



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



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This month's bulletin includes details of the Supreme Court judgment on the four cases concerning the impact of a cap on housing benefit ("HB"), for households previously deemed as under-occupying in the social sector housing. The cases relate to claimants with disabilities and women living in "sanctuary scheme" accommodation - see more details below.

We share the results from the LA, LCA and voluntary agencies NHAS annual survey, the consultancy line and HDC case follow up outcomes survey.

This month's bulletin also includes an update on the Homelessness Reduction Bill.

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### NHAS Updates

- November and December webinar dates are online, log in to view the [webinar calendar](#). Further dates for January to March 2017 will be published shortly. NHAS webinar updates will usually take between 75 – 90 minutes of your time, and with no software to download are quick and easy way to receive training in housing. There is no booking fee but webinars will incur telephone charges.
- Local Citizens Advice and voluntary agency members can [find out how to self register](#) on to the Online Booking System on our website. Log in and go to Training & Events/Face to Face courses.
- Log in to [read the results of our annual survey](#) – available on the welcome page under key documents and links.
- Summary of NHAS [Consultancy Line Outcomes](#) and [HDC Outcomes Survey](#)
- Innovative local practice: Devon initiative to improve practice in the private rented sector (PRS) Settled and Safe. [Log in and go to the Local Practice pages](#).

If you have forgotten your password email [nhas@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk).

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### Stats/Updates/etc

- [Mortgage and landlord possession statistics: July to September 2016](#)
- [Homelessness Reduction Bill](#) - the Bill has won the support of the Government, you can also [view the debate](#). MPs are expected to consider a [Money Resolution](#) on this Bill on 14 November 2016. A Money resolution must be agreed to by the House of Commons if a new Bill proposes spending public money on something that hasn't previously been authorised by an Act of Parliament. Money resolutions, like [Ways and Means](#) resolutions, are normally put to the House for agreement immediately after the Bill has passed its Second reading in the Commons.
- [Homelessness Prevention Programme](#) - £40 million homelessness prevention programme announced to provide an innovative approach to tackling homelessness including [£20 million Trailblazers Funding](#) - Local authorities will be invited to bid either singularly, or in collaboration.

- [The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness \(Eligibility\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2016](#)
- [Immigration Act – draft guidance](#): Statutory guidance for the courts in relation to the defence available to a landlord. [The Immigration Act 2016 \(Commencement No. 2 and Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2016](#)
- [Help to Buy mortgage guarantee](#) scheme - the government has confirmed that the scheme will close to new customers on 31 December 2016.

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#### [RSA: Four ways to reverse the rise in homelessness in London](#)

Findings from recent a recent policy lab looking at solutions to the numbers of households in TA in London:

1. Make private renting stable and affordable and prevent homelessness much further upstream
2. Equip people with skills and knowledge to deal with housing problems when they arise
3. Give councils the power to acquire underused land at its existing use value to deliver affordable housing
4. Councils to direct house building on their own sites, investing their land into schemes rather than selling it

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#### **Persons eligible for assistance: non EEA/EU**

With effect from 30 October 2016, the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 SI 2016/965 amend the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) Regulations 2006 SI 2006/1294 in respect of the classes of persons subject to immigration control that are eligible for homelessness assistance. (1) Class E is removed, ie asylum seekers who applied for asylum before 3 April 2000, and (2), Class G is added, ie persons granted leave within the Immigration Rules to enter or remain in the UK on the grounds of their right to family or private life under Article 8 of the Human Rights Convention are eligible. Such persons will also comprise a new Class F for the purposes of eligibility for a housing allocation under part 6 of the Housing Act 1996.

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#### **Spare Room Subsidy Reductions**

On 9 November 2016 the Supreme Court handed down judgment in appeals relating to eligibility to Housing Benefit following amendment of bedroom criteria made by the Housing Benefit and Universal Credit (Size Criteria) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013.

- ***R (on the application of Carmichael and Rourke) (formerly known as MA and others) (Appellants) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Respondent)***
- ***R (on the applications of Daly and others) (formerly known as MA and others) (Appellants) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Respondent)***
- ***R (on the application of A) (Respondent/Cross-Appellant) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Appellant/Cross-Respondent)***
- ***R (on the application of Rutherford and others (Respondents) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Appellant) [2016] UKSC 58***

Go to the [full text of the Supreme Court judgement](#)

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#### **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) and extended weather provision**

Guidance and examples of good practice to help you develop suitable responses during the winter and periods of severe weather.

[Homeless Link Guidance on Severe Weather Emergency Protocol \(SWEP\) and extended weather provision](#)

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#### **Nowhere safe to stay: Homeless people “told to sleep rough” despite extreme dangers**

St Mungo's has revealed that 129 rough sleepers died in London since 2010 – an average of one rough sleeper dying every fortnight – while some people, shockingly, were told by councils to sleep rough to access support. The charity's report sheds light on the dangers of

sleeping on the streets for those who experience it on a daily basis, including violence, assault, suicide and abuse.

[Nowhere safe to stay: the dangers of sleeping rough.](#)

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## Homelessness – Housing First service in England



Homelessness Link launches the key principles for providing Housing First services in England. Housing First is ‘an evidence-based approach to successfully supporting homeless people with high needs and histories of entrenched or repeat homelessness to live in their own homes’.

[Housing First In England: The Principles](#)

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### Recently published

- [National Housing Federation: Impact of applying Local Housing Allowance rates to general needs social tenants](#)
  - [House of Commons Library: Homelessness – comparison of duties in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland](#)
  - [CIH: the likely impact of the lower overall benefit cap](#)
  - [The Money and Mental Health Policy Institute: The missing link – how tackling financial difficulty can boost recovery rates in IAPT](#)
  - [Centre for Responsible Credit: Improving the Financial Health of Low Income Groups](#)
  - [Domestic Abuse Fund: prospectus: up to £20 million funding over 2 years](#)
  - [NHAS Benefit Cap Factsheet \(Nov 2016\)](#)
  - [FCA: The Fair treatment of mortgage customers in mortgage shortfall: Impact of automatic capitalisations GC16/6](#)
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### GOV.uk

- [National evaluation of the first Troubled Families Programme](#)
  - [The first Troubled Families Programme 2012 to 2015: an overview](#)
  - [Troubled Families Programme: local authority cost savings](#)
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### Crisis report sets out the financial implications of extending homelessness prevention services in England.



The research found that public spending could potentially fall by £370 million if 40,000 people were prevented from experiencing one year of homelessness, based on an average estimated reduction in public spending of £9,266 per person per year

[Crisis - Better than cure? Testing the case for enhancing prevention of single homelessness in England.](#)

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### Consultations

- [Houses in multiple occupation and residential property licensing reforms](#) - Minimum room sizes will apply to shared homes, improving housing for thousands. Consultation on extending the mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation.
  - [Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit: exceptions to the 2-child limit](#) - Consultation seeks evidence and views to inform the design of the exceptions and their implementation.
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### Lloyds Banking Group have launched the new Money for Life Programme.

Specifically designed to target vulnerable 16-25 year olds, the three-year programme will combine training, community challenges and real time support to improve the financial competencies of nearly 80,000 young people – improving their ability to manage money day to day and to cope with modest financial surprises.

Go to: [www.moneyforlife.org.uk](http://www.moneyforlife.org.uk)

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**Toynbee Hall are leading a project that will look at people without bank accounts and how they manage their finances day-to-day.** The results of the project will contribute to a section they are writing for the Lloyds Bank UK Consumer Digital Index on the lived

experience of the unbanked population. The work will be carried out via a survey, deadline is the end of November

- [Toynbee Hall Online survey](#)
- [Word version of the survey](#)

All normal research standards apply, personal details will not be identified in the work.

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#### **StepChange Equity release advice.**



StepChange Financial Solutions provides free, whole of market equity release advice. As the UK's only charity-operated equity release service you can trust us to give you the advice that's right for you.

[StepChange Financial Solutions – Mortgages and Equity Release](#)

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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.