



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](#)

Highlights in the September e-bulletin include, changes to booking onto webinars and briefings, call for evidence from Crisis and links to funding opportunities; the Smart Energy GB in Communities fund and How to apply for a Covenant Fund grant

NHAS UPDATE

The 2016 annual NHAS survey is underway. The survey makes up part of the membership review process but also forms part of our ongoing improvement strategy. Our online survey should only take up to 10 minutes of your time to complete; all the feedback received will be read and used to assist us in assessing our current and future development of the service. The survey will be emailed to all members, please do share your views and complete the survey.

Survey Deadline: 3rd October 2015

Local Citizens Advice (LCA) and voluntary agencies: changes to training administration

The way LCAs and agency members book webinars and on-demand briefings has changed:

From 01/09/2016 – webinars for LCA's and agencies members will be booked via the [Online Booking System](#) (OBS). You will need your unique OBS username and password to book your place.

From 01/10/2016 – all on demand in-house briefings will be administered by the National Events Team. Log in to OBS to find out more about our briefings. Our [briefings flyer](#) explains more.

[Go to the Online Booking System](#)



Our consultancy line service will be conducting a follow-up survey to look at the impact of our service. If you receive the survey, please take a few minutes complete it, as we do value the feedback.

[Homelessness Reduction Bill inquiry](#)

Following the first parliamentary inquiry into homelessness for ten years, a cross-party committee of MPs identified the principal cause of homelessness as the cost and availability of housing

[Almost 50% more people facing illegal eviction in the last year](#)



The number of people turning to Citizens Advice for help with illegal evictions in privately rented homes has risen by almost half over the last year.

[New figures from Citizens Advice](#) show 2,087 people asked for help after being threatened with illegal eviction in the 12 months up to March 2016.

Does your organisation support local communities or people in need, within England, Scotland or Wales?

The [Smart Energy GB in Communities Fund](#) is seeking grant applications from not-for-profit organisations, to reach people who may face barriers to getting a smart meter.

The deadline for small grant applications is **30 September 2016**.

[Go to Charities Aid Foundation Smart Energy GB – small grants overview](#)

HM Courts & Tribunal Service - Reminder of tranche 3 of court and tribunal closures

Potential implementation dates for when courts will cease to provide a public facing service. Published 22 2016 August – [Potential implementation dates](#)

GOV.uk

- [How to apply for a Covenant Fund grant](#) - £10 million per annum Covenant Fund to support the armed forces community is open for applications (updated 8 Sept 16)
-

Local Practice Innovation: [Integrated Money Advice \(BRANCAB\)](#)

Funded by Warwickshire County Council's Local Welfare Scheme and delivered in Rugby, Bedworth, Nuneaton, North Warwickshire, Warwick District and Stratford. The service combines early intervention debt advice and financial capability education. The IMA will also deal with simple debt issues that can be resolved by a phone call on that day, if the debts are more complex and casework support is needed for on-going work the client is referred on to a debt caseworker.

[Read about the Integrated Money Advice Scheme](#)

Domestic Abuse Refuge closures

Women's Aid and Welsh Women's Aid report that 67% of refuges in England and 69% in Wales are facing closure because planned changes to the housing benefit cap mean that most will lose so much income that they cannot stay open.

Find out more: [Women's Aid refuge closures](#)

Recently published

- FCA publish the key findings from the ['Financially vulnerable customers' thematic review](#)
- Following the launch of the Homelessness inquiry in December 2015, Communities and Local Government Select Committee have today published the [Homelessness report](#)
- Published by the Fabian society, supported by Shelter – [For us all: redesigning social security, for the 2020s](#).
- Citizens Advice publish ['Life after pension choices'](#) report. One in eight of those raiding their retirement savings under new pension freedoms were caught out by unexpected taxes and lower benefits, new figures show. The report by Citizens

Advice found the rule changes have been popular but that some of those drawing down cash are unaware of the consequences

- [Real London Lives](#) – research shows that spare bedroom welfare reform is failing to achieve its aim
- [Money Advice Trust – Borrowed Years](#) report states that young people are building up debt and worrying about money, but far too few are seeking advice when they fall behind
- HM Inspectorate of Probation: [Accommodation of Homeless 16 and 17 year old Children](#) report has found that a third of homeless 16 and 17-year-old offenders in England and Wales are being placed in unsafe or unsuitable accommodation
- [Real London Lives Final Report](#): summary of the experiences of London housing association tenants followed over a three-year period of rapid economic change and welfare reform, between 2013 and 2015.

Homeless Link - Call for evidence:



[Effective approaches to homelessness prevention](#)

Call for Evidence of existing and emerging homelessness prevention practice that provides support to people at risk of homelessness

[Effective approaches to helping people move on from homelessness](#)

Call for Evidence of existing and emerging approaches to move-on that help people to secure new accommodation

Case Law

- [Woolfe, R \(On the Application Of\) v London Borough of Islington \[2016\] EWHC 1907 \(Admin\)](#), which relates to an applicant who was accepted onto the housing register but who fell short of the required points to bid for properties.
- [Jack Jones v Luton Borough Council \[2016\] EWHC 2036 \(Admin\)](#)
The Claimant challenged the Luton Borough Council's ("the Defendant") Housing Appeals and Review Panel ("HARP") refusal of his appeal against the decision of the Housing Needs Review Panel ("HNRP") not to offer the Claimant a new tenancy of a two bedroomed property ("The Property") following the death of his father.
- [YA v London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham \[2016\] EWHC 1850 \(Admin\)](#)
The Claimant, a former refugee, had been taken into care when he was 11 and granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK in 2010. He challenged by way of judicial review, the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham's ("The Defendant") refusal to enter him on the Housing Register. The principal issue was whether the Council had been entitled to take account of the Claimant's spent criminal convictions in relation to his application to join the Council's housing register.
- [Leaseholders of Foundling Court and O'Donnell Court v The Mayor and Burgesses of the London Borough of Camden and others \[2016\] UKUT 366 \(LC\)](#)
This judgment of the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) clarifies whose obligation it is to "consult the tenant" under s.20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 in relation to proposed "qualifying works" or qualifying long term agreements. The judgment confirms that the head landlord must consult and serve notice on each of its own tenants and in addition on its own tenants' sub-tenants who are liable to contribute to the costs of the proposed works.

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.