

Personal details

Neil Martin Bateman

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Suffolk

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Current position

June 2003 – present**Freelance author, trainer and consultant on welfare rights and social policy.**

Undertaking work for a variety of public, voluntary sector and private clients through my company Neil Bateman and Company Ltd. Details of current and recent work are available on my website

www.neilbateman.co.uk. Work includes:

- Expert witness and consultancy on social security law for solicitors in personal injury, matrimonial, public law and benefit fraud matters. Over 200 reports completed to date.
- Casework in complex social security disputes, usually referred by lawyers, national charities and social landlords
- Training on welfare rights for front line staff including lawyers in a variety of organisations. Clients include Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, Child Poverty Action Group, Central Law Training, Progressive Legal Training, Social Security Law Practitioners Association, Birmingham Law Society, Blackpool Council, Carers UK, China Britain Business Association, Kings College Hospital, National Association of Welfare Rights Advisers, Colchester Borough Council, Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion, Flagship Housing Group, Kings College Hospital, Connexions Northamptonshire, Circle Anglia Housing, Worcestershire County Council, Minds Eye, Forbes Solicitors, National Association of Adult Placement Services, Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Second tier advice to voluntary and public sector staff on benefit problems
- Advice and assistance for social landlords on rent maximisation through housing benefit, including exempt accommodation status including Reside Housing Association, Apna Ghar Housing Association, Carmarthenshire County Council, East Sussex County Council,

- Strategic reviews and quality audits of advice services including Bristol, Nottingham, Tower Hamlets, Haringey, Sandwell, Trafford, Staffordshire, Reading, Oldham.
- Development of Scottish National Standards for social welfare law advice.
- Social security policy research and advice for a variety of national bodies including Age Concern, Pro-Housing Group, Royal National Institute for Blind People.

Previous Employment

October 2001 – April 2003

Performance Manager, Connexions Suffolk

Short-term career move to enhance strategic management skills. Responsible for: developing processes to monitor performance, Business Excellence assessment, Best Value, managing external scrutiny (e.g. Ofsted), staff development and training, developing best practice in diversity and equal opportunities, complaints and customer feedback, child protection policy and practice and developing welfare rights skills among staff. Also managed two operational managers responsible for over 50 staff. Joint senior management responsibility for budget of £4.9m.

March 2001 – September 2001

Civil Servant Grade 7, Department for Work and Pensions (secondment)

Policy adviser on the government's pensioner poverty strategy undertaking work commissioned by the Joint Ministerial Committee on Poverty. Secondment arranged by Chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. Established and jointly ran the Partnerships Against Poverty forum involving national voluntary bodies, local authorities and central government, wrote the DWP's Good Practice Guide to benefit take-up by older people. This work was highlighted in a National Audit Office report about the government's strategy on pensioner poverty. Also helped develop the DWP's involvement in local regeneration work.

January 2000 - March 2001

Joint Commissioning Manager (Welfare Rights), Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Health Authority

Responsibility for management of Welfare Rights Unit and also policy lead on health inequalities and developing social care and health services to refugees. Established a range of new interagency services for refugees, managed the political and media interface with a highly controversial issue and brought stability when services were in crisis. Work on health inequality strategy formed part of

Beacon Status and Council of the Year awards in 2001. Achieved Community Legal Service Quality Mark for Welfare Rights Unit. Multi-disciplinary support team for refugees highlighted as an example of best practice in a Social Services Inspectorate inspection in 2002.

April 1992 - December 1999

Welfare Rights Manager, Suffolk County Council, Social Services Department.

Managing the Council's Welfare Rights Unit having started it. Responsibilities included: business planning, budget management, consultancy service on social security, housing and consumer credit law, advocacy in complex cases, oversight of benefit take-up initiatives, policy advice to councillors and officers, managing a training programme providing over 800 person/days for Council staff, the NHS and voluntary groups as well as direct delivery of some training.

Devised and jointly led the County Council's anti-poverty strategy which became a key feature of County Council policy. Achieved national recognition for this work - we were the only welfare rights service singled out for good practice by the Social Services Inspectorate/Audit Commission Joint Reviews during this period. Strategy on benefit maximisation for care leavers included in Beacon Status award in 2000.

In-depth operational management experience from a seven month secondment in 1996 to manage services for people with learning disabilities. Responsibility for 129 staff and a budget of £3.5m.

June 1986- March 1992

Welfare Rights Officer, Suffolk County Council, Social Services Department.

Suffolk County Council's sole welfare rights worker. Set up the welfare rights service providing second tier advice on welfare and housing law cases, advocacy at all levels of the social security appellate system, in partnership with other advice workers set up several benefit take-up campaigns, established and delivered training programme for staff and external agencies, advice on policy implications for local government of social security legislation.

June 1983- June 1986

Social Worker, Liverpool City Council Social Services Department.

While carrying a full social work caseload, I established a local advice service, jointly established a support group for carers which secured long term funding and participated in the council's member/officer welfare rights working party.

Sept 1982 - June 1983

Social Worker, Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council, Social Services Department.

Consolidated professional training.

Jan 1981 - April 1981

Temporary part-time Lecturer in Law and General Studies, Southampton Technical College.

Undertaken while on a postgraduate course to supplement my grant, this involved teaching O level law and general studies to BTEC day release students.

May 1978 - Oct 1980

Social Work Assistant, Hampshire County Council Social Services Department.

Established a welfare rights advice stall in the local market and provided an advice clinic at a day centre for people with a disability. Learnt basic skills in work with the media and essential social work skills. Social work casework involving less complex situations.

Sept 1977 - Oct 1977

Temporary Part-time Lecturer in General Studies, Southampton Technical College.

Voluntary Work

1998 - 2002:

Trustee. Child Poverty Action Group.

Joint strategic managerial oversight of this national charity.

1995 - 2001:

East Anglia Area Management Committee Member. Sanctuary Housing Association.

Jointly responsible for housing management, capital development and related matters for 1,100 units.

1991 - 2015

Trustee. Ipswich County Court Advice and Representation Service.

(Secretary from 1991 until 2001).

Founder member of a local charity, which provides duty solicitors from private practice and advisers from various organisations to represent at possession hearings at the County Court. Also provides training on aspects of housing law to local solicitors and advice workers.

1981- 82:

Voluntary part-time advice worker. Merseyside Welfare Rights Resource Centre.

Drafting appeals to the Social Security Commissioners.

1980- 81:

Part-time Adviser. Southampton Social Security Advice Centre.

I coordinated the centre's work during this time as well as acting as a front line adviser.

1977- 79:

Chairman. Northumberland Road Adventure Playground, Southampton.

1974-78:

Informal advice giving as part of community groups and a Claimants Union.

Other relevant positions

2015- present: Director and Trustee. Ipswich Jazz Festival and Director Suffolk Jazz School Ltd.

2007-2011:

Independent Member Institute of Legal Executives Advocacy Rights Committee

1990 - present:

Policy adviser (honorary position). **Local Government Association and Association of County Councils.**

Policy analysis and advice to Officers and Councillors and negotiations with Government Ministers and senior civil servants on a range of social policy issues, particularly those relevant to local government. Contributions to a wide range of papers and publications. Some particular achievements include work on setting up cross government review of financial support for young people in 2002, helping to establish national framework for Supporting People, establishing best practice on supporting care leavers and inclusion of benefit take-up for pensioners as a 1997 Labour Party Election Manifesto commitment.

1989 -1996:

Part-time Visiting Lecturer. University of East Anglia School of Social Work.

1990 – 2001:

Part-time self employed trainer & writer

A part-time business providing training on welfare law and social policy to solicitors and other professionals. Clients have included: **University of Cambridge Board of Continuing Education, College of Law, Progressive Legal Training, Office for Public Management, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, Suffolk & North Essex Law Society and Colchester Borough Council.**

Publications

Practising Welfare Rights (2005) Routledge.

Significant contributions to: **Young Persons Handbook, Disability and Carers Handbook, Newcomers Handbook & Welfare to Work Handbook** (2004-2011) Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion.

Care and Health Essentials – Welfare Rights (2003). Welfare rights handbook for practitioners.

Advocacy Skills - a Handbook for Human Service Professionals (1995) Arena.

Recommended text on many social work and similar courses. Translated into Japanese.

Advocacy Skills for Health and Social Care Professionals (2000) Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Translated into Korean

Contributor to **CIPFA Guide to Benefits Management** (1990) Longmans.

Contributor to **Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Social Work** (2000) and **Blackwell Companion to Social Work** (2nd and 3rd edn 2002 and 2007). Both by Prof Martin Davies.

Contributor to **Key Concepts in Social Work** (2011) by Prof Aidan Worsley.

Numerous articles on welfare law, social policy and management subjects published by: **Public Law, Public Finance, Legal Executive, Law Society Gazette, Social Work Today, Nursing Times, Community Care, 0 –19, Care and Health** (website and magazine), **The Adviser, Big Issue, Elders, Bella** and **Benefits** from 1990.

Input to several LGA publications including being main author of their guide to improving benefit take-up by older people; **It's a right...not a lottery** (1998). Contributor to **Get in on the Act** (Guide to the Children Leaving Care Act 2000) and **Removing the Barriers – The Case for a New Deal for Social Services and Social Security** (1997).

During 1991 to 2001, monthly welfare rights column in **Yours** and fortnightly welfare rights column in **Community Care** (the main weekly social work journal) from 1998. During 2002, occasional contributor to **Community Care** and **Care and Health**. Former weekly welfare rights advice column for **Care and Health** magazine and monthly column for **0 –19** magazine. Regular features published by **Community Care** and **Care and Health**.

<p style="text-align: center;">Education & qualifications</p>
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Nottingham Trent University 1992-93 (Part-time)

Diploma in Management Studies

Suffolk College 1991-92 (Part-time)

Certificate in Management

Liverpool University 1981-82

Diploma in Applied Social Studies

(Certificate of Qualification in Social Work)

Southampton University 1980-81

Diploma in Social Administration

Southampton University 1974-77

Bachelor of Laws

Bryanston School, Dorset 1969-73

7 O Levels, 1 CSE.

3 A Levels (Economics, History, Geography)

March 2002

Theory of Music Grade 5

April 2005

Tenor saxophone Grade 6 jazz syllabus

May 2020

Level 3 First Aid Certificate