

East Lothian Partnerships

Key Achievements 2024-25

We will work in partnership to achieve an even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy that enables our people and communities to flourish. In 2024-25 our **key achievements** include:

Adult and youth employment

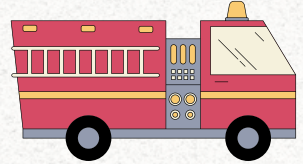
The **adult employment** rate in Scotland (as of March 2025) is 74% and in East Lothian it is higher at 84.4%



24.9% of East Lothian **16-19-year-olds** are in employment compared to Scottish average of 20.7%

Deliberate fires

Cases of Deliberate Fires have **reduced by 48%**.



Missing Persons

The number of missing people has **reduced by 40%**.



Children's Development

Only **6.84%** of children were flagged with developmental or wellbeing concerns at 27-30 months—down from 15.7%.



Affordable homes

During 2024/25 there were a total of **136** affordable housing completions, of these 43 were East Lothian Council. 83 were completed for Registered Social Landlords. A further 10 properties were for mid-market rent.



Living Wage Accreditation

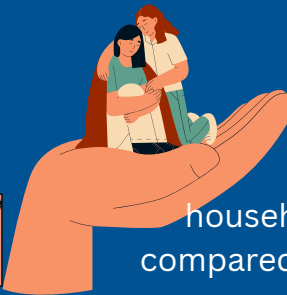
Anchor institutions in East Lothian have signed up to be Real Living Wage employers. 81% of employees in East Lothian earn above the Real Living Wage.



Areas for improvement

Poverty

22.1% of children in East Lothian live in households with less than 60% of median net household income after housing costs, compared to the Scottish average of 23%.



Town Centre vacancies

Town Centre vacancies increased to 12%, more than double the target of 5%.



Community perceptions

Decline in:

- Feeling safe walking alone after dark (from 85% to 72%)
- Trust in neighbours/friends for help (from 91% to 78%)
- Perception of neighbourhood as a good place to live (from 98% to 93%)



Suicide Rates

Death by suicide has increased by 15% since 2014-2018 5 year average. This increased to 32.1 per 100,000 (2020-2024) from 27.8 (2014-2018).

For more information on the East Lothian Partnership and the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036 visit: <https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/community-planning>



Care where it's needed - in the community

The Musselburgh Meeting Centre has made a real difference for people living with dementia and their carers in East Lothian. Thanks to regular sessions and peer support carers shared that they felt more supported and better prepared to manage their caring roles, which made a big impact on their wellbeing too. The project also helped raise awareness about dementia in the wider community encouraging a more inclusive and compassionate approach.

The Centre started in collaboration with Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), Volunteer Centre East Lothian, Connected Communities, Musselburgh Area Partnership – Health & Wellbeing subgroup, · Dementia Friendly East Lothian, Alzheimer Scotland, Local GP Practices and NHS, The Hollies, St Andrews Church and Family Carers and Peer Support Networks.

Working Together to Keep East Lothian Safe and Well

The East Lothian Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating Group (ELTAG) meets every week, led by Police Scotland, to bring together local partners and share updates on individuals, incidents, fires, and anti-social behaviour. By teaming up, we can tackle issues early and make sure the right support is in place—using resources where they're needed most. An example is multi agency approach to supporting a resident who had a fire in their house, with noted mental health, substance abuse and ASB issues.

Partners include Police Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue, MELD, NHS Lothian, and a range of East Lothian Council teams—like Community Protection, Housing, Connected Communities, Licensing, Countryside Rangers, and Sports.



Increasing financial resilience

A client reached out after receiving a letter demanding over £72,000 for a mortgage shortfall from a property repossessed more than 11 years ago. They hadn't previously heard anything about this debt, despite living at the same address for 10 years. East Lothian Advice Consortium (ELAC) advised the client to send a letter stating the debt was likely prescription barred (too old to be enforced). The mortgage company continued to pursue the debt, so the client submitted a complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS). Following a review of new evidence showing the company had sent letters to outdated or incorrect addresses, the FOS supported the client that the mortgage company should write off the £72,433.90 debt.

ELAC is a collaboration between Musselburgh and Haddington Citizens Advice Bureau, East Lothian Council Financial Inclusion and Housing Teams.

Over the last eight years of the 2017-2027 Local Outcome Improvement Plan, progress on the 33 indicators is as follows;

Key	↑	Met/better than target	–	Improvement but not met target	↓	Getting worse/ below target
	13		6		8	
	Not measured		4	Data no longer produced	2	