



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](#)

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### Highlights:

- Housing Matters – guest edited by Phil Turner, Hart District Council
- Universal credit statistics
- Homelessness statistics

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### Special Edition: Housing Matters Issue 109 – December 2015



This special issue has been guest edited by Phil Turner, Head of Housing at Hart District Council. It looks at how four English local authorities are tackling homelessness prevention.

This issue covers how:

- Hart DC is trying to ensure a good relationship with PRS landlords in its area, with limited resources
- Oxford CC has used new technology as well as licensing powers to drive up PRS standards in its area
- Solihull MBC has improved homelessness prevention rates by integrating money and debt advice into its housing options service
- Mendip DC has formalised its response to harassment and illegal eviction by putting its proactive approach into a new policy.
- Factsheet: Possession Proceedings: Being evicted

Also included this month: Recent homelessness and allocation cases

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### Eligibility Checklists – what you need to know

When it comes to checking eligibility you may find it helpful to have the information in our eligibility checklists prior to calling our consultancy line.



You can access the checklists online. Log in to [www.nhas.org.uk/login](http://www.nhas.org.uk/login)

- Returning British Citizen
- EEA National
- Non EEA National

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

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### Sounding Off: An Investigation of Visible Street Homelessness

On 13 November an interactive sound-walk, conceived and curated by Adele Irving and Oliver Moss (Northumbria University), as part of the ESRC's Festival of Social Science 2015.

The walk will take in seven city centre locations; each identified as having material and/or symbolic importance to rough sleepers. At each location, you will find a QR code. When scanned using a smartphone, these act as a gateway to a range of audio reflections on the experiential aspects of street homelessness and the key policy and service issues that these accounts raise.

<https://soundingoffaninvestigationofvisiblestreethomelessness.wordpress.com/>

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### Recently published

- **CAP Poor Pay More - 10.8 million people live in households that pay for their energy by prepayment meter (PPM).**
- **[GOV.uk Homelessness Stats](#)**
- **HCA Housing Statistics December 2015**
- **£3.5 million to support victims of domestic abuse**
- **Applying for help with court fees**
- **Redcar and Cleveland Safety Net Fund**

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### Court of Appeal rules that all benefit income to be included when assessing affordability



**Housing Rights** looks at *Samuels v Birmingham City Council* in which a homeless applicant challenged the local authority's decision that she was intentionally homeless because she had been evicted from a previous property due to rent arrears

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### Reaching Litigants in Person

The Litigant in Person Support Strategy (the Support Strategy) is an initiative designed to help people interacting with the court system, who can't afford a lawyer to obtain legal advice, practical and emotional support. It is led by Law for Life, LawWorks, the Personal Support Unit and RCJ Advice with support from the Bar Pro Bono Unit and the Access to Justice Foundation.

The Support Strategy is trying to reach as many individuals as it can to alert them to what's on offer and help them to take their first steps to getting help and advice when dealing with the court system.

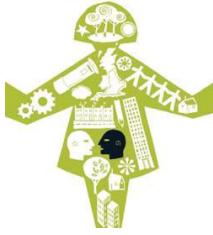
If you would like postcards or posters to display in your office please email [rebeccawilkie@atif.org.uk](mailto:rebeccawilkie@atif.org.uk).

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### Find out more about the initiative

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### Updates on Universal credit



- [Universal Credit statistics – April 2013 to October 2015](#)
- [Waiting for Credit – research report from Citizens Advice of their clients' experience of Universal Credit](#)

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### **Right to rent immigration checks: landlords code of practice**

Guidance for landlords, homeowners and letting agents affected by the introduction of right to rent immigration checks (updated 4 Dec).

[Right to rent immigration checks – GOV.UK](#)

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### **Severe Weather Provision**

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

[See more at: Homeless Link Severe Weather Emergency Protocol](#)

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### **Training for April 2016 - March 17**



The course scheduling for 2016/17 is underway. Email us at [nhas@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk) if you:

- are interested in finding out what training might be taking place near you
- would like to send in suggestions on what courses from our existing programme are needed in your area
- or how to schedule an in-house course

[View our Training Programme](#)

The in-house/on demand training receives a high volume of requests, please ensure that you are able to provide a suitable room for the date and time agreed when securing your training dates as the high demand may mean that we are unable to secure an alternative date for you. If you do need to cancel or reschedule your training please ensure that you provide us with a minimum notice of 4 weeks where possible.

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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.