



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

DCLG recently published

- [Evaluation of the London homelessness social impact bond designed to improve outcomes for persistent rough sleepers](#)
- [Statutory Homeless stats for England, October to December 2014](#)
- [“Addressing complex needs: improving services for vulnerable homeless people”](#): a report summarising the work of the cross-government Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness since its inception in 2010
- [Council tenants unable to take up their Right to Buy will have the help they need to become homeowners](#)
- [Guidance for local authorities explaining the criteria for making a selective licensing scheme](#)
- [Introduction of 7 waiting days under Universal Credit delayed from 27 April to 1 July 2015](#)

Other releases

- Ministry of Justice: [new pre-action protocols came into effect on April 6](#) - please note that the MOJ intend to split the revised protocols into separate documents as soon as possible
- [Law passed to ban ‘revenge’ evictions as part of the Deregulation Bill](#) - this will make any eviction invalid where the tenant has made a complaint about housing conditions that the landlord did not respond to adequately
- The Treasury publishes the final report and recommendations of [the independent review of the Money Advice Service](#), and you can also read [the government’s response](#)
- [Children’s Society research](#) exploring gaps in the provision of support and safeguarding responses to young people aged 16 and 17 who present as homeless, and to offer solutions
- Money Advice Liaison Group: [updated good practice guidelines on mental health and debt](#)
- [Debt Charity's Statistics Yearbook 2014](#): a picture of UK personal and household debt trends, which shows “a growing crisis for families seeking to pay their priority bills”
- [Crisis report evaluating 'reconnections'](#), the process by which rough sleepers, with a connection to another area, are supported to return to there

Housing Matters 105: April 2015

[HOMAT Issue 105](#) is now available, with contents including:

The Housing Advice Authority	
Housing matters	
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Article Introduction to the Care Act 2014	2
Flowchart Eligibility for adult care: decision making process	5
Case brief Disability discrimination defence to possession	6
Leaflet Homelessness: young people 18+	8

- a round-up of housing news
- an article looking at the Care Act 2014
- a flowchart covering eligibility for adult care and the decision making process
- a feature on how a disabled tenant can use the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 to defend possession
- a leaflet for homeless 18 year olds, advising them on what assistance they are entitled to, and on other support

Important legal updates

In [Hardy v Sandwell \[2015\] EWHC 890 \(Admin\)](#), the High Court ruled that the local authority decision to take the care component of Disability Living Allowance into account when assessing Discretionary Housing Payments was unlawful.

NHAS Training

Our Webinar Schedule for April to September 2015 has just been published and is available to download from the website.

Our [2015/16 training programme](#) is underway. Email nhas@shelter.org.uk with your housing training needs, whether you need refresher training or have new starters and would like to set up group training with your neighbours. Our [training programme](#) is available to download.

“The training was outstanding. I just wanted to say thanks for sorting this for us; the team feels much more confident about tackling eligibility issues now.”

Persons from Abroad course delegate, April 2015

Sharing local practice solutions – new local practice library

The new local practice library on our website is a collection of ideas and solutions in relation to Preventing repossessions, and vulnerable clients, drawn from a variety of sources. NHAS has permission to share this practice with our contacts although we have not been involved in developing them. Contact details for the providers are available should you wish talk to someone about adopting a similar practice in your local area. **Login to www.nhas.org.uk and find it under Information and Resources.**

If there are particular areas of practice of interest to you, email nhas@shelter.org.uk and we can make enquiries across our audience, and provide a catalogue of solutions.

[‘Are you worried about your mortgage?’ leaflet updated April 2015](#)

Changes to the NHAS leaflet include:



- Reference to the importance of seeking advice where a household has been notified of a change in mortgage payments (e.g. interest rate rises) or coming to the end of their interest only mortgage term
- Removal of reference to MRS as a national scheme
- New links to other online resources, information and tools, plus advice on remortgaging
- The numbers and contact details at the back of the leaflet have also updated

The leaflet is available in [pdf](#) or [printable pdf](#) format.

You can find both versions of the leaflet on the [NHAS website](#).

[NHAS annual survey results: overview](#)

A summary of the results from the annual NHAS survey of local authorities, other voluntary agencies and national agencies is available [here](#).

NHAS members who joined over the last month:

The Oakleaf Trust	EDP Drug & Alcohol Services
County Community Projects	University of Bradford Union of Students

Addendum from last month's bulletin

From 1 January 2015, some commercial debt management firms are no longer allowed to offer debt management plans (DMPs) or debt advice on behalf of their customers. Please note the following information resources for professionals and consumers are from the **Money Advice Service (MAS)**:

- [Microsite](#)
- Helpline: 0300 330 2222
- [Other debt management resources \(leaflet and Q&As\)](#)

The National Homelessness Advice Service (nhas.org.uk)



Free housing consultancy line: providing housing advice and confirmation in writing - available Monday to Friday between 9am to 8pm - 0300 330 0517
Note: You can also email the advice line at NHASConsultancy@Shelter.org.uk or use the callback facility in the members section of the website

The team dealt with over 1,000 cases in March, get in touch now!

Training from housing and homelessness experts: providing face to face courses, webinars and 'bitesize', podcasts & briefings - <http://nhas.org.uk/Training>

Housing Debt Casework (HDC): supporting you to help households with housing related debt. For initial advice or to make a referral, call 0300 330 0517

We hope you find our e-bulletins useful, please share the information with your colleagues. 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

NHAS is a partnership between Citizens Advice and Shelter, 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.

Free Telephone Consultancy Line for Local Authorities and Advice Agencies 0300 330 0517
<http://www.nhas.org.uk/>