human rights department offers specialist expertise in a wide range of human rights and civil liberties issues including: claims against the police, immigration, support for migrants, unlawful detention and false imprisonment, healthcare & social care rights, inquests and bereavement, welfare rights, prisoners' rights, the abuse of children & vulnerable adults, data rights & confidentiality, planning & the environment. The team has an outstanding reputation for its work in all these areas and has been ground-breaking in its consideration of the impact of human rights on health and social care law.
- For over 40 years, **[Ferret](#)** has been at the forefront of innovation in advice and information technology. From pioneering the world's first benefits advice systems on both PCs and on the web to leading the sector with projects like Dangos, which has probably trained more attendees than any other initiative, Ferret continues to set the standard. Our expertise also extends to policy work, modelling and consultancy, underlining our long-standing commitment and active involvement in the sector, including more than four decades of engagement with NAWRA and its predecessors.
- **[Big Book of Benefits](#)** has been offering welfare writing, training and consultancy since 1999, both directly and freelancing for others (e.g. Age UK, CPAG, Community Housing Cymru), Most known for our Big Book of Benefits and Mental Health (new 2025-27 edition coming soon), To be joined by a new Big Book of Benefits & Money for Older People 2026-28. These friendly guides offer practical toolkits with charts and pictures to help you navigate the ever-changing benefits maze: accessible for non-specialists but with plenty for more experienced welfare rights advisers too. You can get one free as your course pack if you join us on our "in-house" training courses that we deliver across the UK. Read the Book? Now see it live :-) Wishing NAWRA all the best as it turns 50 and adapts and develops for the next half century.

## LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

The advice summit will take place at Stockport Town Hall, Edward Street, Stockport, SK1 3XE. The what3words address is [///rugs.nights.gender](https://www.what3words.com/?w3w=///rugs.nights.gender)

### By train:

- Stockport train station is a five minute walk from the Town Hall.

**By bus:**

- [Stockport bus station](#) is a 10 minute walk from the Town Hall or take bus route number 192 and alight just after the Town Hall.
- For full local timetable information see [Transport for Greater Manchester](#).

**By car:**

- There is limited on-street metered parking around the Town Hall complex.
- There is a [multi-storey car park](#) at Stockport train station, a five minute walk away.

**By taxi:**

- There is taxi rank located at Stockport train station.

## ACCOMMODATION

The following hotels offer budget options close to the venue:

- [Holiday Inn Express Stockport](#) - 11 Station Rd, Stockport SK3 9JD (0161 359 6363)
- [Red Bull](#) - 14 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY (0161 480 1286)
- [Travelodge](#) Regent House, Heaton Lane, Stockport SK4 1BS (0871 559 1890)
- [Premier Inn Stockport Central](#) 48 Churchgate, Stockport SK1 1YG (0333 321 9032)

## SOCIAL EVENING

Summit attendees will be meeting up for food and drinks from 6pm on Thursday 5 June at the [Red Bull](#), 14 Middle Hillgate, Stockport SK1 3AY (0161 480 1286).

We will have a NAWRA sign on the tabletop, the venue is accessible, and everyone is welcome to join us.

Everyone is welcome to attend the advice summit, but please book your place by 14 May 2025.

If you have any questions about the advice summit, please contact

Kelly Smith, NAWRA secretary

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[www.nawra.org.uk](http://www.nawra.org.uk)

