

Hartlepool Local Involvement Network Hartlepool LINK

Cost: Free	There is no cost to join
Time: Low	The amount of time you committee is entirely up to you
Requirements for Position: Low	No requirements to join a LINK, although a CRB Check, training and interviews are required to join the Enter and View Team
Training Offered: Yes	Training is available and required for the Enter and View Team

What is the Hartlepool LINK?

Hartlepool LINK is made up of local people and organisations who work together to improve the health and social care services in your local area.

The aim of a LINK is to make sure that local people are involved in agreeing, examining, understanding and inspecting the health and social care services.

Every LINK in the country has the power to hold providers of health and social care services to account. The more people who get involved in a LINK the more influential it is.

What is the role of the Hartlepool LINK?

The role of the Hartlepool LINK is to:

- Give everyone the opportunity to say what they think about their local health and social care services.
- Provide the opportunity to monitor and review these services.
- Provide feedback from what people have said so that improvements can be made.

Hartlepool LINK can use several methods which to help them to say how local services can be improved these include:

- Make a report or recommendation to service providers or commissioners and expect to receive a reply within a set period of time.
- Ask service providers or commissions for information and expect to receive a reply within a set period of time.
- Enter the premises of certain health and social care services to see the nature and quality of the services.

- Refer an issue to Hartlepool Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees and receive a response.

How can I get involved in the Hartlepool LINK?

Anyone can get involved, whether you are an individual, organisation or group. The Hartlepool LINK is a chance for everyone to have a voice and be listened to.

There are many different opportunities to get involved in Hartlepool LINK and the time you put in is up to you. It can vary from taking a few minutes to answer a survey, attending a meeting about an issue that interests you, joining a working group to look at issues, or becoming an authorised representative who can enter the service premises to see how they are run.

The Enter and View Team

At times it will be appropriate for Hartlepool LINK to go and see for themselves how a service is provided. In these instances the Enter and View Team who are authorised representatives of Hartlepool LINK are able to enter the premises to observe the nature and quality of the services.

To become part of the Enter and View Team you will need to have a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Check, undertake training, and go through an interview process.

These requirements are not to prevent people from taking part in the Enter and View Team but are there to ensure that everyone who is part of Enter and View has the skills and understanding to be able to review the services. The CRB Check is required because Enter and View may be entering premises with children and vulnerable people.

If you are interested in having your voice heard and joining the Hartlepool LINK then visit their [webpage](#) or call 01429 262641.

You can also fill out an application form online by clicking on the following link for the [Hartlepool LINK Participation Application form](#).