



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



[Consultancy Line](#)



[Housing Debt Casework](#)



[Training](#)

We include our latest edition of Housing Matters and case law updates and our new briefing on Social Services duties to homeless Children. You can also find details on the changes to our training administration processes for our local citizens advice and agency members, and details of the new webinar topics available from October.

MOJ: [Mortgage and landlord possession statistics: April to June 2016](#)

- Mortgage possession claims, orders for possession, warrants of possession and repossessions by county court bailiffs were down compared to the same quarter last year.
- Just under a quarter (23%) of landlord possession claims lead to a repossession by country court bailiffs

[See the full mortgage and landlord possession statistics](#)

NHAS news

We will be launching a new NHAS service in September 2016. The NHAS Consultancy Line will be piloting a webchat service and would like to hear from any members that would be interested in taking part. Please contact us at nhasconsultancy@shelter.org.uk to participate in the pilot.

New NHAS Guide: Social Services Duties to Homeless Children

A comprehensive briefing on [Social Services duties under the Children Act](#), covering common questions and factors.

NHAS Autumn Symposiums: Homelessness prevention in a new legal context

The events will include workshops, caselaw and housing law updates. This series of symposia will take place in Liverpool, Sheffield and London. [Log in](#), and go to the Events page to find out more.

We've also published our summary end of year report for [NHAS delivery for 2015 – 16](#).

Local Citizens Advice and voluntary agencies: changes to training administration

There are two important changes taking place to how our advice agency members can book webinars and briefings.



1. From September 2016, NHAS webinars for local Citizens Advice and local advice agency members will be administered by the National Events Team (NET) via the [Online Booking System \(OBS\)](#).

2. From October 2016, our 3 hour briefings will also be administered by NET.

If you would like to book a place on webinar from September log in to [OBS](#). If you have forgotten your unique username or password, please contact: training.booking@citizensadvice.org.uk.

[Webinar calendar for LCA, voluntary agencies & student unions](#)

New webinars for all members: 3 more housing topics coming soon

From October, we will start delivering 3 new webinar topics:

- Housing Duties to Young People
- Landlord Mortgage repossessions
- Suspending a warrant

Housing Matters: Issue 113



Issue 113 August 2016

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This edition includes:

- Articles on Allocations schemes and unlawful discrimination, and End of term: interest-only mortgages
- Case brief on 'Assessing housing need: non-priority homeless'
- Feature on 'Right to unwind'

Previous editions of Housing Matters are available to download from the website. Go to www.nhas.org.uk and log in



Factsheet: Domestic abuse: housing options

Four million working people will face housing difficulties by 2024

Research from the Local Government Association (LGA) warns that up to four million working people will no longer be able to afford somewhere decent to live by 2024 and will need help to access some type of affordable housing. LGA advises that economic uncertainty caused by Brexit and a widespread and growing demand for affordable homes - including for social and affordable rent - makes it even more important for councils to be handed greater powers to build new homes.

[Read more about the LGA research.](#)

Financial Exclusion Committee publishes call for written evidence

The Committee has been set-up to consider financial exclusion, which results in people having difficulty accessing or using the mainstream financial services that are necessary to participate in daily economic life and society.

- **Deadline - 14 September 2016.**

Welfare Reform – Universal Credit

[Universal Credit delays detailed in written statement from Damian Green](#), also see the [Universal Credit transition rollout schedule](#)

Recently published

- [Extending a voluntary Right to Buy to housing association tenants \(England\)](#) - proposals to extend the Right to Buy to assured tenants of housing associations on a voluntary basis.
- [HB A7/2016 circular](#) - Housing Benefit and State Pension Credit (Temporary Absence) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 - amendments to the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 and the Housing Benefit (Persons who have reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit) Regulations 2006 to introduce new provisions which relate specifically to absences outside of Great Britain.
- [Paying for supported housing](#) – House of Commons briefing paper covering the impact of the Government's policy of requiring rent reductions, and also the application of Local Housing Allowance caps, on the supported housing sector.
- [Equality Act 2010 and its effect on the lives of disabled people](#) - The Equality and Human Rights Commission publishes a response and recommendations to the Lords Select Committee.
- [Housing Benefit: withdrawing entitlement from 18-21 year olds](#) – House of Commons briefing considers evidence on the potential impact of withdrawal and provides comment from organisations and those working with young homeless people.
- Youth Access publish '[A foot in the door: VCS provider's view of CAMHS transformation](#)' - CCGs embrace effective VCS models as the key to transforming CAMHS
- [Parliament briefing paper: Statutory Homelessness in England July 2016](#)
- [Birmingham Child Poverty Commission - A fairer start for all our children and young people](#)

[Tackling poverty through housing and planning policy in city regions](#)

Published by Sheffield Hallam University in conjunction with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, this report draws on documentary evidence to explore the potential for devolved institutions - LEPs and combined authorities - **to embed 'poverty reduction, affordable housing and inclusive growth' in housing and planning policy** at the city-regional level in England.

[Stepchange research on unfair treatment by creditors](#)



This report highlights some of the ongoing conduct issues that continue to cause or contribute to the harm experienced by people dealing with severe problem debt.

[Creditor and debt collector conduct. What's making debt problems worse?](#)

GOV.uk - Tenure trends and cross tenure analysis

Updated data on the nature and number of tenancies at both the regional and national level. Includes:

- tenure trends at national and regional levels
- cross-tenure comparisons of characteristics of households and their accommodation
- overcrowding and under-occupation
- need for specially adapted accommodation

[Statistical data: tenure trends and cross tenure analysis](#)

[Crisis social lettings agencies: How to plan, develop, launch and sustain an income generating social lettings agency](#)



Crisis have a new series of events to launch their new social lettings agency guide in England, Scotland and Wales.

[Crisis Private Renting Events](#)

[Case Law](#)

Recent homelessness and allocation cases, and cases from other areas of law which may have significance for homelessness decisions – includes:

- **Supreme court**
R (on the application of The Public Law Project) v Lord Chancellor [2016] UKSC 39
- **Court of Appeal**
Huda v Redbridge LBC [2016] EWCA Civ 709
- **High Court**
R (on the application of Hoyte) v Southwark LBC [2016] EWHC 1665 (Admin)
- YA v London Borough of Hammersmith And Fulham [2016] EWHC 1850 (Admin) (27 July 2016)
- **Upper Tribunal**
KS v Secretary of State [2016] UKUT 0269 (AAC)
GN v Sevenoaks BC (HB) [2016] UKUT 271 (AAC)
- **Local Government Ombudsman**
Complaint against Eastbourne BC (14 016 569)

[Ealing Licensing Schemes](#)

Ealing Council will introduce two new licensing schemes in the new year to help improve standards in the borough's private rented sector. This will make it a legal requirement for landlords to obtain a licence to operate any house in multiple occupation (HMO) anywhere in Ealing, or to let a home in five selected wards of the borough.

[Read more about Ealing's licensing scheme](#)

Older LGBT people and care home project

The aim of this project was to pilot a scheme to enhance the inclusion of older LGBT residents through LGBT community members undertaking community audits of current care home practices.

[Findings from a pilot scheme using LGBT Community Advisors in England.](#)

See also: [Dr Andrew King's blog 'Housing for older LGBT people'](#)

London Councils Grants programme launch

London Councils has launched application rounds for:

- Priority 1 Combatting Homelessness
- Priority 2 Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

Go to the [London Councils Grants Programme online application process](#) for more information ((including the nine service specifications).

The deadline is Thursday 15 September 2016 (12 noon).

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
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.