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Peterborough City Council is offering free one day workshops for landlords to promote best practice in the private rented sector.

Starting on March 22, the workshops are being funded from a sum of £112,500 secured by the council in January from the Department of Communities and Local Government. The funding forms part of a £5million national project to drive more responsible behaviour from landlords.

Three free workshops are currently planned. They will cover topics including housing standards and the Housing Health and Safety Rating System; tenancy management; Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs); landlord licensing; safety in rented properties, and the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants.

Councillor Peter Hiller, cabinet member for growth, planning, housing and economic development, said:

"We know that the majority of landlords in Peterborough do a good job in looking after their tenants. But some landlords are unaware that they are in breach of important standards in accommodation - while others are knowingly putting people's health and safety at risk.

"These workshops will help property owners understand what's expected of them, and could make a big difference to people renting their homes in Peterborough. We hope to train more than 100 landlords as part of the free programme.

"The funding also enables officers to visit homes in areas that are known to have high numbers of rental properties. They will talk to tenants and take steps to address any valid concerns.

"Tackling rogue landlords is a major priority for the council."

Workshop dates are as follows:

- > Tuesday 22 March - The Fleet, Fletton, PE2 8DL
- > Thursday 21 April - Gladstone Park, 896 Bourges Boulevard, PE1 2AN
- > Thursday 28 April - Peterborough United Football Club, PE2 8AL

Each event runs from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To book, landlords should call 01733 452225.