

# NAWRA

## Committee meeting – 26 Jan 2026

**Present:** Alan (Chair), Daphne, Corin, Andrew, Tom, Maureen, Jennifer, Kelly (minutes)

**Apologies:** Zoey, Rachael, Atif, Michael, Dan

### Plans for NAWRA conference in Newcastle

Andrew and Tom at Newcastle City Council provided an update on plans for our conference at the Civic Centre on 23 March.

### Communications and publicity

- **Dan** to reconvene the social media working group. **Dan** to draft an email to members.
- **All** to check [committee page](#) and send Kelly any updates.
- **Alan** to share social media passwords/ admin access. Alan has made Daphne, Gareth and Tom admins on NAWRA's LinkedIn page. **Maureen** to send Alan a link to her LinkedIn profile.
- **New reps** to write content for [NAWRA in Scotland](#) area of the website.

### Equality and diversity

- Notes from working group meetings can be found on the [NAWRA website](#).
- The working group met on 8 Dec 2025 and the next meeting will take place at 1pm on 30 March 2026.
- **All** to email Kelly if they would like to join the working group.
- **Kelly** to check with hosts of in-person meetings to make sure all venues are accessible.
- **All** to encourage members to keep in touch about any concerns about far-right protesters targeting advice services that help marginalised groups.

### Governance

- **Kelly** to circulate the nomination forms from applicants for the NAWRA rep for Scotland posts to the Committee.

### Policy and campaigns

- House of Commons debrief: good mix of attendees, good speeches, some MPs. Stephen Timms has requested case studies. **Daphne** to draft an email to NAWRA

members. **Kelly** to add list of supporters to web page. Discussed funding a paid post to take on this campaign.

- DWP has promised that the backlog of LCWRA reassessments should be cleared within six months. **Daphne** has submitted an FOI request.
- The process for very vulnerable claimants migrating to UC is not working. Minimal safeguarding referrals are being made to local authorities. Julia Harris at Lambeth Council had a meeting with DWP stakeholder officials to discuss. The DWP is clearly not doing enough. Agreed we should do an email to Work and Pensions Committee - also will do call out for case studies. **Corin** to liaise with Julia with wording for call out to send to members and to draft something for committee.
- **Dan** to follow up our recent letter to Bridget Phillipson MP emphasising the importance of advice provision within the new Best Start Family Hubs?
- **Dan** to re-circulate the analysis of FOIs request responses that he did with his students.
- The new Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) in England can be used by local authorities to fund advice provision, both in-house and in the community. The guidance is out now. There are concerns about school meal funding during holidays which is specifically excluded. Corin is concerned that a lot of local authorities are looking at the crisis bit first, not necessarily looking at the advice aspect. The delivery plan not due till end of June 2026 so local authorities should take their time and not rush it. LGA are doing a lot of work to talk to local authorities. DWP is doing a mass Teams call in a couple of weeks! **Kelly** to do a Survey Monkey survey of members in a few months to find out what is happening in different areas. **Corin** to draft email to send to members to highlight action that they could be taking now.

#### Finance

- **Kelly** updated the finance report with all income and expenditure in the third quarter of 2025-2026 and circulated to the committee by email on 22 Jan 2026. **Kelly** to add the carried forward reserves figure to the accounts.
- John Griffiths MS has agreed to sponsor NAWRA event at the Senedd. **Gareth** to find out estimated costs for approval by committee.

#### AOB

- Need to raise awareness of changing state pension. **Gareth** to draft email for members.

#### Future conferences

- Monday 23 March 2026 in-person at Newcastle Civic Centre. Hosted by Newcastle City Council.
- Friday 5 June 2026 at the Dorford Centre, 2 Bridport Rd, Dorchester DT1 1RR hosted by Citizens Advice Central Dorset.

- September 2026 – on Zoom (host needed)
- December 2026 – on Zoom (host needed)

#### Potential hosts

- Woolwich? (**Corin**)
- Disability Law Service? (**Corin**). Possibly in a venue sponsored by a law firm via Nezahat Ciham at London Legal Support Trust? (**Corin**)
- Central Bedfordshire Council (online)? – **Kelly** to follow up

#### 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 at 2.30pm on 21 April 2026. **Kelly** to circulate a calendar invitation and Teams link to committee members.