

# Meeting the housing needs of 16-30 year olds in East Lothian

## Overview

This survey is one in a series of engagement and consultation surveys to help inform the forthcoming Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2023-2028.

The LHS will address how, over a 5 year time-frame, East Lothian Council and its partners plan to address the challenges and opportunities for housing and housing related services across all tenures. Listening to the individuals and communities across East Lothian is critical for understanding what issues matter most and how best to move forward.

We are aware that where you live, the communities you are part of and your personal circumstances, such as health and age, can influence your experience of housing and housing related services. Therefore, the Housing Strategy Team are focusing on a wide range of topics within our engagement series.

This survey is concerned with the housing needs and priorities of young people aged 16-30.

To stay updated on upcoming engagement opportunities and to find out more about our work, visit our website at [Housing | East Lothian Council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210550/housing) <<https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210550/housing>> or contact us via email at [LHS@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:LHS@eastlothian.gov.uk).

## Why your views matter

Young people face particular challenges when they want to move away from the family home, including – affordability, lack of choice, and access to support.

The Housing Strategy Team would like to hear about your needs, experiences and aspirations of living in East Lothian.

Hearing about your housing challenges is vital to us. Thank you for taking part.

## About you

None of the questions in this survey are mandatory to be answered. You can skip questions and progress through the survey regardless. Please make sure to submit your answer before closing the browser.

We would like to hear about your background. Your background influences your particular housing situation. Select 'I'd prefer not to say' if you don't wish to share certain information with us.

### 1 How old are you?

*Please select only one item*

- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-30
- I'd prefer not to say

### 2 I am...

*Please select only one item*

- In school –full time
- In college/university
- In training/apprenticeship
- Working – full time
- Working – part time
- Studying and working at the same time
- I am not working nor studying
- I am unemployed
- I would like to specify:

Specify if needed:

### 3 Where do you live in East Lothian?

Please don't give us your full address just use your village, town or area you live in.

Please give us your post code

### 4 Gender – Which of the following best describes you?

*Please select only one item*

- Boy/man
- Girl/woman
- Non-binary
- I'd prefer not to say
- I'd prefer to self-describe:

Please self-describe:

### 5 Ethnicity – Which of the following best describes you?

*Please select only one item*

- White
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- Asian
- Black
- I'd prefer not to say
- I'd prefer to self-describe:

Please self-describe:

I am working

### 6 My work contract is

*Please select only one item*

- Zero hours
- Permanent contract
- Temporary contract
- I don't know
- I'd prefer not to say
- Other:

Please specify:

I am at university or college

## 7 Are you living at home?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

## 8 If yes – How true is the follow statement: 'I am living at home to reduce my cost of living.'

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

## About you

### 9 Do you identify as LGBTQIA+?

LGBTQIA+ commonly stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), intersex, and asexual (or allies)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

## LGBTQIA+

### 10 Have you ever had to leave your accommodation because of coming out to your household?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

### 11 Have you ever been homeless because of coming out?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

**12** I am worried that I may become homeless based on my identity in the future.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

You can call the Homelessness Team 01620827536 to ask for help.

**13** I feel comfortable identifying as LGBTQIA+ when accessing physical health services.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**14** I feel comfortable identifying as LGBTQIA+ when accessing mental health services.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**15** I feel comfortable identifying as LGBTQIA+ when accessing housing services.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**16** My identify has had a negative impact on the quality of service I received from Housing Services.

Please select only one item

- I have never accessed the housing service before
- I have never identified as LGBTQIA+ for housing services
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**17** If you would like to add any comments on how your LGBTQIA+ identify has influenced your housing situation, experience and needs you can do so here

Please expand here

## Household composition

**18** What tenure do you live in?

**Explanations on tenure**

Social housing - Social housing in Scotland is housing owned and managed by public authorities (mainly councils) and housing associations (registered social landlords or RSLs). In the case of East Lothian, they are managed by East Lothian Council or Housing Associations like ELHA or Castle Rock.

Private rented housing - Your household pays rent to a landlord or a property agency.

Mid-market rented housing - Discounted private rent provided by a landlord often used by people who do not qualify for social rented housing

Bought/owned housing - Your household has purchased a property often through a bank mortgage and owns the property themselves.

Student accommodation - A room or studio provided by a university or college

Please select only one item

- Social housing from East Lothian Council
- Social rent from a Housing Association
- Private rented housing
- Mid-market rented housing
- Bought/owned housing
- I live in student accommodation
- Temporary accommodation
- I don't know
- Other:

Please specify:

## 19 Who makes up your household?

Please select only one item

- I live by myself
- I live with my partner
- I live with one parent/care taker
- I live with two parents/care takers
- I live with friends/flatmates
- I am a single parent
- I am parenting with my partner
- I prefer not to say
- I would like to specify:

Please specify:

## 20 Do you share a bedroom with someone?

Please select only one item

- Yes with my sibling
- Yes with my partner
- No I don't share
- I don't have a bedroom
- I'd prefer not to say
- I would like to specify:

Please specify:

## 21 I am happy with my current housing situation.

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**22** What would you like to change about your current housing situation?  
(Multiple selection possible)

*Please select all that apply*

- Change location
- Live in a bigger place
- Live in a smaller place
- Live somewhere cheaper
- Live with other people
- Live by myself
- Live in a house
- Live in a flat
- Have a garden
- Be able to access all rooms
- Make it more fuel efficient
- Carry out some repairs
- Redecorate
- Nothing
- Something else

Please specify:

## Living with Parents

**23** Do you contribute money towards living with your parents?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

**24** I think my contribution is affordable

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- I'd prefer not to say
- Not applicable

## Financial Situation

### Definition of household

A household consists of one or several persons who live in the same dwelling. It may also consist of one person, a single family or another group of people.

**25** I worry about our households financial situation.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- I don't know

**26** My household struggles to pay for rent/mortgage

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**27** My household struggles to pay for food

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**28** My household struggles to pay for heating and electricity

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**29** My household struggles to pay for clothing

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know



**30** My household struggles to make necessary upgrades to the house (i.e. reduce dampness, adaptations, replace broken items/furniture...)

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**31** If you want to expand on the quality of your home or any financial struggles you can do so here

Please expand here:

#### Access to services

**32** Do you have access to the following at home? (Select all that apply)

*Please select all that apply*

- Wi-Fi
- Mobile Data
- Smart Phone
- Laptop/Computer
- Tablet

**33** If you do not have access to this technology in your home. Do you access it anywhere else and where?

In what places do you access technology

**34** Where I live the internet connection is good

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**35** Do you have access to a car?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No
- I don't drive
- Prefer not to say

**36** Where I live there are enough bus connections

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**37** Where I live there are enough train connections

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**38** I can easily get to school/work/training

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know
- Not applicable to me

**39** I can easily access food shops

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**40** Where I live I can easily access the GP's surgery building

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**41** I can easily get a GP appointment

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**42** I can easily get an appointment to talk about my mental health

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**43** I can easily visit my friends

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**44** There are enough activities close-by for me to pass my free time

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**45** I wish the following facilities would be close by: (Select all that apply)

*Please select only one item*

- Gym
- Swimming pool
- Community Centre
- Library
- A place for young people
- Room for non-sport related activities
- Other:

Please specify

**46** If you want to expand on your experience in accessing services mentioned above or would like to mention any services which are missing, you can do so here:

Please expand here

**At risk of homelessness**

Being homeless or threatened with homelessness means not having secure accommodation which is safe for you to live in. Being homeless or threatened with homelessness doesn't mean you have to be roofless and/or living on the streets, you count as homeless if you:

- Have been asked to leave and are living with other friends and family
- Are couch surfing
- Are staying in a hostel, night shelter or B&B
- Are squatting (live in an empty building which is not legally yours)
- Are at risk of violence or abuse in your home
- Are living apart from your family because you do not have a place to live together

**47** Do you think you may be at risk of becoming homeless in the next 6 months?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

You can call the Homelessness Team 01620827536 to ask for help.

**48** If I was at risk of homelessness or found myself homeless I would tell / ask for help from: (select all that apply)

*Please select all that apply*

- Teacher
- Youth Worker
- Member of staff at community centre/library
- Employer
- Friend
- Relative
- East Lothian Council Housing Services
- Health professional
- I don't know
- Other:

Please specify

**49** What type of support do you think could help prevent you from becoming homeless? (select all that apply)

**Mediation**

Mediation is a service where a professional listens to both sides separately. They do not take sides and try and help to find a solution/agreement to resolve a dispute or problem.

Please select all that apply

- I don't know
- I don't feel this is applicable to me
- Information on my housing options
- Mediation support between household members
- Help to maintain my current tenancy
- Mental Health support
- Physical Health support
- Alcohol or substance misuse support
- Help with learning
- Help finding a job
- Support in my current job
- Help with joining a support group
- Budgeting
- Welfare Advice
- None of these options
- Other support:

Please specify:

**Particular needs**

Some young people go through particular experiences which can influence their current and future housing needs. Over the following few pages we want to know if you ever have or are experiencing any of these circumstances to ask you some more tailored questions.

**50** Do you have a health condition, disability or illness?

Please select only one item

- Yes - physical
- Yes - mental
- Yes - both
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

**Physical or mental health condition**

**51** How well do you manage daily life with your health condition/illness/disability?

Please select only one item

- Very well
- Usually well
- Neither well nor unwell
- Usually unwell
- Very unwell
- I don't know

**52** My house reflects my needs in terms of my health condition.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**53** Have you moved house for your needs to be better supported?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

**54** Have you changed school/work for your needs to be better supported?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

**55** I am planning on moving house for my needs to be better supported.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**56** I am planning on changing my school or work place for my needs to be better supported.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**57** I would like to have better access to health and social care services.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**58** I would like support to access: Select all that apply

*Please select all that apply*

- Mental Health Support
- Physical Health Support
- Physical activities
- Other hobbies
- Help with learning
- Help finding a job
- Help joining a support group
- Other 1:1 support
- Help finding better housing
- Help with skills to live by myself
- Help to make my own housing choices
- None of these options
- Other:

Please specify

## Care-experienced

**59** Are you care experienced?

Care-experienced means you are or were looked after by a local authority. This could be living with foster carers, living in your family home with support from a social worker, living with a family member such as grand parents or living in a residential home with other young people.

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

## Care-experienced

**60** Are you currently being looked after?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say



**61** How are/were you being looked after?

*Please select all that apply*

- Living in my family home with support from social worker
- I was adopted
- Kinicare - Living with another family member
- Foster care - Living with a family who are not related to me
- Living in a residential home
- Other

Please specify

**62** My current housing situation fulfils my needs.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**63** While care-experienced my opinion was valued in terms of where and with who I want to live.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**64** What type of support do you currently wish for? Select all that apply

Please select all that apply

- Help to make my own housing choices
- Help finding better housing
- Mental Health support
- Physical Health support
- Alcohol or substance misuse support
- Help with learning
- Help finding a job
- Support in my current job
- Help joining a support group
- Help accessing a hobby or physical activity
- Other 1:1 support
- Help with skills to live by myself
- None of these options
- Other:

Please specify

**65** If you want to expand on your experience and the support you wish or would have wished for you can do so here:

Please expand:

**Experienced homelessness**

**66** Have you ever experienced homelessness?

Being homeless or threatened with homelessness means not having secure accommodation which is safe for you to live in. Being homeless or threatened with homelessness doesn't mean you have to be roofless and/or living on the streets, you count as homeless if you:

- Have been asked to leave and are living with other friends and family
- Are couch surfing
- Are staying in a hostel, night shelter or B&B
- Are squatting (live in an empty building which is not legally yours)
- Are at risk of violence or abuse in your home
- Are living apart from your family because you do not have a place to live together

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

**Experienced Homelessness**

**67** Where are you currently staying?

*Please select only one item*

- On the street
- Friends and family
- Hostel, night shelter or B&B
- Other temporary accommodation
- I'd prefer not to say
- I'd prefer to specify

Please specify

**68** Are you aware of the East Lothian Council Homelessness Service?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes - I have contacted them before
- Yes - I have not contacted them before
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

If you need any assistance please call the Homelessness Team 01620827536.

**69** I am satisfied with the service from the Homelessness Service.

*Please select only one item*

- Not applicable
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**70** When experiencing homeless what type of support do you wish for?  
(Select all that apply)

*Please select all that apply*

- Better information on housing options
- Mental Health support
- Physical Health support
- Alcohol or substance misuse support
- Help with learning
- Help finding a job
- Support in my current job
- Help joining a support group
- Help accessing a hobby or physical activity
- Other 1:1 support
- Help with skills to live by myself
- None of these options
- Other:

Please specify

**71** If you want to expand on your experience of being homeless and the support you would have wished for you can do so here:

Please expand:

## Young Carer

**72** Are you an unpaid carer?

An unpaid carer looks after or helps a family member, friend or others because of physical or mental illness, disability or old age, problem or an addiction. They cannot cope without your support. You can care in many different ways. This might include shopping, cooking, cleaning, managing medicines or money, providing personal care, helping people get out of the house, keeping an eye on someone or providing emotional support.

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

## Young Carer

**73** Do you live with the person you are caring for?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No
- I'd prefer not to say

**74** I live close to the person I care for.

*Please select only one item*

- Not applicable - I live with the person
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**75** If I would have to live apart from the person I care for I would want to live close by.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**76** How does caring influences your performance at school or work?

*Please select only one item*

- Very positive
- Positive
- Neither positive nor negative
- Negative
- Very negative
- Not applicable

**77** How does caring influence your physical health?

*Please select only one item*

- Very positive
- Positive
- Neither positive nor negative
- Negative
- Very negative

**78** How does caring influence your mental health?

*Please select only one item*

- Very positive
- Positive
- Neither positive nor negative
- Negative
- Very negative

**79** How does caring influence the way you feel at home?

*Please select only one item*

- Very positive
- Positive
- Neither positive nor negative
- Negative
- Very negative

**80** I use my own income to provide better care.

*Please select only one item*

- Not applicable - I don't have any income
- Yes - On a regular basis
- Yes - Sometimes
- No - There is no need
- No - I don't want to

**81** The size of my home allows me to adequately care for the person.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**82** The design of my home allows me to adequately care for the person.

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**83** What type of support do you wish for? Select all that apply

*Please select all that apply*

- Mental Health support
- Physical Health support
- Alcohol or substance misuse support
- Help with learning
- Help finding a job
- Support in my current job
- Help joining a support group
- Help accessing a hobby or physical activity
- Other 1:1 support
- Help finding better housing
- Help with skills to live by myself
- Help to make my own housing choices
- None of these options
- Other

Please specify

**84** If you would like to explain how your housing situation impacts your caring responsibilities please do so here:

*Please expand here*

**Future Housing Aspirations**

**85** I plan to move

*Please select only one item*

- In the next year
- In the next 2 years
- In the next 5 years
- I don't plan on moving
- I don't know about my moving plans
- I'd prefer to specify:

Please specify

**86** I'd like to move but in the next 2-5 years but the following mean I won't be able to: (Select as many as relevant)

Please select only one item

- High cost of living
- Lack of affordable housing in the area I want to stay in
- Caring responsibilities in current home
- My job isn't secure
- I don't want to live in the private rented sector but buying a home is too expensive
- I can't save enough money for a deposit
- Living independently feels overwhelming
- Other

Please specify

**87** In 5-10 years' time I see myself living in

**Explanations on tenure**

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Student accommodation - A room or studio provided by a university or college

Please select only one item

- A council house
- Another social rented house (e.g. ELHA)
- A private rented home
- A mid-market home
- A home I own myself
- I don't know
- I'd prefer to specify:

Please specify

**88** In 5-10 years' time I will be living

Please select only one item

- Where I am now
- Elsewhere in East Lothian
- Elsewhere in Scotland
- Elsewhere in the UK
- Elsewhere in the World

Elsewhere in East Lothian



**89** What village, town or area would you like to live in?

Please specify

### Living outside of East Lothian

**90** I want to live outside of East Lothian because: (Select as many as relevant)

*Please select all that apply*

- It is cheaper elsewhere
- There are more housing options
- There are more job opportunities
- There are more educational opportunities
- Change of scenery
- Have a fresh start
- There are more leisure/entertainment facilities
- Other:

Please specify

### Closing questions

**91** If there is anything else you would like to say about your housing situation and needs you can do so here.

Please expand here

**92** Would you be interested in taking part in a small focus group on your experiences and opinions of accessing housing in East Lothian? If yes, please leave a contact number or email address and we will get in touch.

Please leave your email or contact number

**93** This survey is confidential. However, if you have any questions or you wish to discuss something covered within the survey please leave an email address or name and contact number below and we will get in touch. You can also email us at [LHS@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:LHS@eastlothian.gov.uk)

Please leave your contact details if you wish