

East Lothian Council

Why we are engaging with East Lothian Council (East Lothian)

We are engaging with East Lothian about its **services for people who are homeless and sites for Gypsy/Travellers.**

To assess the risks to people who are homeless we have reviewed and compared the data for all councils from the Scottish Government's 2017/18 national homelessness statistics, the Annual Returns on the Charter, and information from our previous engagement with East Lothian. From this we identified areas where we require further information and assurance from East Lothian:

- how people access the service: in Housing Options cases, the low percentage of people East Lothian recorded as presenting for homelessness reasons for whom the council completed a homelessness application.
- East Lothian's assessment of homelessness applications:
 - the percentage it assessed as intentionally homeless is above the Scottish average;
 - the percentage it assessed as not homeless is above the Scottish average; and
 - the percentage it assessed within 28 days is below the Scottish average.
- temporary accommodation: the average length of time people spend in temporary accommodation provided by East Lothian is above the Scottish average.
- outcomes for people who are homeless:
 - the percentage of unintentionally homeless people with whom East Lothian lost contact is above the Scottish average and the percentage it did not know the outcome for is above the Scottish average;
 - the average time it took to discharge its duties to people who are unintentionally homeless from application is above the Scottish average;
 - the percentage of people it assessed as unintentionally homeless which it provided with a Scottish Secure Tenancy is below the Scottish average; and
 - the number of people waiting more than one year for an outcome is above the Scottish average.

East Lothian expected to comply with the Scottish Government's minimum standards for its Gypsy/Traveller site by 31 March 2019. The deadline for compliance was June 2018.

What East Lothian must do

East Lothian must:

- provide us with the information we require in relation to its homelessness service; and
- provide us with information about its progress in meeting the minimum standards for Gypsy/Traveller sites.

What we will do

We will:

- review the information we require from East Lothian and meet with it biannually to discuss its homelessness service;

- review our engagement with East Lothian when it has finalised its Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan;
- monitor East Lothian's delivery of the minimum standards for Gypsy/Traveller sites; and
- review East Lothian's progress in achieving the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) when we review the performance of all landlords as part of our annual risk assessment. The deadline for compliance is December 2020 and 58% of East Lothian's homes are currently compliant.

Regulatory returns

East Lothian must provide us with the following annual regulatory returns:

- Annual Assurance Statement;
- Annual Return on the Charter; and
- the return on the EESH.

It should also notify us of any material changes to its Annual Assurance Statement, and any tenant and resident safety matter which has been reported to or is being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive or reports from regulatory or statutory authorities or insurance providers, relating to safety concern.



[Read more about East Lothian Council >](#)

Our lead officer for East Lothian Council is:

Name: Lynn Stewart, Regulation Manager
Address: Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF
Telephone: 0141 242 5887
Email: Lynn.stewart@scottishhousingregulator.gsi.gov.uk