

Here to help local authorities and advice agencies on 0300 330 0517



[Consultancy Line](#)



[Housing Debt Casework](#)



[Training](#)

This edition includes updates on the Housing and Planning Act 2016, our June edition of Housing Matters and the case law updates. We've also included our webinar schedule for July and August, including dates for the new webinar topics developed for 2016.

#### Recent updates:

- [Local Authority Homelessness Statistics \(England\)](#) - view collected homelessness statistics for individual local authorities in England - statutory homelessness and rough sleeping over the last five years.
- [Best practice in placing homeless households in temporary accommodation out of area](#) – new NHAS guide
- [Tenants are being notified about the impact of the Benefit Cap](#) - Tenants that will be affected by the Benefit Cap from the autumn have been identified by the Department for Work and Pensions, and will receive a letter outlining the impact of the cap on their income. **If you have clients who are affected by this, the [NHAS HDC team](#) are available for 2<sup>nd</sup> tier support or clients can be referred for direct casework.**
- [Universal credit expands to 5 other areas – 25 May 2016](#)

#### [Housing Matters Issue 112 – June 2016](#)



#### In this issue:

- Feature: a summary of the NHAS good practice guidance for local authorities considering making an out-of-area placement
- Feature: Helen Farren, a training and support officer with Shelter, provides a 'one stop guide' to joint tenancies
- Leaflet: Help with mortgage interest payments - explaining the support available to help pay mortgage interest and the interest on other loans secured on the home

Previous editions of Housing Matters are available to download from the website. Go to [www.nhas.org.uk](http://www.nhas.org.uk) and log in.

#### Housing and Planning Act 2016

- [The Housing and Planning Act 2016](#) – Landmark Housing and Planning Bill receives Royal Assent
- [Social housing: the end of 'lifetime' tenancies in England?](#) – Provisions contained in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 when in force will provide that local authorities will only be able to offer longer-term tenancies in certain circumstances
- [Arden Chambers E Flash – Housing & Planning Act 2016: overview of parts 1-5](#)

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## NHAS factsheets for the public – updated for 2016

[NHAS Factsheets](#) on the Benefit Cap, Bedroom Tax, Housing benefit (under 35s), Tenancy deposit schemes, illegal eviction and much more are available to download free of charge from our website.

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## **Shelter Conference 2016 Future of Welfare** – for LAs and Housing Associations.

# Shelter

A one-day conference of expert speaker and workshop sessions on the government's continued welfare reform including Universal Credit, Pay to Stay and rent reduction

**Where:** London, Garrett Street

**When:** 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Audience: Heads of Housing or Benefits Services Policy officers, Housing or Benefit Team Managers

[Find out more – Future of Welfare](#)

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## **[Changes to training booking procedures for Local Citizens Advice and Voluntary Agency members](#)**



From September we will be changing some of our training booking procedures. Read our [training update](#) to find out about the changes.

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## **[The Young Leaders Experience](#)**

Run by the National Housing Federation, The Young Leaders Experience is specifically designed with ambitious housing professionals in mind.



The two day interactive conference will motivate, connect and inspire the next generation of leaders within housing to help you build your knowledge of the sector and take the next step in your career.

The event takes place on 21-22 September in Birmingham and will be part of #housingweek. Download the full programme from the website: [www.housing.org.uk/youngleaders](http://www.housing.org.uk/youngleaders) and book your place today to save £100Title

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## **Recently published**

- [No One Turned Away: Changing the law to prevent and tackle homelessness](#) – Crisis
  - [Why is it more difficult than ever for older people to leave hospital?](#) – The Kings Fund blog about the National Audit Office on Discharging Older Patients
  - [Immigration Act 2016](#) – received Royal Assent on 12 May 2016
  - [House & Health & Safety Rating System \(HHSRS\)](#) - The HHSRS is a risk based assessment tool which is used by environmental health officers to assess the risk (the likelihood and severity) of a hazard in residential housing to the health and safety of occupants or visitors.
  - **Right to rent checks** - On 24 May and 25 May 2016 respectively the DCLG published updated versions of the guide to [landlords' right to rent checks](#) and the [landlords' code of practice](#) in respect of the checks.
  - [How to make a right to rent check](#) – GOV.uk also have provided a video explaining how landlords can make right to rent checks on their tenants.
  - [Vulnerability: a guide for advice agencies](#) – Money Advice Trust publishes new guide for advice agencies on treating clients in vulnerable situations fairly
  - [Welfare Reform European Social Fund evaluation](#) – executive summary and project evaluation report produced by Oxford City Council
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## Destitution in the UK



Published by Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the [Destitution in the UK](#) report defines destitution in the UK, and explores how many people are affected, who they are, and the main pathways in and out of destitution. It considers the impact and experience on those people directly affected.

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## Improving domestic abuse services



Review of Outcome Measurement Tools  
Big Lottery Fund has produced a really useful overview of the different [outcome measurement tools](#) used by the domestic abuse sector. The review looks at seven of the available domestic abuse-focused tools and sets out how they can be used to their best advantage

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## Women's Aid releases Annual Survey 2015 statistics

The Women's Aid [Annual Survey](#) 2015 found that:

On just one day, **92 women and 75 children were turned away from refuge**. For nearly half of the women (45.65%), it was because there was not enough space for them.

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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 – includes:

- **Court of Appeal**  
Alhashem v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions [2016] EWCA Civ 395
- **High Court**  
R (on the application of H and others) v Ealing LBC [2016] EWHC 841 (Admin)  
R (on the application of O) v Lambeth LBC [2016] EWHC 937 (Admin)  
R (on the application of Smajlaj) v Waltham Forest LBC [2016] EWHC 1240 (Admin)

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## NHAS webinars – schedule for July and August now available



Due to increasing popularity, we have added more dates to our webinar programme. We will also be introducing additional topics to our schedule.

- [Download the webinar schedule](#)

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## High Court Enforcement

This is an increasing issue, especially in rent cases. In Issue 110 of Housing Matters, John Gallagher, Principal Solicitor at Shelter, examined the reasons for an increased use of the High Court to enforce possession orders, its implications for tenants and borrowers and the impact of recent case law.

[Read Housing Matters Issue 110 to find out more.](#) You can find previous editions of Housing Matters on our website. Go to [www.nhas.org.uk](http://www.nhas.org.uk) and log in.

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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](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk).

Regards,  
The NHAS Team  
[www.nhas.org.uk](http://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.