



Preventing homelessness and improving housing through expert advice, training and support to those working at the frontline

Here to help local authorities and advice agencies on 0300 330 0517



[Consultancy Line](#)



[Housing Debt Casework](#)



[Training](#)

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### NHAS Homelessness prevention and early intervention symposia

Thank you to those of you that attended the Spring symposiums, we hope you found the events informative. To download the presentations and additional information from the events held in Chelmsford, Leicester and Blackburn, [log in to the member section](#) and go to the Training page and then select Events from the sub menu.

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### Housing Matters – April 2017



[Issue 117 of Housing Matters](#) includes articles on:

- Housing options for offenders, and a fact sheet on Prisoners: keeping your home
- Tenancy deposit schemes ten years on; summarising the current rules about tenancy deposit protection and deposit return at the end of the tenancy
- Equality Duty: this feature considers the duty of public authorities to promote equality and eliminate unlawful discrimination while exercising their public functions

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### Stats/Updates/etc

- [Latest news on the Homelessness Reduction Bill 2016-17](#): Third reading took place on 23 March and no amendments were made, the Bill now waits for the final stage of Royal Assent
  - [Government response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee reports](#) on homelessness and on the Homelessness Reduction Bill
  - [Statutory homelessness and homelessness prevention and relief, England: October to December 2016](#)
  - [The homelessness monitor: England 2016](#): The Homelessness Monitor: England 2016 is the fifth annual report of an independent study, funded by Crisis and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, of the homelessness impacts of recent economic and policy developments in England
  - [New grant for council homelessness services](#): flexible homelessness support grant
  - [Taking control - the need for fundamental bailiff reform](#)
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## Recently published

### Welfare benefits update

- Second Reading -House of Commons Library Blog: [Welfare reform: impact of changes from Thursday 6 April 2017](#)
- The withdrawal of housing costs for those under 22 in UC digital areas is already in place. Note that this does not apply to current Housing Benefit claims (who are in effect transitionally protected) and that there is a key list of exemptions (including temporary accommodation but not exempt accommodation where HB has to be paid in all cases anyway).

### Housing Benefit Changes for 18-28 year olds: exemptions

- [Memo ADM 6/17](#): DWP guidance on Housing costs element for UC claimants aged 18 to 21
  - [GOV.uk – Housing costs for 18 to 21 year olds UC from 1 April 2017](#)
  - [House of Commons Library briefing paper](#): provides further information re decision to restrict entitlement to the housing cost element of Universal Credit for young people aged 18-21.
  - [View the debate](#) in the House of Commons on the policy
  - [UC rollout schedule phases 4 to 6 starts in April 2017](#)
  - [HB Circular A3/2017](#): DWP issues correction to guidance relating to couples unable to share a bedroom because of disability
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- [16-19 Bursary Scheme](#): information about direct financial support for 16-19 bursaries for young people in further education in England.
  - [The Children's Society Understanding Childhoods Growing Up in Hard Times](#)
  - [Homeless Link's annual review of support for single homeless people](#)
  - [How to apply for a Covenant Fund grant](#)
  - [Breathing space for individuals in debt](#)
  - [New report solves the savings puzzle for low-income households](#)

### Case Law

Recent homelessness and allocation cases, and cases from other areas of law which may have significance for homelessness decisions.

[Case list: April 2017](#)

### Psychologically Informed Environments

We've put together some resources and links providing more information on how Psychologically Informed Environments are being adopted and applied in homelessness services:

[Examples of Psychologically Informed Environments](#)

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## CPAG launches new Universal Credit email advice service



Ask [CPAG Online](#) provides information and advice on common problem areas of the benefit and tax credit system. It is designed to supplement our *Welfare Benefits and Tax Credits Handbook* and other advice services (see below) with tactical answers to frequently asked questions.

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## Newly launched: Litigant in Person Network

The [Litigant in Person Network](#) aims to connect a wide range of people with a common goal of improving access to justice. It is an online place for interested professionals to share, discussion and collaborate across sectors on issues relating to both actual and potential Litigants in Person

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## NHAS Updates

### Training updates

- 2 new courses available to book now
  - Private Rented Sector: Assured Shorthold Tenancies
  - Social Housing Next Steps (Citizens Advice and agency members only)
- Persons from Abroad webinar has been updated and renamed: **An introduction to benefits entitlement for EEA nationals**, covering what it means to be habitually resident and to have a right of residence; the importance of having a right of residence for EEA nationals; the types of right of residence an EEA national might have; and the impact of all of these rules on eligibility for benefits for EEA nationals
- **Free housing training at your desk:** dates for April to June are available to view online, [log in to view the calendar](#). Our webinars usually take between 75 – 90 minutes of your time, and with no software to download are quick and easy way to receive training in housing. There is no booking fee but webinars will **incur telephone charges when you dial in**.
- [Online bitesize training](#) – online learning sessions that can be used by individual learners at any time. Our bitesize sessions usually take about 30 minutes to an hour to work through



### Webchat Facility

Access to housing consultancy via Webchat is a popular way for members to get free advice. Webchat is accessed by going to [www.nhas.org.uk](http://www.nhas.org.uk) and clicking on the 'live chat' button.

- [Webchat Case Study Example – S21](#)
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If you'd like to be added to or removed from our distribution list, or have problems accessing any of the materials in the bulletin, please email [nhas@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk).

Regards,  
The NHAS Team  
[www.nhas.org.uk](http://www.nhas.org.uk)

NHAS is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government. We support the prevention of homelessness by enabling frontline providers to deliver good quality housing and homelessness advice.