

Briefing Sessions, September 2010, 9.30 am–12.30 pm

Providers of Services to Vulnerable People

- ❖ **The contractual consequences of losing or gaining Supporting People contracts**
- ❖ **The consequences of increased scrutiny and Judicial Review of RSL decisions for RSLs, their agency partners and their tenants**
- ❖ **The consequences of changes to services to residents (e.g. the withdrawal of resident wardens in sheltered schemes)**
- ❖ **Challenging decisions by local authorities to withdraw contracts to provide services**
- ❖ **Protecting & enhancing service charges**

As part of our commitment to the sector, Gorrara Haden Solicitors and Support Solutions are pleased to be able to offer the above half-day briefing events at the incredibly low price of £20 + VAT.

Gorrara Haden is a specialist housing management law firm and Support Solutions are specialist supported housing and social care consultants.

There are many changes facing providers of services to vulnerable people services across the country.

1. Local Authorities continue to retender services for vulnerable people with a focus on low unit costs and economies of scale.
2. Housing Associations, as Public Bodies, need to change the way in which they make and record decisions if they do not want to risk their strategic plans being derailed by successful



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court challenges following the Weaver vs. London & Quadrant case and the Barnet & Portsmouth sheltered housing warden cases.

3. Changes to services to tenants and service charges, whether as a result of Supporting People decisions or otherwise, have to be legally enforceable or there is a risk losing thousands of pounds
4. Furthermore many committed organisations have not been successful in their recent tender bids for Supporting People. When the upset and shock passes there will need to be a cool strategic look at:
 - whether to accept the decision or not
 - what the alternatives are
 - how the loss of Supporting People funding for service users effects the overall viability of organisations and what changes need to be made as a result of losing Supporting People
 - whether residents' HB will be affected
 - what happens to organisations if they are no longer providing accommodation in support of services but remain as landlords
 - what rights and responsibilities do they retain and how they are paid for
5. Providers who have increased their Supporting People contracts also need to consider:
 - what rights of access they have to provide the services in someone else's building
 - what effect the change of service provider may have on the personal contribution tenants have to make
 - what agreements they have with residents for the protection of their income
 - who pays for and is responsible for communal services and areas which are not property related e.g. communal lounge, computer room etc



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- what their position is in the event of disputes with old providers or new landlords

Thursday 9th September [Leeds St Georges Centre](#)

Tuesday 21st September [Bristol The Vassall Centre Trust](#)

Thursday 30th September [London Friends House](#)

At only £20 + VAT these sessions are likely to be very popular and is therefore limited to one person per organisation and this will be on a 'first come/first served' basis.

To Book please download a booking form [here](#) & fax it to 0121 707 4449 or email it to Emily Wightman: emily@supportsolutions.co.uk or call her on 0121 707 7766/8881

Gorrara Haden: www.housinglaw.uk.com

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