



We're here to help you with your housing and homelessness training, advice and information needs

February 2020 eBulletin

Service Updates

NHAS Spring Roadshow

NHAS SPRING ROADSHOW

- Lincoln 4th March
- York 10th March
- Plymouth 19th March

**Working Together:
Breaking Down Barriers
to Accessing a Home**



FREE EVENT

LEGAL UPDATE

NETWORKING LUNCH

NHAS WORKSHOP

LOCAL AUTHORITY WORKSHOP

Join us at our free roadshow in March

The event will include a legal update from Shelter's John Gallagher, group discussions and two workshops from NHAS and the local authority.

Where and when

4 March - Lincoln

The Showroom Conference Centre

10 March - York

York Barbican

19 March - Plymouth

Jury's Inn Plymouth

How to Book

Log on to the [training portal](#) with your unique training user ID and password. In the portal go to 'Course Search' and search for 'Roadshow' in the 'Course Title/Keyword' box then click 'Search'. You can then pick the roadshow date you would like to book onto from the drop down menu.

If you don't have an account, please email nhastraining@shelter.org.uk with your name, organisation and postcode to set one up.

Training

Limited spaces remaining before end of March

We have places on a few courses and webinars before the end of March. Bookings need to be made via the training portal, accessed online at nhas.org.uk/training. Training and webinar dates for April-September 2020 will be released shortly, so keep an eye out for an email announcement.

Free training for groups of staff

All NHAS courses can be delivered free to groups of 8-16 staff at a time and location to suit you. If your organisation doesn't have sufficient delegates, you could invite staff from local organisations to join you. If you would like to do this, please agree a couple of possible training dates with your partner organisations and ensure you have at least eight delegates before submitting an enquiry to nhastraining@shelter.org.uk.

March Webinars

Course Name	Date
Introduction to Homelessness and Local Authority Duties	3 March 10:30am-12:00pm
	19 March 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Tenant Fees Act 2019	13 March 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Right to Rent Immigration Checks	17 March 10:30am - 11:45am
Introduction to Mandatory Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation	18 March 10:30am-12:00pm
Persons from Abroad: An Introduction to Cost Entitlement for EEA National Households	31 March 2:30pm - 4:00pm
FOR EXPERIENCED STAFF ONLY:	
Assured Shorthold Tenancies	10 March 2:30pm - 4:00pm

How to Book

Log in to the training portal at www.nhas.org.uk/training, go to 'Course Search' and pick 'Web' as the course type for a full list of available webinar titles.

Consultancy Line

We have now extended webchat availability with longer opening hours and more advisers. Head to our website and click the 'chat' button to connect with an adviser.

How to Contact the Consultancy Line:

0300 330 0517

Webchat www.nhas.org.uk

You can call, or webchat, between 9am and 6pm from Monday to Friday for specialist advice related to housing, housing debt and welfare benefits.

Focus On: Local Issues



Citywide direction on HMOs introduced in Birmingham

The Article 4 direction will mean that planning approval is required for the conversion of a family house to an HMO accommodating between three and six people.

[Read more](#)



Stoke five-year homelessness & rough sleeping plan

The strategy is set to commit the city council and partners to focusing on preventing homelessness and rough sleeping by providing timely interventions.

[Read more](#)



Tom Copley appointed Deputy Mayor for Housing

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has announced that Tom Copley has been appointed as his new Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development.

[Read more](#)

Housing Matters



Issue 134 February 2020

What's new?	1
Article	2
Allocations - avoiding unlawful decisions	
Article	5
Orders for sale	
Feature	8
How to prove EU settled status	
Factsheet	12
Brexit: EEA nationals	

In this issue:

- The 'What's new' page brings you up to date with various items of news related to housing and homelessness, including [new case law](#) and ongoing government consultations
- Sarah Durrant examines recent developments in case law in relation to allocations of social housing in England under Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996
- Alexa Walker explains enforcement of charging orders by way of orders for sale, and outlines what defences may be available to clients facing an order for sale

- Ewa Brem walks us through the process of proving settled status granted under the EU Settlement Scheme

Download Housing Matters Issue 134

The Equality & Welfare Reform Transformation Project



'The JCP revised the sanctions and developed a personalised Claimant Commitment for the client which included his vulnerabilities.'

The project identifies discrimination and incorrect judgements in social security provisions to alleviate the strain on disadvantaged and vulnerable claimants.

[Read more](#)

News, updates and statistics

- **Using the Power of Data** to help address homelessness in the UK.
- **Report to the Local Government Association from Policy in Practice** evidencing the link between the Local Housing Allowance freeze and homelessness.
- **Homelessness - Opposition Day Debate** on Wednesday 29 January 2020, there was an opposition day debate on homelessness. This page brings together relevant library briefings on homelessness, and recent statistics and comments on the topic.
- **Boost to Successful Government Rough Sleeping Programme** £112 million funding for councils to help get people off the streets and into accommodation.
- **Over Two-Thirds of Council Homelessness Services Pushed into the Red** Councils want to work with government to be able to prevent homelessness before it happens, but as a result of unprecedented funding pressures, they are becoming increasingly limited in what they can do.
- **Statutory Homelessness in England** This briefing paper provides statistics on statutory homelessness in England and explains local authorities' duties to assist homeless households. The paper includes an overview of, and comment on, Government policy in this area. The most recent statistical release covers the period between April and June 2019.
- **Households in Temporary Accommodation (England)** This briefing paper provides background information on the increase in the number of homeless households placed in temporary accommodation by English local authorities and outlines various initiatives and issues associated with the increased use of temporary accommodation. The most recent statistics were published in December 2019 and cover the period April to June 2019.

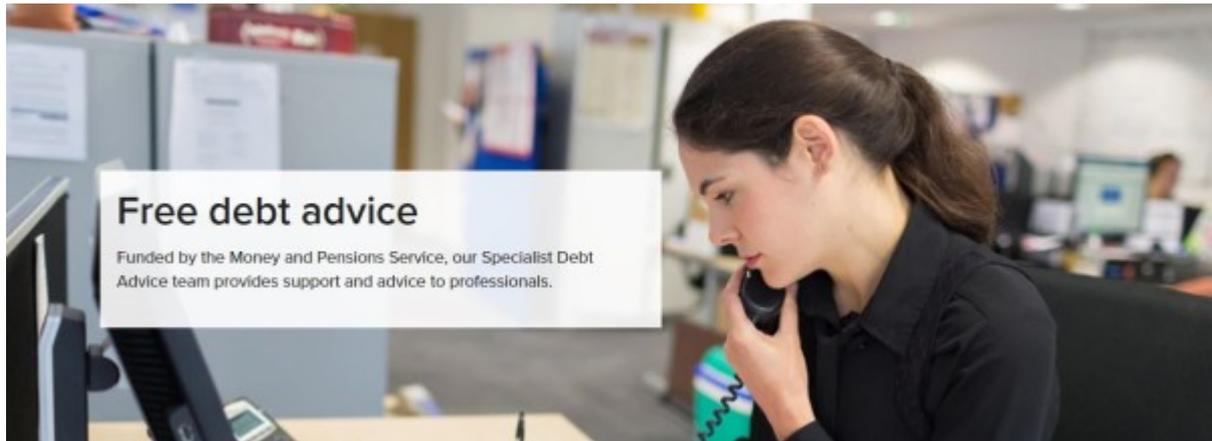
- **Social housing lettings: April 2018 to March 2019, England.** This report covers new social housing lettings in England in 2018/19 by local authorities and private registered providers at social and affordable rents, with information on tenants, tenancy type and length, rents and rent burden.
- **New Research from Shelter and B&Q** shows more than three-quarters of private renters in England (77%) – equivalent to 6.6 million adults – would like to make small improvements to their home.
- **Forces Help to Buy Quarterly Statistics Q3 2019-20** This quarterly statistical release provides summary statistics on applications, payments and purchases made under the Forces Help to Buy (FHTB) scheme. The Q2 and Q4 editions also provide statistics on the proportions of payments by region and on the age of personnel using the scheme.
- **The Real Cost of Poor Housing Benefit Practice** Families are facing the very real prospect of becoming homeless because of the way some authorities are dealing with appeals against housing benefit claims.
- **Call for Evidence Launched into the Economics of Universal Credit** The Economic Affairs Committee launches its inquiry into the economics of Universal Credit and invites written contributions to its investigation. The deadline for submissions is 29 February 2020.
- **Housing Benefit Speed of Processing Statistics** Speed of processing relates to the average time taken to process new claims and change of circumstances for this benefit.
- **UK Poverty 2019/20** edition of JRF's annual report on the nature and scale of poverty across the UK and how it affects people who are caught in its grip.
- **Working Hard(ship)**, an exploration of poverty, work and tenure.
- **Mental Health in Housing** the Chartered Institute of Housing has launched a new guide to help housing organisations improve their performance in respect of mental health.
- **Living Longer:** changes in housing tenure over time trends in renting and owner-occupation by age group have changed in recent years. In the future, older people may be more likely to rent privately.



What's new

- [What is leasehold?](#)
- [How LHA is calculated](#)
- [Restrictions on eligible rents: Social rented sector tenants](#)

- Tenant fees: enforcement and sanctions
- Right to reside



Specialist debt advice

Our specialist service provides free, expert guidance to free advice agencies in England & Wales. We can support you with any client debt cases.

This includes:

- Comprehensive referencing for complex cases
- Clarification on new laws
- Answers to technical queries
- A second opinion

[Web enquiries](#) can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our telephone service is open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

Call us now on 03300 580 404.

Find us at www.shelter.org.uk/debtadvice

Thank you for reading,
The team at NHAS

Who we are?

We are here to help local authorities, local citizens advice, public authorities and advice agencies with their housing and homelessness queries. Working together with the aim of preventing homelessness, we give expert advice, training and support to those working at the frontline. Our telephone consultancy service is open 9am - 6pm Monday to Friday, our trainers deliver training courses across the whole of England and our website holds a wealth of information, including past eBulletins, factsheets and guides to assist you with your housing and homelessness queries. You can find out more here: www.nhas.org.uk



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 Please remember to add nhas@shelter.org.uk to your email address book to ensure that our emails are not placed in your junk mailbox. NHAS is funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. We

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support the prevention of homelessness by enabling frontline providers to deliver good quality housing and homelessness advice.

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