

## Join your local tenants & residents group

### Residents asked to trust their instincts

The role we all have to play  
in protecting vulnerable adults

### Building care-friendly communities together

### Protect the environment with paint recycling tips

### Keeping cool this summer



*Register now for 2026/27  
garden waste permits*

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/housing](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/housing)



**ELTRP**  
✓ LIKE THIS

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*Coming*  
**SOON**

Look out for our upcoming tenants' survey — your opportunity to have your say on the development of our new rent model and shape how rents are charged. Further consultation events will be held after summer.

**have your say**



Homefront can be provided in Braille, large print, audiotape, or your own language. For assistance please call **01620 827 827**. British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us via [\*\*www.contactscotland-bsl.org\*\*](http://www.contactscotland-bsl.org).

*Housing News*

# Rent Consultation

## 2026-27

have your say



Thanks to everyone who responded to our rent consultation last year.

**Your views are important as they help us understand how satisfied you are with our housing service and to make sure we're spending your rent money on the things that matter to you most.**

The results of the consultation showed that **66%** of those who responded agreed with the plans to increase rents by 7%.

The results also showed that the services most important to you are **repairs and door and window replacements** followed by modernisation, including **energy efficiency measures** and **investing in new council homes**.

At a meeting of East Lothian Council in February, councillors approved the 7% rent increase for council tenants for 2026/27.

If you need help with your rent payments, please email or call our Rent Advice Team: **[rentadvice@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:rentadvice@eastlothian.gov.uk)** or **01620 827 528**

**It's always worth checking you're claiming all the financial support you are entitled to.**

For free, impartial, confidential financial help, please contact our Financial Inclusion Team at **[financialinclusion@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:financialinclusion@eastlothian.gov.uk)** or on **01620 827 827**.



# Tenant Satisfaction Survey

## Positive feedback...

We were really pleased to see such positive feedback in the results of our most recent Tenant Satisfaction Survey, which we run every three years.

Face-to-face interviews are carried out for us by an independent organisation, *Knowledge Partnership*.

The feedback from this survey will be used to develop an **Action Plan** to look at any areas of improvement identified by you. There will be more information about this in the next Homefront.

In the meantime, here are some of the main results:

The survey ran from August to October 2025 and more than 1,700 of you took part.

**Thank you!**

Overall  
satisfaction level  
**84%**

### Taking care of properties and estates

Housing quality



Repair Services



Neighbourhood Management



### Communication and value

Keeping tenants informed



Tenant engagement



Rent value for money





# Affordable Housing

## New Homes Completed



Along with our Housing Association partners we completed **257** new homes within 2025/26.

This includes **78** council properties for social rent (includes 7 Open Market Acquisitions, 13 Core and Cluster properties for Health and Social Care); **30** Housing Association properties for social rent; mixed tenures, including 28 Low-Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) and 121 Mid-Market homes.

### Council Rental Homes

28 at Fa'side Lodge, Tranent  
31 at Longniddry Village  
12 at Hallhill North, Dunbar

### Mid-Market Rental Homes\*

11 at Longniddry Village by Touchstone  
12 at Saltcoats, Gullane by Touchstone  
61 at Wallyford by Lowther Homes  
16 at Wallace Park, Wallyford  
by Lowther Homes  
21 at Wallyford by Touchstone

### Low-Cost Ownership Homes\*\*

28 for first-time buyers at Burghgate, Musselburgh  
30 for social rent at Saltcoats, Gullane by Castle Rock Edinvar

**257 new homes**



### \*Mid-Market Rent

Mid-Market Rent has been developed for households who might struggle to afford private sector renting and are unable to afford a mortgage. There are a number of mid-market housing landlords in East Lothian. Each landlord has their own criteria for applicants, but generally applicants should have a connection to the local area and be in work with an income of between £20,000 and £46,000 depending on the property size and type.



Properties also advertised at: [www.rightmove.co.uk](http://www.rightmove.co.uk) [www.fbrseed.com](http://www.fbrseed.com) [littlejohns.ltd.uk](http://littlejohns.ltd.uk)

Landlord	Location	Contact
Touchstone	Dunbar, Haddington, North Berwick, Wallyford	0131 657 5139 <a href="mailto:rentingscotland@touchstoneresi.co.uk">rentingscotland@touchstoneresi.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.touchstoneresi.co.uk">www.touchstoneresi.co.uk</a>
Lowther Homes	North Berwick, Longniddry, Prestonpans, Aberlady, Gullane, Wallyford	0800 561 6666 <a href="mailto:info@lowtherhomes.com">info@lowtherhomes.com</a> <a href="http://www.Lowtherhomes.com">www.Lowtherhomes.com</a>
LAR Housing Trust	Macmerry, Old Craighall, Cockenzie, Musselburgh, Prestonpans, Dunbar	0300 107 0203 <a href="mailto:lettings@larhousingtrust.co.uk">lettings@larhousingtrust.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.larhousingtrust.co.uk">www.larhousingtrust.co.uk</a>
East Lothian Mid-Market Homes LLP	Dunbar, Haddington, North Berwick, Wallyford	<a href="mailto:elmidmarkethomes@eastlothian.gov.uk">elmidmarkethomes@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>

## **\*\*Affordable Home Ownership**

In East Lothian there are a number of schemes aimed at helping those on low incomes who want to own their own home but cannot afford to pay the full price. **Shared Equity** enables you to purchase a share in a property built by a Housing Association.

There are currently no new properties under this scheme however there are resale properties which are usually advertised in the property websites Rightmove, ESPC and Zoopla.

**Shared Ownership** enables you to buy a stake in a property owned by a Housing Association. An occupancy payment would be paid for the part of the property you do not own. You will have the opportunity to purchase further stakes in the property where you can eventually own it outright. Shared Ownership properties will be advertised by the Housing Association on property portals such as ESPC, Rightmove and Zoopla.



## **LIFT**

### **Low Cost Initiative for First Time Buyers**

This is a Shared Equity scheme for priority access groups which allows purchasers to buy a new build home through the council or a Housing Association (New Supply Shared Equity - NSSE) or to purchase a property within a certain price threshold on the open market (Open Market Shared Equity – OMSE).

Applications can be made online at:

[www.mygov.scot/  
open-market-shared-equity-scheme](http://www.mygov.scot/open-market-shared-equity-scheme)

## **LCHO**

### **Low-Cost Home Ownership**

This is a scheme through East Lothian where new build properties are sold at a percentage discount and the council will hold a Standard Security against the discounted proportion. Properties are in Haddington, Wallyford, North Berwick and Dunbar. This scheme is for first time buyers or those who have had a change in circumstances and cannot afford a property on the open market. Available properties will be advertised on property portals such as Rightmove, Zoopla and ESPC and the council's website and social media pages.



For more info on your housing options visit [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/housing](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/housing)

# Modernisation Programme

## Major Investment in Your Homes

This year, the council will invest just under **£17 million** to upgrade and enhance our existing homes.

### What's planned for 2026/27?

We aim to install around:

- **300 new kitchens**
- **220 new standard bathrooms**
- **150 upgraded adapted bathrooms**
- **250 new high efficiency heating systems**

### Windows and doors: Accelerated Replacement Programme

We know issues around windows and doors continue to affect some tenants. To tackle this, over **£3 million** will be invested to speed up replacements.

If you're experiencing problems with your windows or doors, please report them to the council's **Repairs Helpline on 01875 824 311**

*Your feedback helps us plan future works more effectively.*



To find out if your property is on a planned programme for replacement windows and doors, email **housingmodernisation@eastlothian.gov.uk**





### External Fabric Projects

A number of roofing and rendering projects will take place throughout the year. We really appreciate your patience and cooperation during these essential improvements.

## Keeping Standards High: 2,000 Surveys Planned

Our qualified surveyors will carry out around 2,000 property surveys, to help:

- Ensure homes meet **National Housing Quality Standards**
- Keep our records up to date on key components like kitchens, bathrooms, roofs, heating, windows and doors
- Assess energy-efficiency performance and inform associated improvement measures

Where upgrades are identified, these will be added to future planned programmes and our technical teams will contact tenants directly to discuss options.



## Tenant & Resident News

# ELTRP update



east lothian tenants and residents panel

**The past couple of months have marked a significant period of change, progress and reflection for the East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel (ELTRP). As we continue to evolve, our focus remains firmly on strengthening the voice of tenants and ensuring meaningful engagement across all communities in East Lothian.**

Since our last update, we hosted a highly successful Annual General Meeting (AGM) held as part of our Christmas celebrations.

**We are also pleased to confirm Susan Forgie has been formally elected Chair of ELTRP.**



Susan brings a wealth of experience, commitment and enthusiasm to the role and her leadership will be instrumental as we move forward into our next phase. Under her guidance, the panel will continue to prioritise strong tenant representation, transparency and collaboration with key partners.



Following the AGM, we were pleased to round off the year with a well-attended and enjoyable Christmas Party, held at the Maitlandfield House Hotel in Haddington. The event offered a relaxed and welcoming environment for tenants and partners to connect, celebrate achievements and strengthen community relationships. Events like this play an important role in building a sense of community and encouraging wider involvement in the work of the panel.

**As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement with ELTRP.**





A key area of focus for ELTRP at present is a comprehensive review of our activities. This includes a detailed examination of our constitution, as well as all policies and procedures, to ensure they remain fit for purpose and aligned with current best practice. Alongside this, we are undertaking an exciting brand refresh, which will modernise how we present ourselves and help create a clearer, more consistent identity.

Supporting this work, a new communication and engagement strategy has been developed. This strategy is designed to improve how we connect with tenants, ensuring information is accessible, timely, and relevant. It also aims to widen participation by making it easier for tenants to engage with ELTRP through meetings, events and digital platforms such as social media.



Engaging with tenants on key issues continues to be at the heart of our work. ELTRP will continue to actively gather and represent tenants' views on important matters, including the council's annual rent level consultation. We are committed to ensuring that tenants' voices are clearly heard and effectively represented in all discussions.

Visit us online at [www.eltrp.co.uk](http://www.eltrp.co.uk)



Meanwhile, the ELTRP Executive Committee continues to play an active role in attending meetings with the council and other partners. These discussions are vital in influencing decision-making and ensuring that tenant perspectives are considered at every level. The Committee is also exploring ways to further strengthen its impact, looking at how we can be even more effective, inclusive, and responsive in our approach.

As we move forward, ELTRP remains dedicated to continuous improvement and to building strong, positive relationships with tenants and partners alike. We would like to thank everyone who has supported our work over the past year and contributed to our ongoing development.

*In Your Neighbourhood*

# Tenant & Resident Associations

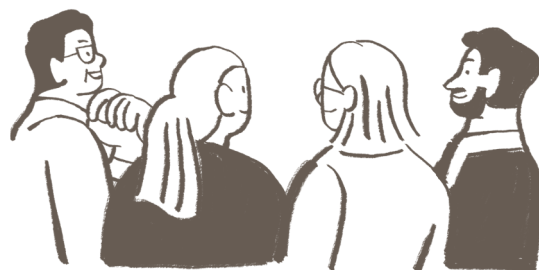
GET INVOLVED...  
EVERYONE WELCOME!

## DID YOU KNOW?

We have 24 **Tenants and Residents Associations** (TRAs) across East Lothian with new groups developing all the time.

All members are volunteers working hard to promote community participation.

They are always keen for more members to join. Please have a look at our website or contact us to find out if there is a TRA in your area. If there isn't, ELTRP can help you start one up. You can contact us to find out more and have a chat with Sue, our Outreach Officer.



**YOUR COMMUNITY HAS A LOUDER VOICE  
WHEN YOU COME TOGETHER AS A GROUP!**

A successful TRA relies on members of the community working together to identify concerns and issues and suggest improvements, working with the relevant people to find a solution. The groups have been involved in many things over the years including developing and improving local playparks, improving parking, creating green areas, addressing antisocial behaviour and much more.





## LOCAL TENANT & RESIDENT GROUP SPOTLIGHT

Here's a brief update from a couple of groups:

### HARKNESS CRESCENT (TRANENT)

Harkness Crescent TRA is an active, passionate and vibrant group addressing the issues raised by the local community.

They recently took delivery of a shed to store their garden equipment, funded by the **Local Housing Partnership** (LHP) which will be a huge asset to continued garden development.

Jimmy has been busy working in the garden tidying the borders and working on the vegetable beds. Alexi and Natalia have been putting a lot of work in too – a huge thanks to all of them from their neighbours!



They were also pleased to hear at their last meeting that roof repairs will be carried out this financial year.

For more information on Harkness TRA email Viv: [vtowsey@gmail.com](mailto:vtowsey@gmail.com)

### HADDINGTON WEST (HWTRA)

HWTRA is approaching its first anniversary and has around 100 members already.

As it covers mainly new developments, this TRA has been dealing with issues around factoring and roads that have not yet been adopted by the council. However, they are now managing to start developing more fun community activities and projects. They would really like to hear from more council tenants about any issues affecting them – and would be delighted to welcome more new members, including committee members.

For more HWTRA information email Alison: [haddingtonwesttra@gmail.com](mailto:haddingtonwesttra@gmail.com)

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For information about any of the groups contact Sue Cairns, Outreach Officer:

[scairns@tis.org.uk](mailto:scairns@tis.org.uk) or

Patsy King, Development Officer:

[pking@tis.org.uk](mailto:pking@tis.org.uk) or ELTRP's

general enquiries mailbox

[info@eltrp.net](mailto:info@eltrp.net)

You can also visit: [www.eltrp.co.uk](http://www.eltrp.co.uk) and find ELTRP on Facebook or X



**Harkness Crescent**  
Tenants & Residents Association



# Are you a carer?

You might be, or might know someone who is, a mum, son, sister, grandchild or friend first – but if you look after someone who couldn't cope without you because of older age and frailty, illness, disability, mental health problems or addiction, you could also be known as an unpaid carer.

The value of what carers do for the people they look after for should be better recognised by all of us but carers also need to be supported to look after themselves. Caring can have a big impact on the life of the carer, their finances, their chances to get into or keep up education or work and their relationship with the person they care for and others. Carers often put their own wellbeing after that of the person they care for, meaning their own physical or mental health can suffer.

## Carer-friendly communities

Small changes in the places which carers live, work, study or spend time can make a big difference to their daily lives.

No matter how big or small our community is, or how we connect, there are lots of practical and meaningful steps we can take to be more supportive of carers, like the examples described below:

- **Business & Services** – making everyday tasks easier for carers by offering flexible or priority access
- **Community** – sports clubs, faith groups or community organisations creating opportunities for carers to feel connected
- **Education** – schools, colleges or universities identifying young and young adult carers and putting support in place to help them reach their potential
- **Health** – GP practices, pharmacies or health services raising awareness amongst their staff to help identify and connect carers to support
- **Social Care** – taking a whole-family approach to ensure everyone gets the help they need
- **Work** – offering flexible working to support employees to juggle paid work and caring

Support is available locally to anyone looking after a partner, friend, child or family member that couldn't manage without what they do. You don't need to identify with the term carer.

It's just about recognising that you have extra responsibilities because of what you do for someone else. Most of us will be carers at some point in our lives.

Your local carers centre is **Carers of East Lothian** (COEL). COEL can provide anything from a bit of practical advice around benefits and money, managing paperwork and making applications for support, through to much more support for carers who are struggling to cope with the physical and emotional demands of caring for someone on a full-time basis. They aim to help all adults with a caring role in East Lothian to access information and services which help them prioritise their own wellbeing, and to speak on behalf of carers to improve related services.

You can contact COEL with any questions or just to chat with someone who understands what caring for someone else is like. They offer one-to-one support but also have lots of groups where people can meet others who also care for loved ones and might be able to offer each other information, advice and support.

Give them a call on 0131 665 0135 or visit [www.coel.org.uk](http://www.coel.org.uk)

*Professional support is important but we can all help make carers' lives better.*

*We all have the power to build carer-friendly communities.*

## Young Carer?

We also have a service for young carers looking after a parent, grandparent, sibling or someone else close to them.

Find out more at:  
[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/young-carers](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/young-carers)

**East Lothian**  
Health & Social Care  
Partnership




# Adult Support & Protection

Are you worried that an adult could be at risk of harm?

**Everyone in East Lothian is being asked to be alert to vulnerable adults in their communities who may be at risk of harm.**

Harm can take many forms including financial, physical abuse, neglect, self-neglect, self-harm, emotional abuse and gender-based violence.

Risk of being harmed can be greater due to factors such as ill health, trauma and physical or mental health conditions. Harm can happen anywhere, however it commonly takes place in someone's own home, and more often is caused by the people closest to them. Sometimes an adult may not be aware that they are being harmed or may find it difficult to speak up.



If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts.

During the Covid-19 lockdowns **community spirit** flourished...

with neighbours and family members **keeping an eye out for one another, checking in and offering support** when they could. We're encouraging local communities to keep that spirit alive. You could help identify early concerns about your friends, family and neighbours.

If something doesn't feel right, *trust your instincts*.







We know it is hard to be the person who takes that first step, to make the call to raise a concern. Often, we assume someone else has probably done something already, especially if there are already some services involved. But your call could provide the missing piece of the jigsaw that shows someone needs support and protection.

If you are worried that someone is at risk of harm or neglect from others, or may be harming or neglecting themselves, you can contact East Lothian's Adult Social Work Services on 01875 824 309.

If you want to learn more about Adult Support and Protection go to the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee website [www.emppc.co.uk](http://www.emppc.co.uk) and click on the Public Protection page.

**If you believe the person is in immediate danger contact the Police on 101 or call 999.**



East Lothian and Midlothian  
Public Protection Committee

# Help with your finances



The increasing cost of living is affecting us all. We've just updated our guide to help you access all sorts of financial support.

Download your copy today at:  
[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

Unfortunately many people aren't claiming all the benefits or other support that they are entitled to. This guide is worth a read so you can check everything you might be able to claim – and then go direct to the right place to apply or to get more help.

It covers:

- **Managing your money and dealing with debt**
- **Crisis Fund and emergency help**
- **Employment-related support including Jobseekers' Allowance and Statutory Sick Pay**
- **Support for young people and families**
- **Carer and disability support**
- **Pension age support**
- **Managing energy bills and heating your home**
- **Health-related support**
- **Who to contact for more help**



Do make some time to read through our full guide; either online, or you can ask for a copy at your local council office.



## Council Tax eBilling

Switch today to securely manage and view your bill on your smartphone, tablet or PC at any time.

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/council-tax)

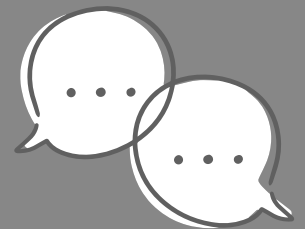
## Help if you've been affected by the Benefit Cap

The Benefit Cap is a limit on the total amount of benefit you can get. It applies to most people aged 16 or over who have not reached State Pension age. If you are subject to the Benefit Cap in your Universal Credit assessment, you can claim a Discretionary Housing Payment for the reduction in your Universal Credit award. This will not affect the money you already receive from Universal Credit.

Find out more from our Financial Support Team

T: 01620 827730 [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/financial-support](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/financial-support)

E: [financialsupport@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:financialsupport@eastlothian.gov.uk)



## Support with paying your rent

Council rent is charged fortnightly; to avoid falling into arrears please make sure your payments are made on time.

Visit [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/rent](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/rent) for when and how to pay, including setting up a **Direct Debit** - the simple and secure way to manage regular outgoings and to avoid payments being forgotten. You can also pay by calling **01620 827528** or at a Post Office or PayPoint outlet (just get in touch and we'll send you a payment card for this).

## Further advice and support



We work closely with other council teams who can provide a range of advice and support, including housing advice and financial support.

We can also refer you to one of our local trusted advice partners if you need help, including Citizens Advice Bureau in Haddington or Musselburgh. They are a local, independent charity providing confidential advice and information on a variety of topics, such as; benefits, debt and money, housing, work, family matters.

**CAB Haddington** T: 01620 824471 [www.haddingtoncab.org.uk](http://www.haddingtoncab.org.uk)

**CAB Musselburgh** T: 0131 653 2748 [www.musselburghcab.org.uk](http://www.musselburghcab.org.uk)

**ELC Rent Advice Team** T: 01620 827528 [rentadvice@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:rentadvice@eastlothian.gov.uk)



# Your waste & recycling update

Spring is a great time to refresh your recycling habits and stay up to date with the latest changes to East Lothian's waste services. Here's what's new, what's changed and a practical tip on how to dispose of paint.

## East Lothian's strong recycling performance

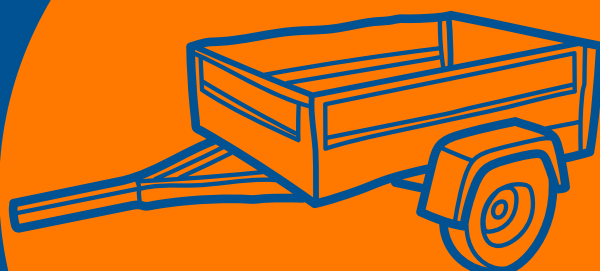
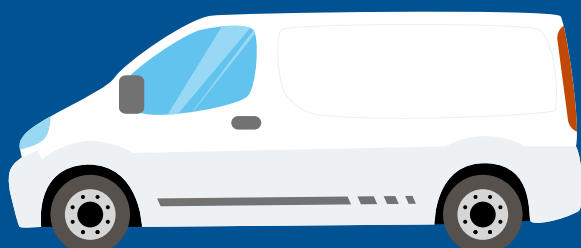
East Lothian continues to perform well in recycling compared to other areas of Scotland. We're one of the top local authorities for household recycling rates – something all residents contribute to by recycling at home.

You can find out all you need to know about waste and recycling at [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/waste-services](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/waste-services) including your collection dates and how to get new or replacement containers.



## What's new?

If you use a van or trailer, you're now required to book access online before visiting our Recycling Centres. This system helps manage traffic flow and ensures everyone can access the centre safely.



## Garden waste (brown bin) permits

You can register for the 2026/27 garden waste collection service from now until 4pm on 6 July.

online at [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/myeastlothian](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/myeastlothian)

Permits cost £40 per year. Collections will run fortnightly between 31 August 2026 and 27 August 2027.

Once you've signed up, you'll get a permit sticker which goes on your brown bin and collection calendar before the service starts.

**REMINDER**



## Disposing of paint safely

To help keep hazardous materials out of the environment, prevent spills, and protect recycling staff - liquid paint is no longer accepted in our Recycling Centres.

Here's what to do instead:

- **Bring your paint pots once they're completely empty, or if the remaining paint has fully dried out.**
- **You can dry leftover liquid paint by adding sand, soil, sawdust, or cat litter.**
- **Once the paint has completely solidified, the pot can then be taken to your local Recycling Centre for disposal.**



Our Recycling Centres accept a wide range of household items\* including electricals, cardboard, batteries, textiles, glass, scrap metal, green waste and more.

Open 7 days a week  
8:30am–5:00pm  
(except key holidays)

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/waste-services](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/waste-services)

*\*Asbestos & car tyres not accepted.*

## Top tips for a greener spring

- Rinse plastic bottles, tins and jars before recycling
- Flatten cardboard to save bin space
- Use the booking system early if you plan to visit the Recycling Centre with a van or trailer
- Dry out leftover paint before disposal

**THANK YOU!**



## You & Your Community

# Information Hub Events



### Bringing advice and support straight to your community

East Lothian Information Hubs are 'One Stop Shop' events where members of the public can engage with multiple organisations face-to-face, gaining information, advice, support and guidance regarding everyday living concerns and enquiries.

The organisations attending cover a wide range of topics and subject areas including benefits and financial advice, children and family support, accessing emergency food, employment support, housing and rent teams, health services, sports and leisure activities, social groups, mental health advice, transport, climate and climate information, as well as support for carers and people with learning and/or physical disabilities.



### East Lothian Information Hubs

Here's what some previous attendees had to say:

*"This has been really helpful and stopped me needing to call up or join a waiting list"*

*"I can't put into words how helpful this has been"*

*"I wish I had this when my mum was unwell as I didn't know where to go for help and we were passed from pillar to post to lots of different organisations and departments and we just didn't know what to do. The [Information Hub] would have been a life-saver"*



# upcoming

# >< events

**Wednesday 24 June**

Fraser Centre, Tranent: 12pm - 2pm

**Friday 24 July**

Port Seton Community Centre 6pm - 8pm

**Wednesday 5 August**

North Berwick Library 10am - 12pm

**Saturday 31 October**

The Ridge, Dunbar 11am - 1pm

**Saturday 5 December**

John Gray Centre, Haddington 12pm - 2pm



Find out more about each of the upcoming events at:  
[www.volunteereastlothian.org.uk/information-hubs](http://www.volunteereastlothian.org.uk/information-hubs)

# Climate change = hotter summers in East Lothian

**With temperatures expected to start regularly topping 26°C during the summer months, exceeding the threshold for overheating in Scottish homes, here are some ways to help beat the heat:**

## **Improve Airflow**

Open windows early in the morning and later in the evening to let cooler air circulate and release trapped heat.

Having multiple doors and windows open at once creates a cross-breeze.



## **Block Out Heat**

Close blinds or curtains during the day to reduce heat entering your home. This keeps indoor temperatures manageable without using extra energy.



## **Turn Off Heat Sources**

Switch off lights, electronics and appliances you're not using. Many devices generate warmth even in standby mode.



## **Use Simple Reflective Solutions**

Light-coloured blinds can help bounce sunlight away and keep rooms cooler.



## **Create Shade**

You can create shade indoors with plants and simple window coverings, which are low-maintenance and decorative.

# Wellbeing Walks



Meet us for a gentle wellbeing walk...



**In partnership with NHS Lothian, a new programme of Ageing Well events is underway – promoting the benefits of walking for better physical and mental health for people over 50 in East Lothian.**

Our gentle wellbeing walks are a fantastic way to lift your mood, get moving and feel more connected to the local community. These short walks are open to all fitness levels, but they're especially ideal for anyone who prefers a slower pace and some friendly company.

**They're also completely free!**

Full list of organised walks and other activities across East Lothian:  
**[www.activeeastlothian.co.uk](http://www.activeeastlothian.co.uk)**  
and search '**ageing well**'

**ageing  
well**



**East Lothian  
Council**

Comhairle Lodainn An Ear

# WE ALL KNOW THAT READING...

- **reduces stress**
- **improves life chances for all ages**
- **gives us a window into other lives**
- **brings us together**

BUT WE'RE NOT DOING AS MUCH OF IT AS WE USED TO.

Joining a library is **free** and there are **no fines** if you need to keep something a little longer. Drop in to your local library and find out **what's changed** since your last visit.



## Summer Reading Challenge

COMING SOON

A challenge all ages can get involved in.  
Find out more online at:



**EastLothianReads**

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/el-reads](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/el-reads)



# Spring cleaning your home or garden?

Spring and early summer is a lovely time of year when many of us are out enjoying time in our gardens.

Here are a few things to remember, and where to get support if you need it...

It's your responsibility to keep your garden neat and tidy but you must not chop down or destroy any bushes, hedges or trees without our permission.



## Bulky household items to dispose of?

If they are too big to fit in a wheeled bin or be transported to a recycling centre, such as mattresses, furniture or large kitchen appliances, book a collection online at:

**[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/waste-services](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/waste-services)**

or call **01875 824 305** or via your local housing office.

**Each household is entitled to one free uplift in each calendar year.** Additional uplifts cost £5 per item.



**If you're having difficulty maintaining any aspect of your tenancy, including your garden, we can provide practical support, including help with personal budgeting and debt, applying for housing benefit or other benefits, or repairs.**

We're always here to help and the earlier you get in touch, the better. You can find more information in our Tenancy Support leaflet at: **[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/tenancysupport](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/tenancysupport)** or contact your CHO.

For financial support and advice check out page 18.



Some other responsibilities you have as a tenant:

- **report repairs** to us on 01875 824 311 and allow us access to your home to carry out the work
- notify your CHO of any **changes to your household** e.g. anyone who has moved in or out of your property.

# Contact us



## PHONE

01620 827 827

## EMAIL

[tenantconsultation@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:tenantconsultation@eastlothian.gov.uk)

## WEBSITE

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/housing](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/housing)

## HOMEFRONT PRODUCED BY

East Lothian Council's Housing  
and Communications Teams

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East Lothian EH41 3HA

WITH THANKS TO



East Lothian Tenants'+  
Residents Panel

[info@eltrp.net](mailto:info@eltrp.net)

0131 665 9304

47 Bridge Street  
Musselburgh EH21 6AA