



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](#)

Homelessness Prevention and Good Practice Roadshows – March 2018



The [Spring 2018 NHAS Roadshows](#) will take place in Birmingham, London and Peterborough and are an opportunity to share good practice on homelessness prevention and the Homelessness Reduction Act.

The roadshows are aimed at Local Authority housing options teams, and frontline advice agencies.

The agenda for the day will include a legal update from John Gallagher, with a focus on the HRA, good practice workshops on Personal Housing Plans and the work of local Trailblazer Authorities, plus we have an expert panel for a Q & A session.

Working with the NHS – who do you know?

Here at NHAS, we are looking to expand our service to a wider audience and are particularly looking at offering support to members of the NHS such as hospital discharge teams, mental health and/or older people’s services. If you are aware of any services that you believe could benefit from the services of the NHAS; whether it be to seek advice and information or access training, and would be interested in being part of a pilot scheme, please email Nicola Marklew at Nicola_marklew@shelter.org.uk or call 07887790363.

HRA update

[Special issue – Housing Matters Homelessness Reduction Act](#)

The latest Housing Matters is a special edition to help you to become better acquainted with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, most of which is coming into force on 3 April.



This issue includes:

- A flowchart to illustrate the duties of local authorities to homeless applicants under the amended Housing Act 1996
- Articles from four local authorities explaining how they are getting ready for the Act
- An in-depth look by John Gallagher at how referrals under local connection rules will differ after 3 April
- Shelter’s views on the new requirement to create a personalised housing plan for all eligible applicants.

Our [Universal Credit: housing costs](#) factsheet is the second in a series on universal credit. This factsheet looks at help with housing costs for renters.

NHAS Roadshows: You can find out more about local trailblazer prevention and personal housing plans by attending our [NHAS Roadshows in March](#).

Stats/Updates/etc

- [Rough Sleeping in England: Autumn 2017 statistics](#)
 - [New government backed advisory panel commits to help eradicate rough sleeping](#) : Leading experts from homelessness charities and local government meet for the first time as part of the government's new rough sleeping advisory panel.
 - [Fuel Poverty Statistics in England - Lookup tool](#): An Excel tool allowing Fuel Poverty Statistics for Constituencies, Local Authorities and Regions in England to be automatically retrieved, and presented.
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Specialist Debt Advice for Professionals



Shelter's Specialist Debt Advice Service offers free professional guidance for anyone providing free to client debt advice in England and Wales. To be added to the mailing list please send a request via email to specialistdebtbulletin@shelter.org.uk.

- [Make a web enquiry](#): available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - Telephone service: 03300 580 404 (9am — 5pm Monday to Friday)
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FCA: [The fair treatment of existing interest-only mortgage customers](#)

This report shares the findings of the FCAs thematic review into the fair treatment of existing interest-only mortgage customers by lenders

Support for mortgage interest – from benefit to loan

As of April 2018, Support for Mortgage Interest will cease to be paid as a benefit, and will instead be replaced by a loan for mortgage interest. Loan payments will be made directly to the lender on an ongoing basis and to ensure repayment, a charge will be registered on the claimant's property. The full balance – plus interest – will then be repayable when the property is sold or ownership is transferred.

- [SMI: From Benefit to Loan Briefing](#)
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Recently published

- **Shelter's Big Conversation: Shelter launches a national conversation on social housing:** Led by a panel of 17 commissioners (chaired by Grenfell community leader, Reverend Mike Long), the conversation will examine what social housing looks like in modern Britain – and its role in ending the housing crisis. [Find out how you can participate.](#)
- [English Housing Survey Headline Report, 2016-17](#): initial findings published from the English Housing Survey 2016-17.
- [Introducing a voluntary Right to Buy for housing association tenants in England](#): House of Commons Library briefing explains proposals to extend the Right to Buy to assured tenants of housing associations on a voluntary basis.
- [Money Advice Trust working with credit unions to get Britain saving](#): MAT have partnered with the Association of British Credit Unions (ABCUL) to encourage households to 'make a plan' for 2018, including joining a credit union to make an early start to saving for next Christmas.
- [Problem debt and low-income households](#): The Institute for Fiscal Studies has published a report on Problem Debt and low income households and the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation have published their response.](#)

Case Law

- [Recent homelessness and allocation cases](#), and cases from other areas of law which may have significance for homelessness decisions.
- **DWP has announced that it will be reviewing claims for all recipients of PIP** – an estimated 1.6 million claim: this follows the decision not to appeal against the Court judgment which found that changes to Personal Independence Payments were unfair to people with mental health conditions. You can [find out more about the background to the dispute and the implications of the announcements](#) at bbc.co.uk/new

NHAS updates

NHAS training

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



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 and clicking on the 'live chat' button.

From Oct - Dec 2017...



702

members of staff from local authorities were trained on the Homelessness Reduction Act



77%

of people, following contact with the consultancy line, were more confident in dealing with their cases



321

closed cases dealt with by the housing debt casework team resulted in homelessness prevention, or another positive outcome

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.