



Access to Advice:

collaboration, innovation & reducing health inequalities

Liverpool Access to Advice Network Conference

University of Liverpool, School of Law and Social Justice
Liverpool, L69 7ZR

Thursday 23rd November 2023
9.30am to 4.30pm



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This exciting in-person national conference organised by the Liverpool Access to Advice Network (LATAN) in partnership with the University of Liverpool, School of Law and Social Justice will explore the link between free legal advice, reducing health inequality and poverty.

Aimed at advice practitioner organisations, support organisations, policy makers, academics and those with an interest in legal advice, health inequality, or anti-poverty work, this national conference will focus on fresh thinking, collaboration and sharing ideas.

The combined effects of austerity, welfare reform, Covid-19, spiralling costs, and the housing crisis have created a historic peak in the scale, complexity and urgency of advice needs. With ever increasing demand and a widening demographic, the challenge for people to access advice is greater than ever. Delays accessing advice are also having serious repercussions for the health and finances of families across the country.

These unprecedented times need a new vision for the advice sector. This calls for fresh thinking, collaboration and sharing ideas. We must work to join up the dots between free legal advice and reducing health inequalities and poverty.

Informal networking will be an important part of the day, giving delegates time to meet, share, and be inspired. With information stalls at lunchtime, opportunities for hearing about innovative delivery through lightning talks, through discussion based workshops, and with a policy wall to add ideas, the conference will focus on sharing, learning, and space to reflect on responses to the challenges facing the advice sector.

Keynote Speakers

Professor Sir Michael Marmot

**Kim Johnson MP (Liverpool,
Riverside constituency)**

Programme

The programme has opportunities for networking throughout the day, including during lunch when a range of Liverpool-based organisations will have information stalls.

With a view to the future of free legal advice we will have a Policy Wall, where people can share their ideas.

9.00	Arrival & registration
9.30	Welcome from the faculty
9.35	Martin Jungnitz, LATAN Chair
9.40	Professor Sir Michael Marmot
10.00	Kim Johnson MP, Liverpool
10.15	Q & A
10.50	Tea/coffee
11.10	Workshops

12.20	Lunch & Networking
1.30	Workshops
2.45	Lightning Talks
3.30	Networking & Policy Wall (tea/coffee available)
4.00	Final plenary
4.30	Close

Workshops

Delegates will have the choice of attending 1 workshop in the morning and 1 in the afternoon - please indicate your preferred workshops when booking

Morning

Workshop 1 – Advice is good for your health

The co-location of advice services with health services is slowly developing in the UK. Health justice partnerships, as they are often known, take on a variety of forms. The development of these services recognises the positive impact that timely advice has for people's health outcomes and on health inequalities more broadly.

The workshop will discuss how organisations supporting people with health related issues can develop and connect with advice services and experiences of working in health settings.

This workshop is aimed at organisations delivering advice and/or supporting people with health issues, existing health justice partnerships, researchers and those involved in health commissioning.

Workshop 2 – Housing advice and collaboration

At a time when the housing sector is in crisis, coupled with the impact of the cost of living crisis, the demand for housing advice is at an all-time high.

This workshop will explore new ways of working collaboratively, including a new pilot project in Liverpool centred around reducing the escalation of housing issues through court and tribunal processes.

This workshop will be of interest to those who provide housing advice, registered social landlords, and local authority staff looking to support residents needing housing advice, and those already facing court procedures.

Workshop 3 – Advice reduces food poverty

In this workshop you will hear from foodbanks and food pantries about the steps they are taking to use free legal advice to help reduce poverty and build community resilience.

A range of foodbanks and food pantries will talk about their journeys to providing free legal advice in their setting. Some key questions covered will be why deliver advice in these settings initially focussed on alleviating food poverty, what advice should be provided, what are the challenges and ideas for overcoming them?

For advice organisations, those with an interest in food banks or pantries, and those looking to tackle the challenge of food poverty and the sustainability of food banks.

Afternoon

Workshop 4 – The changing welfare system and health inequalities

This workshop will explore changes to the welfare system, its health impact and the role of free legal advice.

In advance of a potential change to government, this could be a critical juncture for welfare benefits policy and an ideal time to campaign for change. This workshop will be a chance to discuss how to bring about positive change, locally and nationally, to the welfare system and for the people it affects.

For advice practitioner organisations, researchers, local policy makers, and anyone with an interest in thinking about the future of the welfare system.

Workshop 5 – Advice Networks - the power of collaboration

With contributions from a range of advice networks from across the country, the workshop will discuss their challenges and benefits, and explore key questions like how to refer between organisations, how you develop a community of practice, and how to engage a wide range of advice and support organisations to support access to justice for clients?

For advice practitioner organisations who are already involved or thinking of setting up a local advice network, local policy makers, researchers and others interested in the power of collaboration.

Workshop 6 – What difference does advice make? Working with universities and other researchers to measure impact

Free legal advice has a positive impact on health inequalities, poverty and other aspects of people's lives. How do you measure this impact? How do you tell the story of what giving someone advice achieves? Who can you work with to capture this information?

Universities and other researchers are important resources for those looking to collect and harness the data available – to change policies, develop services, and influence the funding and delivery of advice. This workshop will look at working in collaboration with researchers to measure the impact of advice.

For advice practitioner organisations, academics, researchers, public health and local policy makers, this workshop can provide examples of ways to work together to harness data to show the impact and value of advice.

Workshop 7 – A 21st century manifesto for free legal advice

Does your local authority have an access to justice strategy? LATAN members developed the Liverpool Advice Strategy in the autumn of 2022. With a focus on recommendations to help improve access to advice, LATAN continues to encourage and support the adoption and implementation of the strategy by Liverpool City Council.

In the workshop we will hear from those involved in this work about the aims, achievements, and lessons learnt during this time. It will be a chance to discuss what the future of advice will look like in Liverpool and beyond, and how to influence its development.

For local policy makers, researchers, those interested in tackling health inequality, and advice practitioner organisations.

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Ticket prices:

LATAN Members - early bird booking in
September 2023 - **£20.00**

LATAN Members full price - **£25.00**

Non-LATAN Members - **£40.00**

**For full details and to book your
place, visit the University of
Liverpool website:**

Event details:

[https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/
events/latan-conference-2023/](https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/events/latan-conference-2023/)

Bookings:

[https://payments.liv.ac.uk/
conferences-and-events/events-at-
liverpool/school-of-law-and-social-
justice](https://payments.liv.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/events-at-liverpool/school-of-law-and-social-justice)

Liverpool Access to Advice Network

Liverpool Access to Advice Network (LATAN) was formed in 2020 to work in partnership, develop a community of practice, and to help protect and improve access to quality, independent free legal advice for residents.

For more information on LATAN visit:

www.liverpoolaccesstoadvicenetwork.org.uk

Email:

info@liverpoolaccesstoadvicenetwork.org.uk



The Network aims to:

- Be a thriving community of practice supporting the development of skills, knowledge and infrastructure within the advice sector, aiming to help maximise capacity;
- Support residents to secure appropriate independent, quality advice at the earliest possible point, maximising preventative value;
- Promote and demonstrate the social and economic value of free, independent advice;
- Capture and amplify the voice of citizens needing advice;
- Provide an influential collective voice on social policy issues, supported by evidence and data;
- Work collaboratively, offering an equal voice to members to work creatively for sustainable solutions including funding;
- Increase knowledge and understanding of advice provision in the city and increase awareness of the demand on different types of advice.