

Here to help local authorities and advice agencies on 0300 330 0517



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FREE NHAS Spring Symposia – Homelessness prevention and early intervention



Each symposium is open to NHAS members and will provide an update, share best practice and solutions covering:

- Shelter Legal Team - Caselaw update/Housing law developments
- Workshops showcasing practical interventions in preventing homelessness
- NHAS update on available resources and support
- Welfare reform and preventing repossessions update

The Spring 2017 symposia will take place in March in [Chelmsford](#), [Leicester](#) and [Blackburn](#). You can also log in to find out more on our [events page](#). Email nhas@shelter.org.uk to book your place.

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|  | <p>Issue 116 of Housing Matters includes articles on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting sharing: highlighting pioneering approaches to shared housing in the social sector. • Mobile homes: summarising the legal rights for people living in mobile homes, and a factsheet on Mobile Homeowner rights. • Non-statutory succession: how to find out if someone who would not usually qualify may be able to succeed to a tenancy on the death of the tenant |
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Stats/Updates/etc

- [Mortgage and landlord possession stats: Oct to Dec 2016](#)
- [CML Arrears and possession data](#): Mortgage possessions down again in fourth quarter of 2016
- Homelessness Reduction Bill 2016 – [Explanatory notes](#) published 30 January. For the latest updates on the Homelessness Reduction Bill as it passes through parliament, log in and go to our new [Homelessness Reduction Bill page](#).
- [Fixing our broken housing market](#) - Housing white paper setting out the government's plan to reform the housing market.
- [Private renting solutions for homeless and vulnerable people](#) – Commons Library debate pack
- [Rough sleeping in England: autumn 2016](#)
- [Housing in England: overview](#) - The National Audit Office has published an overview of the housing market in England, the Department for Communities and Local Government's housing strategy and the overall housing policy landscape.

- [Universal Credit Rollout continues](#) - New statutory instrument provides for the expansion of the service between 1 February and 26 April 2017. New regulations have been issued in relation to the further roll-out of universal credit full service.

Recently published

- [How poverty affects people's decision-making processes](#) – Joseph Rowntree report summarises the most recent evidence on the relationship between socioeconomic status and the psychological, social and cultural processes that underpin decision-making
- [Money Advice Service: Understanding the Impact of Debt Advice](#) - Evaluation of Money Advice Service funded debt advice - initial research findings, January 2017
- [DWP - Local authority insight research: wave 32](#) - Qualitative findings on Discretionary Housing Payments, Universal Support and the reduction in the Housing Benefit backdating period
- [DWP – HB Direct February 2017](#) - Housing Benefit Newsletter includes updates on the National Fraud Initiative 2016/17, Universal Credit housing costs and the award of Discretionary Housing Payments
- [Understanding and responding to Modern Slavery within the Homelessness Sector](#) - This report aims to improve understanding of the issue, and equip organisations with the resources and training to address it
- [Can private landlords refuse to let to Housing Benefit claimants?](#) - House of Commons Library Briefing Paper discusses evidence to suggest that private landlords are reluctant to let to prospective tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit.

Case Law

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

No Recourse to Public Funds Network: new online tool to help local authority practitioners and voluntary sector advisers' work out support options for destitute families with no recourse to public funds



[Support for migrant families](#) aims to help local authorities to make best use of reduced and scarce resources in order to adhere to statutory child safeguarding duties, by:

- acting as an aid to enable local authority staff to conduct assessments more efficiently by explaining key elements of the complex law that governs eligibility for social services support
- providing information to help plan how a case might be resolved

[Find out more at NRPF Network](#)

Single homelessness – Brent Council

A report seeking approval to commit £2million to tackle homelessness in Brent will be discussed by the Council's Cabinet. Following the Council's successful application for just under £1million from the government, the report seeks approval for the Council to match that amount to fund local voluntary sector organisations to deliver homelessness prevention and relief outcomes for hundreds more single people, who the council has not been able to help before.

[Read the announcement from Brent Council](#)

Independent Age Report - We need to talk about caring: dealing with difficult conversations



Following new research commissioned by Independent Age, this report summarises how and why families avoid talking about challenges they may face in older age and the topics that are most difficult to discuss.

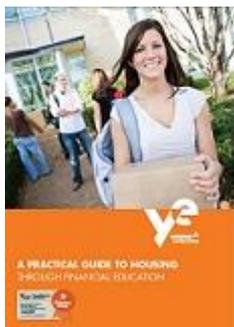
[Go to the Independent Age report](#)

Housing for older people

The House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee launched the [Housing for older people inquiry](#) into whether the housing on offer in England for older people is sufficiently available and suitable for their needs.

[Send a written submission for the inquiry](#)

A Practical Guide to Housing through Financial Education



Designed for use by teachers and other financial education providers to help young people aged 14-19 understand the financial implications of renting or buying a home, and the different choices available to them at different life stages.

The resource explores the key factors involved in making the transition into independent living, and offers practical activities and opportunities that can be used with young people to support teaching and learning.

Go to: [A Practical Guide to Housing through Financial Education](#)

Consultations

Ministry of Justice - [Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme Commissioning Sustainable Services](#): consultation on a competitive tendering approach for the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme which will consolidate the current number of schemes through joining courts allowing for larger and more sustainable contracts for providers. Closing date: 17 March 2017.

NHAS Updates

New Innovative Local Practice: The Change Account is a transactional account with a dedicated sort code, account number and a prepaid Debit Mastercard®.



The Change Account offers many payment features and benefits as well as innovative budgeting tools to make it easier to manage your money. Find out more about this and other [innovative local practice](#) on our website, log in and go to Information / Resources.

Free housing training at your desk

Dates for Q4 webinars (Feb to March) and 2017 Q1 (April to June) are available to view online, [log in to view the calendar](#). Our webinars 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 when you dial in**.

Course evaluation for is completed online - please remember to submit your evaluation to receive your training certificate.



Webchat Facility

Access to housing consultancy via Webchat is a popular way for members to get free advice. Webchat is accessed by going to www.nhas.org.uk and clicking on the 'live chat' button.

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.