

East Lothian Housing Contribution Statement

December 2015

1.0 Introduction

The Housing Contribution Statement sets out the role housing providers in East Lothian play to achieve outcomes for health and social care. It has been developed in partnership with housing, health and social care strategic planners and operational practitioners. It is an important component of East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership's Strategic Plan and will form an appendix to this document.

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 establishes the legal framework for integrating health and social care services. In 2015, the East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership was established as a separate legal entity governed by an Integration Joint Board. The Board comprises voting members from the Council and NHS East Lothian Board, supported by other non-voting members.

The Integration Joint Board has responsibility for providing a Strategic Plan by April 2016, outlining its vision for health and social care services, key strategic priorities and the commissioning outcomes to be achieved.

It is a requirement of the 2014 Act that a Strategic Planning Group is formed to engage with stakeholders on the production and implementation of the Strategic Plan. There are two housing representatives on the Strategic Planning Group, actively promoting the housing sector's role in health and social care integration. A senior officer representing the strategic housing function of the local authority ensures links to the Council's Local Housing Strategy can be articulated and further collaborative opportunities identified. A Registered Social Landlord (RSL) representative has been appointed to articulate the views of the RSL sector and provide a practitioner perspective. Informally, officers with strategic housing, health and social care responsibilities are in regular liaison around key issues to support integration planning.

East Lothian's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) (2012-17) was developed by East Lothian Council in partnership and engagement with key stakeholders and local communities. The LHS was developed through a series of long standing partnership groups which form a structure of engagement and collaboration to produce the LHS.

The East Lothian Housing Partnership is the overarching group in the LHS structure identified above and was established to develop and monitor the LHS. It consists of key partners involved in developing and implementing the strategic housing agenda for East Lothian. The group hasn't met for some time, however, the intention is that this group is re-established and membership refreshed. Existing representative membership to health and social care services will be maintained and enhanced, given the framework which is now in place.

The East Lothian Housing Forum is a key component of this structure and in February 2015 a Forum was held to identify the key contributions that housing can make to support Health and Social Care Integration and the outcomes it is seeking to achieve.

Following on from the Housing Forum a workshop was held and a working group established to articulate the contribution that housing can make to identify the key issues, opportunities and shared priorities. This working group consists of a partnership of housing, health and social care planners and practitioners and will carry forward the priorities identified within this document.

2.0 Identifying Housing Need and Demand

A Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) has been completed to estimate the future number of additional homes required to meet existing and future housing need and demand. It also captures information on the operation of the housing system to assist local authorities to develop policies on new housing supply, management of existing stock and the provision of housing-related services. Its purpose is to provide a robust, shared and agreed evidence-base for housing policy and land use planning and to ensure that both the LHS and East Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) are based upon a common understanding of existing and future housing requirements.

Revised guidance for housing need and demand assessment was provided by the Scottish Government (2014)¹. The guidance emphasises the need for housing practitioners to engage with health and social care planners in developing a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, to share evidence, identify needs and plan for solutions across health, social care and housing.

Much of data analysis for the HNDA, has been undertaken at a regional level and supports the allocation of land for housing within the South East Scotland Strategic Plan (SESplan). There is limited data available to quantify the level and type of housing required to meet specific housing needs. Therefore, additional research has been planned to support the LHS and HNDA, using guidance produced by the Scottish Government (2014) and a companion research guide produced by Young (2015)² on behalf of the Joint Improvement Team (JIT)³. The research will produce initial findings by June 2016 and will identify an evidence base to support the integrated agenda. The research will aim to:

1. Draw together local health, housing and social care statistics to identify high levels of activity to develop existing provision further.
2. Analyse trends for housing adaptations to begin to estimate the future demand for adaptations.

¹ Scottish Government (2014) Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA): A Practitioner's Guide [Online] Available from: (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/supply-demand/chma/guidance>)

² Young, G (2015) Making the Connection – User Guide to Specialist Housing [Online] Available from: <http://www.jitScotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Making-the-Connection-User-Guide-to-Specialist-Housing.docx>

³ The Joint Improvement Team is a strategic improvement partnership between the Scottish Government, NHS Scotland, COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) and the Third, Independent and housing sectors. The JIT provide a range of practical improvement support and challenge and direct practical support to local health, housing and social care partnerships across Scotland. [JIT - Joint Improvement Team](#)

3. Assess the potential role of specialist housing and well-designed mainstream housing for older and disabled households. Provide a cautious estimate for the provision of specially designed and supported housing.
4. Consider ways in which housing providers could reach people before they require more costly interventions and contribute to the Integration Authority's goal to deliver preventative and earlier intervention.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to inform the Strategic Plan provides the evidence base for the underlying demographics, health and care needs of the East Lothian adult population. Assessment and analysis of this evidence base will provide information on health and wellbeing drivers and will establish how many people have care and support needs and the types of services they might require.

It is clear there are connections between the JSNA and HNDA. The evidence base that supports both assessments will require to be closely aligned in the future to allow for deeper understanding of how services can be realigned to support the shared objectives of providing care closer to home and commissioning services in the most effective way. The timescale to align these needs assessments will be over the next two to three years, linked in with the production of the next Strategic Plan, which will be required in 2019.

3.0 Housing Related Issues

This section contains a summary of the main housing-related issues currently identified that require a housing contribution to lead to the improvement in health and wellbeing sought by the Integrated Joint Board.

Overall housing requirements taken from the SESplan HNDA 2 are as follows:

- There are 42,830 households in East Lothian. An estimated 6,326 of these **households** were assessed as being in housing need at 31st March 2013. The reasons for this were as follows, comprising:
 - Households with support needs or requiring an adaptation (47% of need, 7% overall)
 - Households living in poor housing conditions (11% of need, 1.6% overall)
 - Homeless households (6% of need, 0.9% overall)
 - Overcrowded households (21% of need, 3.1% overall)
 - Concealed households (6% of need, 0.9% overall)
 - Households requiring specialist housing (9% of need, 3% overall)

The Scottish Household Condition Survey⁴ indicates fuel poverty affects (34%) of households (although there will be cross-over with some of the above categories).

⁴ SHCS 2011-13 <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SHCS/keyanalyses/LAtables2013>

Older people

Nationally, population projections show Scotland's population is ageing and this is reflected in household projections. Older people tend to live in smaller households, for example in 2010, across Scotland average household sizes over 65 are at 1.40, compared to an average household size of 2.44 for those under 65.

People living longer will mean an increased demand for services. An ageing population will increase the need for smaller homes and in East Lothian there is a shortage of one bedroom properties. To fulfil this increased demand and changing need there are requirements to increase the availability of housing, including housing for varying needs, and specialist and adapted housing. In addition there is a need to develop housing information and advice to meet the changing household profile to help people to better plan their housing choices for and in older age.

Disability

Physical disability The Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS) 2011-13 estimates that 36% of households in Scotland and 38% in East Lothian contain at least one member with a long-term illness or disability. This figure includes all types of physical or mental illness or disability. This is an increasing trend in recent years and brings with it an increasing requirement for housing adaptations, specialist forms of housing and potential impacts on hospital discharge.

Mental ill-health For this group, there is a complexity of housing support requirements and this needs to be recognised. There is a requirement for different levels of support with housing, which can provide more flexible and responsive support, depending on individual need. This can help reduce overall demand for health and social care services. Ensuring service users have a safe, suitable and settled place to live is important for recovery and wellbeing.

Homelessness

There is research that identifies the extent to which people who are homeless experience some of the worst health problems in society. Those with experience of homelessness are more likely to have unhealthy lifestyles, which can cause long term health problems or exacerbate existing issues. There is data to show that reported incidents of physical ill health, depression and substance misuse issues are far higher amongst individuals who are homeless or living in poor housing conditions⁵. Recent research has identified hospital admissions for homeless people is far in excess of the population who live in settled accommodation (Hetherington, Hamlet 2015)⁶. These health problems can have a significant impact on people's lives and can make it harder for them to recover from homelessness. It is also important to consider those at risk of homelessness and people living in unstable and vulnerable

⁵ St Mungo's (2014) A Future. Now . Homeless Health Matters: the case for change [Online] Available from: <http://www.mungosbroadway.org.uk/documents/5390/5390.pdf>

⁶ Hetherington, K, Hamlet, N Restoring the Public Health response to Homelessness in Scotland [Online] Available from: <http://www.statsusernet.org.uk/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=4c29d7fd-49f7-402b-9418-ad8f8b4b98c0>

housing, including temporary accommodation, overcrowding and homes in poor condition, when considering the impacts on health. Through the development of a joint analytical framework for assessing needs it is our aim in East Lothian to understand better the link between homelessness and more complex social and health needs. This will provide a basis for continuing a shift towards prevention in the planning and commissioning of services.

4.0 Shared Outcomes and Priorities

The East Lothian Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is the local authority's strategic document for housing in its area and sets out clearly the contribution that housing can make in support of this agenda, through the design and delivery of housing and housing related services, that are capable of responding to the needs of individuals as and where they arise. Outcomes for housing, health and social care are managed by the LHS which has a key role to play in contributing to the effective strategic integration of health and social care. The right housing and related services can help to support independent living, and can contribute to health and social care objectives.

The LHS (2012-2017) highlights how the delivery of its five housing outcomes can influence the success of the Health and Social Care Partnership (and vice-versa). Including for example, these specific priorities, which are taken from across the range of outcomes the LHS is seeking to deliver:

- Access to housing – Housing allocations in East Lothian, provides priority for specific needs housing and provides a range of housing allocations protocols for vulnerable adults, including homeless applicants
- Prevention of homelessness – there is successful joint working to address homeless issues and health needs of homeless people
- Fuel poverty – approaches to reducing fuel poverty are a key contribution to the health improvement of residents
- New housing supply – to date 16% of the 479 new affordable homes built between 2009 and 2015 are meeting specific housing needs through amenity and wheelchair provision.
- Home energy – providing warm, energy efficient homes and energy efficiency advice also improve health outcomes.

In addition to these priorities, there is a specific outcome aimed at supporting independent living:

- People with particular needs are able to access and sustain their choice of housing including independent living, where appropriate

Many of the actions contained within this outcome have been superseded by priorities and new ways of working related to the integration of Health and Social Care. A revised LHS will be in place in 2017 and will reflect the priorities identified within the Housing Contribution Statement as well as identifying new priorities and outcomes as they emerge.

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to co-ordinate and produce a LHS and this is done in consultation with key strategic partners. Those partners of particular relevance to this outcome are supported housing and housing support providers, which are often, but not exclusively Housing Associations (along with the local authority) offer both specialist and mainstream housing to enable people with health needs to live in a community based setting. Housing support is provided to those who need help to manage their life in their home; this can range from low level activity to more intensive support for those with complex needs. These services do not just help older and disabled people but can include for example housing and tenancy support to young people leaving care and for people with mental health issues.

A strategic partner of particular significance is Care and Repair East Lothian. The main objective of this service is to provide independent advice and assistance to older and disabled homeowners or tenants of private landlords with services that enable them to continue to live independently in their own homes for as long as is practical and safe to do so through the provision of adaptations that meet changing needs and by other means such as carrying out small repairs to ensure home safety and security.

As part of the Adaptations and Repairs service, assistance and support is provided to clients in carrying out improvements and repairs to their homes - this can include works such as roof/gutter/downpipe repair, rewiring, window & door replacement and shower installation. These works improve the condition and energy efficiency of homes ensuring that the private sector housing stock is maintained.

The Small Repairs Service focuses on home safety (falls prevention), home security and assistance with hospital discharge. These works can include key safes, grabrails, making safe carpet thresholds, security lights, new door locks and security chains. The service presently includes an electrical service with a home electrical safety offered as part of this to ensure that the electrics are safe.

These are personalised and client focused services, provided at home which prevent and avoid the requirement for clients to access formal care and support services.

National Outcomes

The national health and wellbeing outcomes are shown in **table 1** below.

Table 1: National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes	
Outcome 1	People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer
Outcome 2	People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community
Outcome 3	People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected
Outcome 4	Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services
Outcome 5	Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities
Outcome 6	People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and well-being
Outcome 7	People using health and social care services are safe from harm
Outcome 8	People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide
Outcome 9	Resources are used effectively and efficiently in the provision of health and social care services

Outcome 2 is of particular importance in when considering the housing contribution, however the provision of a wide range of good quality housing and related services supports delivery across outcomes, through the housing sector. An example would be in consideration of Outcome 9, where effective housing solutions can prevent costly health and social care responses.

Joint Local Outcomes

East Lothian's Health and Social Care Strategic Plan Outcomes are indicated in **table 2** below.

Table 2: Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan outcomes

H+SCP Strategic Plan Outcomes	
A	To make universal services more accessible and develop our communities
B	To improve prevention and early intervention
C	To reduce unscheduled care

D	To provide care closer to home
E	To deliver services within an integrated care model
F	To enable people to have more choice and control
G	To further optimise efficiency and effectiveness
H	To reduce health inequalities
I	To build and support partnership working

The Housing Contribution Statement working group has identified the following as joint outcomes to be addressed by the local housing sector and the integration authority and supports many of the outcomes contained in the Strategic Plan.

Table 3 Housing Contribution Statement Strategic Priorities

	Housing Contribution Statement Priorities	Support H+SCP Strategic Plan Outcome (reference letter)
1	Establish a joint evidence base to identify housing requirements for older and disabled people	A,B,C,D,G,I
2	Support the provision of non-hospital bed models of care provision	A,B,D,F,G
3	Undertake a joint review of East Lothian Council Sheltered Housing Service	B,C,D,E
4	Use evidenced based need and demand to Identify specialist housing requirements early in the planning of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme	B,C,D,F,G,I
5	Inclusion of Health and Social Care Partners in the planning processes for the Affordable Housing Supply Programme	B,C,D,F,G,I
6	Contribute to Development & Implementation of a Joint Respite Strategy	B,C,D,G
7	Provision of resource to assist health and social care professionals to deal with Homelessness	B,C,G,H

The identified housing priorities are outlined below.

- **Establish a joint evidence base to identify housing requirements for older and disabled people**

Research will be undertaken to support the LHS and HNDA. This will identify the housing requirements of older and disabled households. Section 2 above outlines the requirement for this to be undertaken jointly with health and social care services and for the JSNA and HNDA to be more closely aligned in the future.

- **Support the provision of non-hospital bed models of care provision**

Significant numbers of patients occupying hospital beds could be cared for in other settings if suitable services are available and can be accessed easily. Specialist housing has a strong role to play in this which will not necessarily be required in the form of the provision of a new facility but instead could be provide through reprovision of existing stock.

- **Undertake a joint review of East Lothian Council Sheltered Housing Service**

East Lothian Council jointly with the Health & Social Care Partnership will undertake a review of its current sheltered housing service to assess whether it is currently fit for purpose. The main aims of the review will be to gain an understanding of whether or not the stock and service model meets current and future needs. As well as the current housing, health and social care policy drivers the review will be considered in the context of issues such as demographic change, potential increases in older people with dementia and the changing needs and aspirations of older people.

- **Use evidenced based need and demand to identify specialist housing requirements early in the planning of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme**

The Affordable Housing Supply Programme is an opportunity to respond to specific strategic housing needs. In many cases need can be met through allocation of a standard general needs property, which are designed to generous space requirements of the housing for varying needs standard. It may be that slight modifications to existing designs and layouts are required.

As identified above, it is a priority to establish an evidence base to identify the housing needs of disabled and older people and will produce a cautious estimate of the requirement for provision of new build specially designed and supported housing. Where a need has been clearly identified, specialist housing provision can be included in the planning process for the Affordable Housing Supply Programme, which is administered by the Scottish Government and jointly agreed with East Lothian Council. The Programme is delivered through the Council's own new build programme and RSL (Housing Association) partners.

- **Inclusion of Health and Social Care Partners in the planning processes for the Affordable Housing Supply Programme**

Planning for specialist housing provision requires early identification of need and design requirements, along with confirmation of relevant revenue funding for associated housing support and care. Therefore health and social care partners will be included in three key processes for delivery of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme:

1. Consultation on the Strategic Housing Investment Programme (SHIP), which is produced every two years.
2. Membership of the East Lothian Housing Partnership

- **Contribute to Development & Implementation of a Joint Respite Strategy**

Respite services are central to achieving care in the community and containing the costs of long-term care. The lead for the co-ordination of a respite strategy will come from the Health and Social Care Partnership but there is a priority for housing to provide appropriate contribution to the development of a joint respite care strategy, to assist to enable carers to continue to support people with care needs in their own home, which can delay admission to long-term care.

- **Provision of resource to assist health and social care professionals to deal with Homelessness**

Closer working relationships with housing, health and social care will provide opportunities to prevent and intervene earlier for 'at risk' communities, including homeless people. This should consider the role of communities, the voluntary sector, and any workforce that comes into contact with 'at risk' groups, including, primary and secondary health care, allied health professionals, social care, housing and homelessness.

Housing services will provide resource to ensure frontline health and social care professionals can identify appropriate services in their area to refer people at risk of homelessness. The provision of online resources as part of the local authority's housing information and advice strategy and the preventative housing options approach currently in place, will be key resources and tools to implement this work.

- **Ensure Housing Quality and Home Energy Efficiency Improvements are targeted in the most fuel poor areas**

Living in cold conditions is a risk to health. There is an established body of evidence that identifies direct and indirect health impacts suffered by those living in fuel poverty and cold housing, which include links to respiratory and cardiovascular

disease and negative impacts on mental health (Marmot 2011)⁷. Properly designed and implemented actions to improve housing energy performance can have major co-benefits for public health. Retrofits to properties that improve indoor temperatures can have positive impacts on mental health and cardio respiratory disease.

There are a wide range of initiatives in place that aim to improve the energy efficiency of housing and reduce carbon emissions. Programmes are funded from a range of sources and are led by the Council and other partners. Work will continue to be targeted at deprived and vulnerable households who are more likely to live in energy inefficient housing, especially those who do not have access to social housing. Energy efficiency advice is also made available by housing providers and is targeted at those people most likely to be most affected by fuel poverty.

5.0 Housing Related Challenges

- **Improve strategic and operational planning structures**

Integration has placed a focus on the need for more effective working between different agencies, in particular housing, health and social service authorities with respect to strategic planning, service commissioning and service provision. In section 1 an outline is provided of the revised processes in place to improve strategic, operational and planning structures to assist independent and community based living. This section also outlines the changes to the scope and nature of joint working which are already in place and how they can improve in the future.

In addition to this, section 3 provides more detail of the strategic context for the different agencies to work together on a statutory basis. It outlines the strategic approach for improving health and health care and delivering better integrated care.

- **Housing services will have a stronger role in the commissioning and planning of Housing Support services**

Many people will need a variety of types and levels of support in order to be able to achieve their preferred housing choice or the housing option that best suits their needs. With an increasing and ageing population, this requirement will increase.

Housing services can help to identify and understand future housing needs and likely demand, along with a baseline supply of housing and accommodation options that are available locally. This will assist to plan effectively for the housing support requirements of local people.

Housing, health and adult social care services will develop closer working relationships in the commissioning arrangements of supported housing and housing support services in order that we maximise their impact for both individuals and the wider health and social care system.

⁷ Marmot Review team (2011) [Online] Available from:
http://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/cold_homes_health.pdf

- **Identify and implement initiatives to get a better understanding of the housing pathways of older people to acute residential settings**

Housing is a central part of an effective care system, especially so in relation to the housing pathways of older people as they move from acute to residential care and back again into their own homes. Understanding the routes people take through services to identify where closer working with housing providers can give better results is critical.

To identify these patterns, closer working with local housing providers will be undertaken to understand how housing can prevent or directly address health and social care pressures. This will involve communicating with local specialist housing and care providers, care and repair services, and other frontline services to understand where barriers exist and where outcomes are being limited by fragmented services.

This could lead to a project where for example, hospital and care staff can work closely with housing support staff to deliver reablement services effectively, helping to discharge people home quickly and prevent readmissions.

- **Undertake further analysis of the housing issues associated with hospital admission and delayed discharge**

Further analysis of the housing issues associated with delayed discharges will be made to identify any improvements to the process the housing service can offer. This analysis could also look at potential alternative pathways to identify any safe and effective viable alternatives for both; firstly being admitted unnecessarily into the hospital system and secondly remaining in hospital for too long. This should also allow a focus on those population groups in East Lothian who have a high level of reliance on health and social care services and whether there are any housing need or home issues related to this.

- **Implement procedures to identify earlier notification of housing adaptations**

A major issue in East Lothian is delayed discharge from hospital. Delays can occur for a variety of reasons and are more often than not due to a lack of appropriate care. In some instances a person's house may need altered to help them get around.

Since 2012 an East Lothian Equipment and Adaptations Partnership Agreement has been in place and articulates a streamlined process to agree the provision of major adaptations and large maintainable equipment. More could be done to speed up the adaptations process if earlier identification of the need for an adaptation to a person's home is provided.

- **Reduce the requirement for temporary accommodation**

Housing supply and affordability are of particular concern for East Lothian and these issues impact greatly on homeless people and services. There is an acute shortage

of smaller units of affordable housing and with households generally reducing in size with an ageing population, this situation is likely to worsen. Affordability is also an issue, with high house prices, private housing is expensive and it is difficult for people on low incomes to meet their housing needs in the private housing market.

A key priority within the Council's approach to meeting the needs of homeless households is to ensure there is temporary accommodation available which can be accessed quickly as required. An important aim is to reduce use of bed and breakfast as a temporary accommodation solution. However, since December 2012, bed and breakfast use has been on an upward trend, effectively reversing the previous progress that has been made in reducing its use from 2010 onwards.

- **Address the structural housing issues that impact on homelessness through the LHS**

Work will continue to be undertaken, co-ordinated through the LHS, to address the structural housing supply and affordability issues identified above which will assist in a reduction in the temporary accommodation issues. These measures include primarily increasing the supply of new and affordable housing. In addition to this a focus will be maintained on providing a preventative housing options approach to homelessness.

- **Provide housing options advice**

The introduction of a housing options approach to address homelessness will be continued and widened out to also assist as people get older. Helping people to stay at home for longer includes providing information and advice on the available housing options. This may involve staying put and options to adapt the home and the use of information technology, or being open to thinking about moving to a more suitable property. Housing options advice will be provided to reflect this and will be revised over time to reflect the availability of new technologies and new housing products and services. This will include the promotion of preventative services such as the "Help to Adapt" scheme which is aimed at early intervention to assist people to future proof their homes.

6.0 Resources and Investment

There are a number of specific local authority housing functions which the legislation specifies must be delegated to the Integration Authority, these are; assisting with the provision of housing adaptations (except for housing association tenants); the housing support aspects of social care services and garden aid (provision of gardening assistance for older and disabled people). In line with this, the East Lothian Council budget identified as making a direct contribution to health and social care through delivery of delegated functions is £2.13 million in 2014/15.

Table 4 outlines the budget identified as making a direct contribution to health and social care through the delivery of delegated function.

Table 4: Budgets: Delegated Functions

	2014-15 Budget	2015-16 Budget
Housing Services – Delegated		
Commissioned Housing Support	£836,000	£870,000
Housing Adaptations (Council HRA / Scheme of Assistance)	£1,000,628	£1,000,000
Garden Care	£294,000	£300,000

Non-Delegated Housing Functions

There are other housing functions which are not delegated functions but which provide a resource to support Health and Social Care Integration and the outcomes it is seeking to achieve.

These include Care and Repair budgets at £300,000, additional housing support services, homeless services, new supply housing, provided both by the Council and RSL partners and housing adaptations carried out by Housing Associations.

RSL's currently delivering new supply social housing in East Lothian include East Lothian Housing Association, Places for People, Castlerock Edinvar and Dunedin Canmore Housing Association. The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) projects that in total, 1,033 units could start on site during the period 2015/16 – 2019/20, with a further 102 unsubsidised units delivered over the same period. This could result in the delivery of 745 completed homes and anticipates £27.6m of subsidy will be required to deliver this programme.

A significant amount is invested in East Lothian's private and social housing stock to improve housing conditions, including energy efficiency. For private housing the Scottish Government provides funding to Local authorities to deliver The Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland (HEEPS) which offers grant funding to householders to install a range of energy efficiency measures including external wall insulation. In 2014/15 this figure was £552,932 and a similar amount is anticipated to be allocated for 2015/16. Standards for housing quality and energy efficiency are set by the Scottish Government for social housing providers and this results in a significant programme of works to improve both quality and energy efficiency of the social housing stock.

There are a range of non-delegated housing support services provided, which include housing and tenancy support for young people and housing services for older people in sheltered and amenity housing and the community alarm service. In addition to this social housing providers offer a range of services for homeless

people, which includes giving advice to those facing difficulties with their housing, advice on housing choices, welfare advice, advocacy support, and assistance in finding alternative housing.