

# NAWRA

## Committee meeting – 11 July 2024

**Present:** Daphne (Chair) Corin, Gareth, Tom, Dan, Greg, Michael, Lee (in part), Kelly (minutes)

**Apologies:** Julie, Atif, Maureen, Andrew, Rachael, Alan

### 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](mailto:alan@nawra.org.uk) to request a NAWRA email address.
- **Kelly** to email Daphne the NAWRA website log in details so that she can add notes from DWP stakeholder meetings to the members area of the website.
- **Greg** to set up a new area of the website for NAWRA in Scotland.
- **Kelly** to send a reminder in mid-Aug to all members in Scotland about our survey. **Kelly** to add a reminder to the conference email to members too.
- **All** to email Kelly to request a new lanyard if necessary.

### 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.
- Rita Chadha (ASA) has drafted a monitoring form for us to use to survey our members. This is currently with working group members for comment. **Kelly** to circulate to all NAWRA members when finalised.
- The next working group meeting will take place on 10 Sep 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.
- Clive Davis was a longstanding NAWRA member while working for Newcastle City Council. Recently retired, he has offered to volunteer for NAWRA. **Kelly** to organise NAWRA membership of CPAG (digital and online subscription) and Rightsnet (£200

rate) for NAWRA use.

### Policy and campaigns

- Following the decision in [Rimmer](#), the Law Centre Network has set up a discrimination working party to start litigating cases of DWP discrimination using employment tribunals. NAWRA could consider commissioning training on this.
- Council tax support schemes in England:
  - Kelly set up a new page on the website and added links to the consultations we know about.
  - **Corin** and **Gareth** to talk to Sangeeta Enright (Cystic Fibrosis Trust) and draft web form that can be used to capture information about characteristics of the schemes and proposed changes.
  - A tranche of consultations on schemes is due to start soon.
  - The new government may make changes.
- Accreditation and advice sector workforce development:
  - **Dan** and **Rachael** to discuss advice quality standards. Agreed to add this to agenda for away day.
- Daphne drafted a survey of NAWRA members on the [Modernising support for independent living: the health and disability green paper](#) consultation and has circulated a draft submission to committee members for comment. **All** to send comments to Daphne by 17 July 2024.
- 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.
- The Equality and Human Rights Commission has [launched an investigation](#) into whether the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, or his employees or agents, have broken equality law. Their call for evidence closes on 22 August 2024. **Daphne** and **Dan** to discuss after attending the EHRC briefing.

### Finance

- Kelly updated the finance report to the end of the first quarter of 2024-25 and circulated it to the committee on 10 July 2024.

### Next conference

- Friday 6 September 2024 – in-person in Glasgow (hosted by Glasgow City Council)

### Future conferences

- Thursday 5 December (1.00pm – 4.00pm) and Friday 6 December 2024 (9.30am – 12.30pm) on Zoom. No host.
- March 2025 – host needed
- June 2025 – host needed
- December 2025 – host needed

### Potential hosts

- GMWRAG? With Jigsaw? At Cross St Chapel? Stockport/Manchester (**Dan**)
- WRAC? Swansea Council? Hire a venue in Cardiff? (**Gareth and Tom**) **Kelly** to email Gareth and Tom a guide to hosting with requirements for venues.
- 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 late Sep or early Oct 2024. **Kelly** to circulate calendar invitation and Teams link.
- NAWRA committee away day is confirmed for 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. **Alan** and **Daphne** to draft an agenda. **All** to send items for the agenda to Alan and Daphne. **Gareth** to contact Maureen about IT set up for attending remotely.

### AOB

- 2025 will be NAWRA's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. **All** to think about ideas to mark it. **Kelly** to email Geoff Fimister about adding more to the 'History' section of the website. Agreed to add this to the away day agenda.