continue to be available or if not, accommodation must be provided once the homelessness occurs.

- **Priority need and unintentionally homeless?** = full duty applied. If applicant refuses an offer of suitable accommodation, the council has discharged its duty and is not bound to provide an alternative.

**Cooperation with social services:**
- Where an applicant with children is considered intentionally homeless, the housing authority must request the applicant’s consent to refer case to social services.
- Where housing receives applications from 16-17 year olds, cooperation with social services should enable joint assessment. Section 17 of Children Act (1989): duty to provide for children in need.

**Anti-social behaviour and housing:**
- Landlord and Tenant Act (1985) sets out scheme for obligations to keep properties in good repair.
- Protection from Eviction Act (1977) provides legal protection against illegal eviction.
- Where tenant is affected by anti-social behaviour, there are a number of ways in which this may be dealt with:
  - Social housing tenancy agreements must have clear clauses which prohibit any anti-social behaviour.
  - Use Anti-Social Behaviour Act (2003) when appropriate, apply for injunctions, including power to exclude a person from designated area.

**Welfare:**
- Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has overall responsibility for social security, policy surrounding benefits and its administration.
- Responsibilities for housing benefit and council tax benefit remains with the local authority.
- JobCentre Plus is part of the DWP. Also includes Pension service, Disability and Carers service, Child Support agency and Child Maintenance service.

Social workers must have an understanding of benefits available to service users, to provide service users with guidance and advice on benefits.
- Application process can be daunting for some service users.

Welfare Reform Act (2012) bought in Universal Credit legislation removing disincentives to work and simplifying the complex process.

**Different welfare benefits:**

- **Attendance Allowance:** tax free benefit for over 65’s who are physically or mentally disabled and need help with personal care.
- **Carer’s Allowance:** taxable benefit payable to carers.
- **Child Benefit:** payable for all children up to 16 (19 if in education)