


# What we learned from the housing needs survey...

**You could win a £250 Love to shop voucher!**



## Older people's housing needs survey

Tell us your plans and help us plan for East Sussex

We know that people will make different decisions about where they live as they get older. Some will want to stay living in the same place, others will look to move to more manageable homes, and some will feel that older people's specialist accommodation best suits their needs.

**So we'd like to know: What are your plans?**

If you live in East Sussex and are starting to think about where you want to live as you get older, we'd really love to hear from you. We want to hear from home owners and renters, and people living in all types of properties.

If you've already moved, we'd also really like to hear about your reasons for moving.

This is your chance to influence:

- supported housing services for older people;
- the sort of accommodation on offer to older people;
- the amount of accommodation that is built, and
- where it is built.

Although this questionnaire is aimed at people aged 55 and over, we welcome views about older people's housing from East Sussex residents of any age.

Please return your completed questionnaire by 19 March to: Housing needs survey, North A Floor, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE


To complete the survey online, please visit: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/housingneeds](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/housingneeds)

If you have any questions about the survey or need it in another format or language, please contact us on:

Email: [consultation\\_ASC@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:consultation_ASC@eastsussex.gov.uk) Phone: 01273 481 565

**Prize draw to win a £250 Love to shop voucher**


East Sussex County Council is organising the prize draw (ESCC, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE). By entering the prize draw, you agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of entry. See page 8 for more information.




This survey was developed in partnership with: Eastbourne Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Rother District Council and Wealden District Council

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### Information about specialist housing choices for older people



Allingham Lodge, Eastbourne  
Churchill Retirement Living



Cherry Tree Court, Horsham  
Wealden District Council



The Orangery, Selsey  
Amicus Horizon

**Retirement housing**  
Retirement housing is usually built by private developers. Once all the properties have been sold, the scheme is usually run by a separate management group who employ the scheme manager and organise maintenance and other services.

**Sheltered housing**  
These schemes typically offer self-contained accommodation for rent. They are usually supported by a scheme manager and 24-hour emergency help. There are often communal areas and some other activities. Most accommodation is offered for rent, based on need, by local councils or housing associations.

**Extra care**  
Extra care is designed with the needs of trailer older people in mind and most services have eligibility criteria. Residents live in self-contained homes. It typically has more communal facilities and offers access to on-site domestic and personal care support. Providers in East Sussex include Saxon Weald and Amicus Horizon.

Find out more online at...

**Retirement housing**  
[www.housingcare.org/sheltered-housing/area-1/east-sussex.aspx](http://www.housingcare.org/sheltered-housing/area-1/east-sussex.aspx)  
Allingham Lodge  
[www.churchillretirement.co.uk/retirement-apartments-for-sale/east-sussex/allingham-lodge/](http://www.churchillretirement.co.uk/retirement-apartments-for-sale/east-sussex/allingham-lodge/)

**Sheltered housing**  
[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/leaving-home/sheltered/](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/leaving-home/sheltered/)

**Extra care**  
[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/leaving-home/extra-care-housing/what-is-extra-care-housing/](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/leaving-home/extra-care-housing/what-is-extra-care-housing/)

**Extra care living at Saxon Weald**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=JG02Deyv0U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JG02Deyv0U)

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### The questionnaire

Please tick this box if you are completing the survey as a couple or family

It's really important that you tell us your post code, as we want to understand the different housing needs across the county.

Your post code: .....

**About you**

If you are completing the survey as a couple or a family, please provide details for both of you. Otherwise just leave the row for Respondent 2 blank.

**Q1) Are you:**

Respondent 1:  Male  Female

Respondent 2:  Male  Female

**Q2) Which of these age groups do you belong to?**

Respondent 1:  Under 55  55-64  65-74  
 75-84  85-94  95+

Respondent 2:  Under 55  55-64  65-74  
 75-84  85-94  95+

**Q3a) Do you currently get help with your daily activities?**

For example, help to do things like get up/going to bed, dress/address, get washed, use the toilet, prepare a meal, manage your medication or your home.

Respondent 1:  Yes  No  Planning to get help

Respondent 2:  Yes  No  Planning to get help

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# About the survey

- We wanted to hear from local people about their housing plans as they get older
- For example, whether they plan to stay at home, move to more suitable accommodation or move into specialist accommodation for older people
- What we learnt from the survey will help us to plan the sort of housing services and accommodation we will need in the future

## About the survey

- The survey ran for 5 weeks between February and March 2017
- We promoted the online survey widely and posted a paper version to a sample of Adult Social Care clients

# Who took part?

- Over 1800 people completed a survey
- This included 640 couples who took part
- The majority of the responses were received online (84%)

## Who took part?

- 58% were female and 42% were male
- Over two thirds were aged between 55 and 74 years (with 33% aged 55-64 and 32% aged 65-74)
- The rest were aged under 55 (19%) or 75 and over (16%)

## Help with daily tasks

- Most respondents said they don't need help with daily tasks (87%)
- The rest either get help (12%) or are planning to get help (1%)
- Two thirds who get help are helped by family and friends and the rest use care workers

## Whether they own or rent

- Over three quarters own their home, either without a mortgage (55%) or with a mortgage (21%)
- Most of the rest rent from a housing association or local authority (10%) or rent an unfurnished place from a private landlord (10%)

# People's housing plans as they age

**51% want to stay living in their current home**

- 31% say they don't need to make changes to stay in their current home
- 9% have made changes to their home
- 11% are planning changes



# People's housing plans as they age

**38% want to move to a smaller  
or more accessible home**

- 7% have already moved
- 31% are planning to move

# People's housing plans as they age

**11% want to move to  
specialist accommodation**

- 2% have already moved
- 9% are planning to move

## Making changes to their home

- Nearly half have adapted their bathrooms (45%), with another 28% planning such work
- Nearly half have added grab rails (42%), with another 17% planning such work
- A reasonable number have either or are planning to improve access, add a stair lift or do some other work

# Moving to a more suitable home

People are fairly split on their timeframe for moving:

- 39% plan to move in the next few years
- 25% in 6-10 years
- 21% in 3-5 years
- 15% in 10 years plus

## Moving to a more suitable home

- Unsurprisingly, the top reasons for moving were to live in a smaller home (32%) and to live in a more accessible home (31%)
- The next popular answer was 'other', with the most popular comments being to live in a better location and to live in a more manageable home
- There was then a fairly even split between moving to be closer to town, to have access to care and to be closer to family

## Moving to specialist accommodation

- **Preferred location:** The top answer was near a town centre (49%), with the rest fairly evenly split
- **District/borough:** The top answer for the area people would consider moving to was Rother DC (30%), followed by Eastbourne BC (24%) and then a fairly even split between the rest

## Moving to specialist accommodation

- **Number of bedrooms:** The top answer is two bedrooms (59%), with most of the rest of the respondents choosing one bedroom (40%).
- **Onsite care and support:** Over half say having access to onsite care and support is important (54%) and of the remainder many say they aren't sure (26%)

## Moving to specialist accommodation

The most important things were:

- Taking their own furniture (11%)
- Adequate storage (10%)
- To live in a more accessible home (10%)
- In an area with cafes and shops (10%)
- Access to activities (9%)
- A garage or parking (8%)
- A shared garden (8%)



## Moving to specialist accommodation

- **Type of accommodation:** The top answer is sheltered housing (56%), followed by retirement homes (27%)
- **Finance preferences:** There is an even split between people who want to buy outright or with a mortgage and people who want to rent from a local council (both 31%)

## What we have learned: General

- Many residents are proactively planning for how their housing needs may change as they get older
- Lots of the survey respondents have a clear idea of what they might need and want from their home when they are older

# What we have learned: General

- Not everyone though, starts their planning from the same position of security
- For those that rent their home, the uncertainty and potential for future cost pressures can mean they feel less able to plan for the future
- People can also find that a crisis or unexpected change in their health can mean that their carefully laid plans aren't suitable any more

## What we have learned: Adaptations

- People are actively adapting their homes to suit their needs
- There don't seem to be problems getting adaptations done
- Bathroom changes are most popular, with people particularly thinking about having downstairs access in case stairs become difficult

## What we have learned: Moving

- Bungalows and accessible flats are regularly mentioned by people looking to move to more suitable homes
- Some people say there can be difficulty finding these properties in the locations they want

# What we have learned: Moving

- People's reason for moving isn't always just about the property, as location and money often play a part in the decision
- For example, people talk about releasing equity, either for themselves or family, and reducing the cost of running their home to make it more manageable in retirement

# What we have learned: Moving

- People are thinking about the sort of location they want to live in as they age
- Particularly important are access to amenities, good transport links and being closer to friends and family
- Transport links is a particular consideration in relation to ageing, as respondents are thinking about what would happen if they couldn't drive any more

# What we have learned:

## Specialist accommodation

- People have fairly clear preferences in terms of location (near a town centre) and the number of bedrooms they would like (two bedrooms)
- People are more likely to choose the district/borough they currently live in location-wise
- Although the Eastbourne Borough Council area is popular with people in quite a few areas



## What we have learned: Specialist accommodation

- People are most interested in sheltered housing and retirement homes
- Extra care was of less interest, although this is probably a reflection of the fact that people don't know much about this option
- For example, it is notable that over half say access to onsite care and support is important, which extra care provides

# What we have learned: Specialist accommodation

- When thinking about what is important about the accommodation, answers that relate to the accommodation itself cover the top three topics
- The next most popular topics relate to the location of the accommodation in terms of access to amenities/activities and the external facilities at the accommodation

# What we have learned: Specialist accommodation

- Where respondents don't have family to help them they are more aware of wanting access to support and community living
- People's current situation is generally reflective of their preferences for buying/renting specialist accommodation

# What we have learned: Thinking creatively

- The majority of respondents are looking at traditional ways of meeting their housing needs as they age
- There is a small but noticeable group who are looking to more creative methods

# What we have learned: Thinking creatively

- For some this is adapting their home for downstairs living or dividing it up into smaller dwellings that can be used differently
- For others, it is about grouping together to explore co-housing options and developing their own shared community housing

# What we have learned: Thinking creatively

- Where people are looking to create their own community it is clear they are keen to have advice and support about the best way of doing that



Summary and full versions of the report are available on the East Sussex website

[Jessica.haines@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.haines@eastsussex.gov.uk)