

# Health & Housing Assessment

**Guidance  
notes**



# This leaflet tells you how to apply for Health & Housing priority

If you need to move because your home is no longer suitable for you or a member of your family because of a health condition or disability, you can apply for health & housing priority points.

Please note you won't get priority points just because you have a health condition, however severe. You can only apply for priority points if your home is having a detrimental impact on your health condition or disability, for example, you are unable to safely access all areas of your home.

You must also consider aids and adaptations to your home before an award can be made. For example, you can apply for priority if you have mobility problems; such as difficulty with stairs and it is evidenced that the stairs cannot be adapted to meet your needs; or you have difficulty with bathing and it is evidenced your bathroom cannot be adapted to meet your needs.

## What is not covered by the Health & Housing process

- Neighbour disputes, public order issues or harassment
- Pregnancy related issues or conditions that are temporary such as stress, depression (including stress & anxiety) unless there is specialist involvement i.e. community psychiatric nurse
- Alcoholism/substance misuse (unless treatment is jeopardized)
- Any issue that is already covered by other Council policy such as overcrowding or under occupancy
- Asthma—unless there is an impact on mobility. Heating types within a property will not be considered.

## How to apply

You must discuss the health & housing process with your Community Housing Officer before you apply. They will provide you with an application form and useful information and guidance about the application process.

Your Community Housing Officer will also advise you of what supporting evidence you need to supply from any relevant professional involved in your care e.g. health visitor, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, district nurse, nurse specialist, community psychiatric nurse, community care worker or hospital consultant.

You should not contact your G.P. for supporting evidence as the information they provide will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to your mobility or function for the Health & Housing Panel. If you have no health care professional involvement, you can request a referral for an assessment (T: 01875 824309) if you are having difficulty with access, bathing, internal stairs, transfers (bed, chair, toilet), difficulty managing activities of daily living (personal care and meals).

An assessment does not automatically result in a recommendation for re-housing and it may be that aids or adaptations are recommended to make your house suitable for your needs. This assessment will be shared with your Community Housing Officer in order to progress your Health & Housing assessment.

### Health & Housing priority points table

Category	Points
<b>A</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>6</b>
Applicants with existing priority points will be considered for house type only	

## What happens next

Once your application is complete and you have provided the appropriate supporting evidence, it will be sent to the Health & Housing Panel for a decision. The panel is made up of staff from both the Integrated Health & Social Care Partnership and Community Housing Services. The Panel does not assess your medical condition but how your current home impacts on your mobility/ function.

You will be informed of the outcome of your application in writing. We will advise you if you have been given priority points and notification of the appropriate house type relevant to your health condition. Please note this may restrict your choice of house types, for example, double storey property, unless it meets your health needs. Your Community Housing Officer will be able to help you if you require further information.

If you are unhappy with the Health & Housing Panel's decision, you can appeal against it by completing the appeals form attached to your decision letter and returning it to us within 21 days.

## Help from HILDA

HILDA (Health Independent Living Daily Activities) is a website that provides its users with information they can trust on equipment that they can buy or borrow to help them maintain and improve their mobility. It offers an easy-to-follow online self-assessment to help pinpoint what kind of support would be useful and puts people in touch with activities, exercise and advice that will help keep them moving and enjoying life.

For more information about HILDA, please visit our webpage [www.helpfromhilda.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.helpfromhilda.eastlothian.gov.uk)

## Data Protection

East Lothian Council uses the personal data you provide for purposes associated with the delivery of our services.

For more information see [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/communityhousingpn](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/communityhousingpn)

Personal data will be retained in line with East Lothian Council retention policies.

Data Protection Officer,  
East Lothian Council,  
John Muir House,  
Haddington, EH41 3HA  
Email: [dpo@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:dpo@eastlothian.gov.uk)

To make a comment, suggestion or complaint about a council service, visit our website at [www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk)

## Get in Touch



### AREA OFFICES

Call **01620 827 827**, email us or visit your nearest housing office.

<b>MUSSELBURGH</b>	The Brunton, Ladywell Way musselburgharea@eastlothian.gov.uk
<b>PRESTONPANS</b>	Aldhammer House, High Street prestonpansarea@eastlothian.gov.uk
<b>TRANENT</b>	George Johnston Centre, Sanderson's Wynd tranentarea@eastlothian.gov.uk
<b>HADDINGTON</b>	John Muir House, Brewery Park haddeast@eastlothian.gov.uk
<b>NORTH BERWICK</b>	Library & Customer Services, School Road housingnorthberwick@eastlothian.gov.uk
<b>DUNBAR</b>	Bleachingfield Centre, Countess Crescent housingdunbar@eastlothian.gov.uk

To make a comment, suggestion or complaint about a council service, visit our website at **[www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk)**



Versions of this leaflet can be supplied in Braille, large print, audiotape or in your own language. Please phone customer services if you require assistance on 01620 827 199