



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](#)

[NHAS Annual Review 2017](#) – our annual survey is part of our membership review process and supports our improvement strategy. We would like you to tell us how satisfied you are with the services we provide, and what you would like from us in the future, including how we can best support you with the changes to homelessness prevention following the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

Please share your views and forward to all relevant advisors in your organisation.



An overview of our achievements for 2016 / 17 has been published in our [End of Year summary](#), alongside a [more detailed report](#).

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 – Secondary Legislation

Marcus Jones MP, has written to the Chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee to provide further details on the contents of secondary legislation to the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. [Read the letter](#).

Are you worried about your mortgage?
Get advice now

If you are struggling to pay your mortgage or concerned about interest rate changes, you can find out more about your options at [http://www.nhas.org.uk](#)



NHAS Publications

[‘Are you worried about your Mortgage?’](#) - we’ve made updates to this popular leaflet, and we’ve also updated our factsheet ‘Help with mortgage interest payments’.

You can find these, and all of our [housing factsheets](#), on our website.

Government to lead national effort to end rough sleeping. Sajid Javid sets out details of a new [Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel](#) that will help develop a national strategy.

Stats/Updates/etc

[Analysis of availability and affordability of housing in England and Wales](#) - Office for National Statistics provides analysis of 14 housing summary measures, giving an overview of the availability and affordability of privately owned and social housing for local authorities in England and Wales.

Housing Matters: December 2017 Issue 121



In this issue we have articles on:

- Casework: the initial meeting
- Leasehold service charges
- The Housing Ombudsman -
- Casebrief on 'A matter of significance' –
- Leaflet: Universal Credit - the basics

Other useful items include developments affecting universal credit, the revised HMCTS claim form N5B, and an important Court of Appeal case which held that the extension of the Worker Registration Scheme for 'A8' workers was unlawful.

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) and extended weather provision

Guidance and examples of good practice to help you develop suitable responses during the winter and periods of severe weather.

[Homeless Link Guidance on Severe Weather Emergency Protocol \(SWEP\) and extended weather provision](#)

Universal Credit update

[£1.5 billion package of support for Universal Credit](#) More details were set out by David Gauke, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Universal Credit changes – letter following announcements in November, note in particular the changes to direct payments to landlords.

Recently published

- [Committee examines housing and health for older people](#) - The Communities and Local Government Committee hears evidence on housing and health and alternative forms of housing as it continues its inquiry in to housing for older people.
 - [Government looks at consumer redress across the housing sector](#) - Government will look at bold options to improve consumer redress across the housing sector, Sajid Javid announces
 - [Shining a light on illegal money lending](#): FCO publish consumer experiences of unauthorised lending in the UK
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Case Law

- [Recent homelessness and allocation cases](#), and cases from other areas of law which may have significance for homelessness decisions.
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[Young family unlawfully evicted while living in Maidstone flat](#)

A homeless family should not have been forcibly evicted at short notice from temporary accommodation arranged by Maidstone Borough Council, the Local Government and Social Care

Ombudsman has said.

Consultations

- **Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse**
Seeking views on proposals for new statutory guidance to local authorities to assist victims of domestic abuse in refuges to access social housing. Consultation closes: **5 January 2018**.
 - **Improving the home buying and selling process: call for evidence**
This call for evidence seeks views on how to make the process of home buying and selling cheaper, faster and less stressful. Consultation closes: **17 December 2017**.
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NHAS updates

NHAS training

[Log in](#) to view the latest webinar topics and dates, including our **Introduction to the Homelessness Reduction Act webinar**, in our new online calendar



Webchat Facility

Access to housing consultancy via Webchat is a popular way for members to get free advice, **and you can now access 2nd Tier Housing Debt advice through webchat.**

Webchat is accessed by going to www.nhas.org.uk and clicking on the 'live chat' button.

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.

Regards,
The NHAS Team
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.