



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 Oct e-bulletin include, report from the NHAS Housing Symposia, Universal Credit digital service roll out to a further twenty jobcentres, Shelter survey shows over a million renters victim to law-breaking landlords, new factsheet Domestic abuse: women's refuges

Thank you to those of you who attended our Autumn Symposia last month. The events took place in September 2016 in Liverpool, Sheffield and London. The agenda included an update on recent developments in caselaw delivered by John Gallagher, Shelter's principal solicitor, workshops covering innovative responses to local challenges and examples of partnership working, promotion of the NHAS, on Welfare Reform and a networking lunch.

- Read our [Symposia Summary report](#)
- Go to training & events to download the symposia presentations

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



All training for local Citizens Advice and voluntary agency members is now booked via the [Online Booking System](#) (OBS).

For more information about the webinars, in-house briefings or face to face courses you will need to [log in to OBS](#). You will need your unique OBS username and password to book your place.

[Go to the Online Booking System](#)

Local authorities will continue to book training via nhas@shelter.org.uk.

[Housing matters Issue 114](#)



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This edition includes:

- Article: Tenancy relations: what it means now
- Article: Repairs to common parts
- Feature: Legal aid means test
- [Domestic abuse: women's refuges leaflet](#)



Specialist support on housing advice

- View the [recent homelessness and allocation cases](#), and cases from other areas of law which may have significance for homelessness decisions.

NHAS Training Programmes

We've updated our training programmes following changes to our face to face courses, and webinars.

- [View the new programmes](#)

For Citizens Advice & Voluntary Agency members P1E information



We are currently piloting a new P1E Toolkit with voluntary agencies and LCAs

- [View the P1E toolkit](#)

If you would like more information email anne.limbert@shelter.org.uk

Stats/Updates

Gov.uk

- [Statutory homelessness and homelessness prevention and relief, England: April to June 2016](#)
- [Transforming our justice system: joint statement](#) from the [Ministry of Justice](#) and [HM Courts & Tribunals Service](#) about reforming Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunal Service.
- [New funding model for supported accommodation](#) - Supported housing, which supports some of the most vulnerable people from across the country, will continue to be exempt from the Local Housing Allowance cap until 2019. From then the new funding model will protect the sector from the cap with a top up of additional ring-fenced funding
- [HB Bulletin: G9/2016](#) – includes information about implementation of benefit cap changes
- Full list of [postcodes affected by the next Universal Credit digital service roll out](#) (5th October and 14th December 2016).
- [New public body offering debt advice, money and pensions guidance to be set up](#)

Parliament.gov.uk

- [Homelessness Reduction Bill](#) -. The Bill is being prepared for publication and is due to have its Second Reading on 28 October 2016

Private renting – England



Shelter published details of a survey of 3,250 tenants that suggests that in the last year one in eight private renters across England has suffered illegal acts by their landlord.

Most common offences included entering homes without permission and deposits not being properly protected.

For more information [go to the Shelter press release](#)

Nearly half of working families cutting back on food and clothing to pay for housing

[Research by Shelter and yougov](#) suggest that the equivalent of 3.7 million families have to cut back on buying essential food or clothing to pay their mortgage or rent.

Homefinder UK – a multipurpose housing options vehicle

Offering Housing Options and National Mobility across Social Housing, Homefinder UK is a national social housing mobility scheme. It differs from other schemes in that it is not just a swapping site – it allows applicants without a current social tenancy to gain access to social housing tenancies. Anyone who qualifies for social housing across the country can apply to join the scheme, and once verified, can bid on all the properties listed through the site.

- Find out more about Homefinder UK
- Find out more about other [local practice and innovation ideas](#)

The private rented sector – A home for all?

2 November 2016 , 10.30am-4:30pm / London

Renting from a private landlord has long been the main housing option for single homeless people. Yet with more people finding home ownership unaffordable and social housing unavailable, the private rented sector is increasingly seen as a long-term solution to broader housing needs.



The private rented sector presents real challenges for people regarding access, affordability, standards and security. This conference is funded by the Oak Foundation. It will showcase best practice from across the UK, but will also identify its limits informing where national and local policy needs to change.

[Click to register: The private rented sector – a home for all?](#)

Recently published

- [Real London Lives: Final Report](#) - focus particularly on household finances and how work and the financial circumstances of the families have changed during the course of the study.
 - [Stepchange 2016 Statistics Mid-Yearbook](#) provides an update on personal debt trends for the first half of 2016.
 - [Joseph Roundtree Foundation: we can solve poverty in the UK](#) - sets out recommendations on how all of us can act to solve poverty
 - The Money Advice Trust 'Whole-society' approach needed to tackle financial exclusion
 - [Joining the Dots the combined burden of violence abuse and poverty](#), published by Agenda, the alliance for women and girls at risk.
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Case Law

- Huda v LB Redbridge [2016] EWCA Civ 709 - concerns an unusual case of a homelessness applicant being mistakenly left in temporary accommodation by the local authority after being found intentionally homeless. The applicant later claimed that the accommodation had become 'settled accommodation' and had broke the chain of causation on the intentionally homeless decision.
 - **Shaja Butt v London Borough of Hackney (22 February 2016)** - This was an appeal in a homelessness case, focussing on a reviewing officer's decision in the light of section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as explained in *Hotak v Southwark London Borough Council* [2015] UKSC 30. For the full judgment, [click here](#).
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'Whole-society' approach to tackling financial exclusion

The Money Advice Trust has today called for a '[whole-society' approach to tackling financial exclusion](#), with a stronger leadership role from Government, in evidence to the House of Lords Financial Exclusion Committee. The Committee, chaired by Baroness Tyler of Enfield, is examining financial exclusion and access to mainstream financial services.

[View the written submission](#)

pipinfo - an adviser guide to personal independence payment regulations & case law

LASA have developed a new webtool, [pipinfo](#), designed to help people find details of regulations and case law relating to personal independence payment. It could be useful for assessing eligibility for client or to help a client prepare the initial grounds for appeal.

Go to [pipinfo webtool](#)

RSA: Temporary accommodation in London

The crisis of housing affordability in London has pushed the system of council provided temporary accommodation to breaking point. Numbers and costs have spiralled in the last 5 years as a set of largely uncoordinated responses threaten to compound the problem. RSA have published a briefing paper providing an overview of the challenges, examples of recent responses and offers some suggestions for thinking about new interventions.

- [Designing solutions to London's temporary accommodation system briefing](#)

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.