

## Hello and welcome...

...to the November edition of the Private Landlords Newsletter. The Private Sector team have put together some useful information and up to date legislation for you to read through as well as some useful links and contact details.



## New Team Member.

Victoria Hall joined the Private Sector Team in August as the new Senior Private Sector Housing Initiatives Officer.



## Working arrangements Update.

The Private Sector Team are continuing to work from home, following Government advice, and only attending the workplace when essential to minimise contact with others. Our services are still available including Accreditation inspections on empty properties and advertising via Northumberland Homefinder. If you need to contact the team please email [privatesectorhousing@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:privatesectorhousing@northumberland.gov.uk) or you can find contact numbers at the end of the newsletter.

## Landlord Input

The Private Sector team have their own Landlord Steering Group who are always looking for new members. The Steering group meetings are attended by officers from the Private Sector Team and a number of experienced landlords who carry out a range of tasks including consulting on changes of policy and any new legislation.

We would also like landlords to provide topics which they would like to see covered in future newsletters. If you would like more information on the steering group or would like to provide a topic for future newsletters please email the team.

## PLAN

The team will soon be re-launching the new and improved accreditation scheme – PLAN.

Private Landlord Accreditation Northumberland.

We hope to re-launch the scheme early in the new year and invite all landlords to join. The aim of the scheme is to support landlords who offer good quality housing in Northumberland. PLAN is an initiative to raise the property and management standards within Northumberland, in order to create a healthy private rented sector. If you would like more information on the PLAN scheme please contact a member of the team.



## Landlord Updates

For new legislation and information for landlords, the Direct Gov website has an A-Z of Owning and Renting a property. Please follow the link below

[Owning and renting a property - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)



## Virtual Landlord Forum

The PST held their first virtual landlord forum on 14<sup>th</sup> October and the feedback from landlords who attended was very positive. We asked landlords to give us ideas on what they would like to see discussed at the forums as well as how often and what time of day they would prefer for future forums.



The next virtual forum will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm. If you would like to register your email address please contact a member of the team.

## Delay on Rental Reform White Paper

The Government have put a delay on the white paper for the Rental Reform bill until 2022. The white paper was expected to be released this Autumn but has been delayed to allow ministers more time to consult with the lettings sector and to also take into account the National Audit Office's (NAO's) review of regulation of the private rented sector.

### Anti-Social behaviour.

A lot of landlords claim to have ASB problems with their own tenants however, some tenants can suffer from ASB from other tenants in the area. If one of your tenants is experiencing ASB problems within their street/area, they can speak to our Community Safety team via the customer services number – 0345 6006400.

### CAB Debt Advice

It is very easy to fall into debt, the hardest part is to know where to go for help. CAB have a dedicated team who work with tenants to give debt advice and to help put plans in place to pay off debt. If your tenant is in need of some advice please ask them to visit the website where they can find information and advice as well as contact numbers to speak to an advisor.

[Help with debt - Citizens Advice](#)

The team would like to wish all of our landlords a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**. We hope you all have a wonderful break over the festive period and we hope to see you all in the new year.



### Contact The Team

The team are currently working from home answering calls via mobile phones and emails. Email [privatesectorhousing@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:privatesectorhousing@northumberland.gov.uk).

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