



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

Recently published

- The NHAS [Are You Worried About Your Mortgage? Leaflet](#) has been updated
 - [An overview of the Homelessness Change and Platform for Life Funds 2015 to 2017](#), including background information, guidance for those making bids and useful case studies of previous work
 - [StepChange's campaign Debt In Mind](#) explores debt and the impacts on Mental Health
 - [Rapper Tinie Tempah becomes NCS \(National Citizen Service\) ambassador](#)
 - [Mortgage and landlord possession statistics released](#) – January to March 2015
 - [Policy paper: 2010 to 2015 government policy: housing for older and vulnerable people](#)
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Legal updates

Community Protection Notices (CPNs)

From 27 April 2015: Under section 43 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the police, a local authority or an authorised private registered provider of social housing can issue a Community Protection Notice (CPN) against perpetrators of persistent antisocial behaviour.

Failure to comply with a CPN can lead to a fixed penalty notice, remedial action or a court order.



Pre-Action Protocols, with effect from 6 April 2015

The Pre-Action Protocols for Judicial Review and Housing Disrepair Cases have been updated.

Find the new versions of these Protocol on pages 73-86 and 87-107 of this [PAP making document](#)

Qualifying persons

With effect from 20 April 2015, the Allocation of Housing (Qualification Criteria for Right to Move) (England) Regulations 2015 SI 2015/967 provide that, when deciding who can be a qualifying person for an allocation of housing under Part 6 Housing Act 1996, a local authority cannot apply a local connection requirement to a secure or introductory tenant, or an assured tenant of a private registered provider of social housing, who: (1) is to be given a reasonable preference because of a need to move to the authority's area to avoid hardship, and; (2) works or needs to move for work in that area.

The DCLG has issued [statutory guidance for local authorities on the 'Right to move'](#).

Supreme Court Judgment – “Vulnerability” test case.

On 13th May 2015 the Supreme Court passed its judgment on the three appeal cases which were initially heard in December 2014. The judgement is available here:

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2013-0234.html>

The cases focused on the duty local housing authorities have towards homeless people who claim to be “vulnerable”, and therefore to have “a priority need” for the provision of housing accommodation under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996.

Please see the vulnerability test case update for information on how NHAS and Crisis can support you

Training for 2015 – 2016: New in-house briefing sessions

Alongside our existing training programme we are now able to offer the following in-house briefings to our local authority and advice agency members. The sessions may last up to 3 hours and are delivered free of charge, but please note they are delivered in-house to you at your own premises.

- Tenancy Deposit Protection & s21 notice changes to AST's (ALL)
- New and existing issues affecting the Private Rented Sector (Advice agencies only)
- EEA nationals & returning residents eligibility (ALL)

For further information about our training courses and briefings, or to book, please email nhas@shelter.org.uk.

To discover the remit of each briefing visit [this news article on our website](#).

New Persons from Abroad online forum – 12/06/2015 – 10.30 to 11.45

The Persons from Abroad online forum will be a question and answer session providing participants with an opportunity to expand on or clarify particular points, from the training previously attended. It will be delivered in the same way as our webinars, so you will need a computer with access to the internet, and a telephone.

Please note that you must have previously attended one of more of the following NHAS sessions to join the online forum:

- Persons from Abroad and Housing Options (local authority face to face training)
- Housing Assistance and Persons from Abroad (advice agency face to face training)
- Persons from Abroad: changes to benefit entitlement (webinar)

If you haven't yet been able attend one of these sessions, and would like to find out more please email us at nhas@shelter.org.uk.

If you have a question for our trainers and would like to attend, register by emailing nhaswebinars@shelter.org.uk. Please note that once you have registered you will need to submit your question by the 29th May.

Please note: if you have a query on a specific case that you need detailed advice on, please contact the NHAS Consultancy Line instead on 0300 330 0517 - 9.00am to 8.00pm – Monday to Friday.

Support for Asylum Seekers

The Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP) have sent us information on their free advice line for asylum seekers looking for housing and financial support.

The advice line is open to advice agencies, refugee and community organisations and others who give advice and support to asylum seekers.

[Visit their website](#) for more information.

Out of area placements

There have been some recent high profile court cases with a focus on out of area placements by local authorities. The NHAS wanted to bring the cases to your attention and you can find further detail and guidance about the cases and practice to be followed in the [out of area placements update](#), and within the log in section of the NHAS website:

- [Tower Hamlets & Havering](#)
- [Nzolameso v City of Westminster](#)

For any local authority officer who requires advice about when and how to use out of area placement, please contact the NHAS Consultancy Line.

Put “Property Rescue Schemes” under house arrest



Following the end of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, the NHAS is aware of other “Property Rescue” schemes advertised particularly across email and the web, which promise to give cash offers, hassle-free deals and quick house exchanges.

We would encourage NHAS members to pursue a policy of counter publicity in your area to avoid companies taking advantage of vulnerable homeowners.

Don’t forget, our Housing Debt Casework (HDC) team is there to support you to help households with housing related debt. For initial advice or to make a referral, call 0300 330 0517.

Upcoming NHAS Webinar

We still have places available on our free Spare Room Subsidy webinar:

Date	Time	Course
09/06/2015	11:30-12:45	Spare room Subsidy

To get a fuller flavour of our webinar offering, you can [download a copy of the webinar schedule for May to September](#).

For any further webinar information or to book, please email nhaswebinars@shelter.org.uk.

Local Welfare Provision – case studies

Following consultation about funding for Local Welfare Assistance schemes, the government announced £74 million for upper-tier authorities to go towards local welfare and adult social care. This was included in the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2015/16 which was issued on 3 February. These local welfare case studies produced by Shelter demonstrate the importance the local welfare assistance programme has had for many of its clients.

NHAS members who joined over the last month:

NSPCC	Choices (North Kent Women’s Aid)
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National Homelessness Advice Service



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

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
www.nhas.org.uk/