

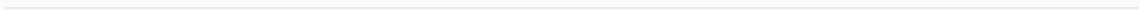


HARTLEPOOL VCS NEWS

**Events | Sector Connector 52 notes | Vacancies | Your Views –
Consultations & Feedback | Funding selection | Recent Research**

As you can see from this newsletter, the 'Sector Connector Notes and News' is changing slightly. We will still be bringing you the same content from the Sector Connector Meetings, however we will also be showcasing Hartlepool-based vacancies, events, funding opportunities and more! We would love to have your feedback:

[Survey](#)





December 17th 2021: International End Violence to Sex workers Day 2021.

A Way Out are marking this day by holding a candle vigil at 10.30am to remember those workers who have lost their lives to violence and those who have lost their lives as a result of stigma and marginalisation.

They would love it if you could join by posting a photo of your candle vigil and a pledge of actions that you feel you can commit to onto your own social media accounts, your organisation's websites and tag AWO on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. #endviolencetosexworkers #awayoutpartnershipworking

4th January 2022: Sector Connector 53 Live at Greenbank
(May be subject to change to Zoom depending on governmental guidance)
Please confirm your attendance via: julisimons@hartlepower.co.uk

21st February 2022: *Rebel initiative* – a free, 10 day course for people with an interest in starting a new business, commencing 21st February 2022. The inspiring, lively and engaging guidance on setting up in business as self-employed can be accessed either through attending the live event over two weeks at Hartlepool College or virtually, through Zoom or other video-sharing platforms
See here: <https://therebelschool.com/hartlepool/>

25th January 2022: Hartlepower CIO will be hosting an *Introduction to Writing a Funding Application*. This will be a free event, open to anyone held at Greenbank between 9:30 and 12:30. As there will be limited capacity, please contact Juli Simons to confirm your attendance
at: julisimons@hartlepower.co.uk

Community Hub events – Various events are currently being held throughout the month for a wide range of ages, these range from children's reading clubs to adult arts and crafts, to find out the details, see here: https://www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk/blog_articles/3376-hartlepool-community-hubs-programme

Food and Fuel Fairs – A traveling one-stop pop-up event is beginning again towards the end of January 2022. This will be an advice service surrounding

the need to help people save money on their household bills. Everyone is invited to these events; surrounding saving money, celebrating resilience and maximising incomes whilst minimising outgoings.

Any potential organisation wanting to attend any of these events should message

Darren: darren.leighton@jrht.org.uk or Jan: janette.grey@jrht.org.uk

Featuring...



Support available:

- Budgeting Advice
- Healthy Eating
- Digital Access
- Benefit Checks
- Utility Bills
- Volunteering

Save Money Hartlepool

January 26th

@Community HUB Central (York Road) 11am - 1pm

Everyone is welcome to pop-in and speak with local people, organisations, and services in attendance. Sharing tips and tricks on how to save money, maximising income, and bolstering budgets. Partners working across Hartlepool have so far been able to put £1,000,000 back into the pockets of people in our town, Come along and see how much you could be better off by. Contact 07989 207804 for more information.

Sector Connector Notes

Young Persons Social Prescribing – Amelia Turner (PFC Trust)

Amelia is the recently appointed young person's social prescribing link worker – for 11-18 year olds, or up to 25 years if there are any additional needs. Amelia works with young people experiencing various levels of emotional distress – initially through receiving referrals from agencies such as the Youth Service, CAMHS, schools, Primary Care, VCS organisations etc. She builds rapport with the young person to facilitate their involvement with opportunities/activities/experiences/groups which match their individual interests, thereby endeavouring to help meet their emotional needs. She welcomes contact from anyone whose service etc. they feel could benefit young people – and – is pleased to take referrals of any young people.

Get in touch:

Amelia.Turner@hartlepool.gov.uk

Hartlepool Carers – Sarah Rowntree

Sarah has been expanding the organisation's reach to even more carers requiring help. These include registered carers, carers who haven't yet received formal recognition and ex-carers. ANY carers can receive support from Hartlepool Carers – through attending coffee mornings, bingo nights, homework groups for young carers and support groups for male & female carers, respectively. Hartlepool Carers also have a bank of IAG workers (Information, Advice & Guidance workers) who assist with finances. The main area for this support is based in the South Community Hub in Owton Manor.

Get in touch:

sarah.rowntree@hartlepoolcarers.org.uk

Hartlepool Action Lab – Darren Leighton & Jan Grey (Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

Darren's main most recent aim has been to address women's sexual

exploitation – by creating a Hartlepool dataset. By doing this he hopes to develop work in Hartlepool that both addresses the suffering of the women & complements national campaigns. He is also focused on changing the use of language relating to poverty & hardship – to address the commonly associated stigma & blame.

Jan is running a weekly group (Monday-Friday, 11am – 1pm) at the Central Hub to help people save money. The group is an open, support-oriented forum attempting to tackle the issues surrounding poverty.

Get in touch:

darren.leighton@jrht.org.uk

janette.grey@jrht.org.uk

Get Connected - Helen Ryder

Get Connected provides affordable, pay as you go broadband (for £20 per month) and is now expanding into fibre optics in partnership with the company City Fibre, starting from next summer. Through City Fibre's programme of laying fibre optic cables, Get Connected will gain access to around 250,000 new customers. Get Connected is boosting signal strength to improve broadband speeds for customers living on the western side of Hartlepool, having covered the east earlier this year. See: <https://www.get-connected.org.uk/>

Get in touch:

helen.ryder@get-connected.org.uk

Welfare Rights Support & relief of hardship – Claire Gilbraith

(Advice@Hart)

Clair heads up the Community Interest Company, Advice@Hart – a welfare benefits and appeals support service that also provides food & energy-related advice. Through Hartlepool's Welfare Support Fund, Advice @ Hart has daily been disbursing funds to help people pay for their gas, electricity & food. In her role as **Tenant Manager for Hartlepower CIC**, Claire connects and builds community between Energy Hub tenants, including providing links to

courses for businesses.

Get in touch:

clairgilbraith@hartlepower.co.uk

PFC Trust – Joe Dunne

Joe spoke about the Rebel initiative – a free, 10 day course for people with an interest in starting a new business, commencing 21st February 2022. The inspiring, lively and engaging guidance on setting up in business as self-employed can be accessed either through attending the live event over two weeks at Hartlepool College or virtually, through Zoom or other video-sharing platforms. Previous Rebel events have had a 50% success rate getting people into self-employment. Networking between the new (and existing) businesses builds in ongoing, mutual support.

Get in touch:

joe.dunne@thepfctrust.org

Food Council Co-ordinator – Julie Collin (Hartlepool Food Council Co-ordinator)

Julie updated re. St Aidan's Kitchen – which won't be providing Christmas Day lunches this year. **Christmas food hampers will be provided**, however, on **Thursday 23rd December** from 9:30am at St Aidan's. The Kitchen will re-open for people to collect free grocery packs on Thursday 30th December. Unlike previous years when various Christmas day lunches have been provided there are none this year. Please contact juliecollin@hartlepower.co.uk if you know of any Christmas day food provision.

A list of food aid services in Hartlepool is attached [here](#). If you know of any not included please contact Julie so she can add to the list. A Google Maps version is available here: [Food Provision Sites](#)

Julie also referred to the prevalence of eating disorders in the UK, including Hartlepool. "Beat" is a UK charity offering support to people suffering eating disorders or supporting somebody with an eating disorder.

See <https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/>

Get in touch:

juliecollin@hartlepower.co.uk

Being a Parent – Mel Fielding (Changing Futures North East)

Being a Parent offers important parenting tips to Hartlepool parents – through an 8 week (2 hour per session) course for groups of 6 people. Many parents have benefitted in recent years, including families who haven't themselves had the easiest of childhoods, often through the additional benefit of having built new support networks through attending.

Get in touch:

Mel.Fielding@changingfuturesne.co.uk

VCS Support – Barbara Hind (Hartlepool Borough Council)

Barbara signposts individuals to online courses to help develop their skills & employability. Courses include childcare to retail management and everything in between. If you or someone you know could benefit from one of these courses please click the following: [here](#)

Get in touch:

barbara.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

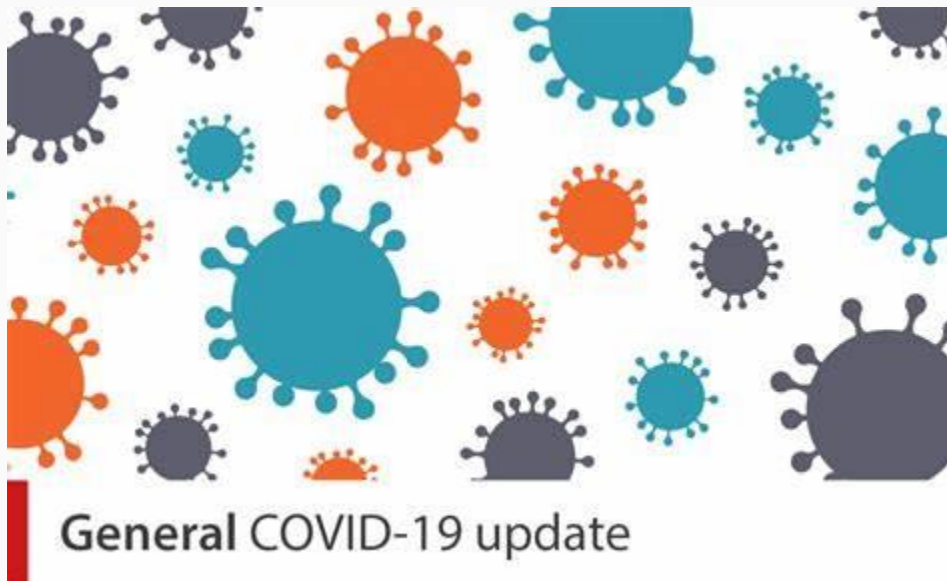
Covid Engagement – Hannah Goodman (Hartlepool Borough Council)

Hannah advises and guides Hartlepool-based Covid Community Champions – volunteers who receive and further distribute accurate, up to date Covid-related information. Information also supports the broader Hartlepool community.

Guidance & advice are distributed through various newsletters. Please contact Hannah to be added to her mailing list and receive her weekly Monday bulletin.

Get in touch:

hannahgoodman@hartlepower.co.uk



Just a quick summary of the Plan B measures for England:

*FROM FRIDAY 10TH DEC - Face masks will be compulsory in most public venues, including theatres and cinemas

*FROM MONDAY 13TH DEC- Guidance to work from home will be reintroduced

*FROM NEXT WEEK- NHS Covid passes will be mandatory for entry into nightclubs and venues

*And finally, self-isolation is to be replaced by the daily testing for contacts of Covid Positive people

Volunteering, Learning & Skills – Tracey Wilson (Hartlepool Borough Council)

Tracey manages HBC's Volunteer Hartlepool platform – to develop volunteer positions within organisations. Tracey's work involves finding interested individuals whose interests align with organisations seeking to recruit volunteers. Tracey's section also distributes ESF community grants to charities and businesses delivering courses for people remote from the jobs market. Volunteering is one avenue through which course participants can enhance their employability.

Get in touch:

Tracey.Wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

Community Navigation – Anita Gaffney (Hartlepool Borough Council)

Anita is a Community Navigator and has been leading Positive Changes – a community-led support group for individuals (or social workers) who need help.

Anita's role is to point people in the right direction. Many activities and events will be taking place in all HBC's Community Hubs between Christmas and the New year, open to anyone.

Community Hub South provides – Daisy Chain drop-in, The Bread & Butter Thing, Hartlepool Carers drop-in, men's yoga. A library sensory room and moto-med are available all week.

Community Hub Central provides – Children's Stories and Rhymes, Knit & Craft, Baby Babble, The Bread & Butter Thing and a dominos club, among others. Blue Dice, the library, moto-med and Cafe@TheHub are open all week.

Get in touch:

community.hubs@hartlepool.gov.uk

Anita.gaffney@hartlepool.gov.uk

Waverley Allotments Engagement Project – Andrew Relton (Hartlepool Borough Council)

Andrew has been working on The Waverly Project, making the allotments near the recreation ground (“the rec”) more accessible. To this end, the allotments have been split into 3. One section is dedicated to benefit [NHS Durham & Tees Valley/Miles for Men](#), one section for voluntary communities in Hartlepool and a final section for the Hartlepool Volunteers Group. Growing food in a professional and secure environment is the goal. This in turn helps to tackle issues such as social isolation and potentially leading to employment.

Get in touch:

Andrew.relton@hartlepool.gov.uk



Adult Education HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL Volunteer HARTLEPOOL

Waverley Community Garden

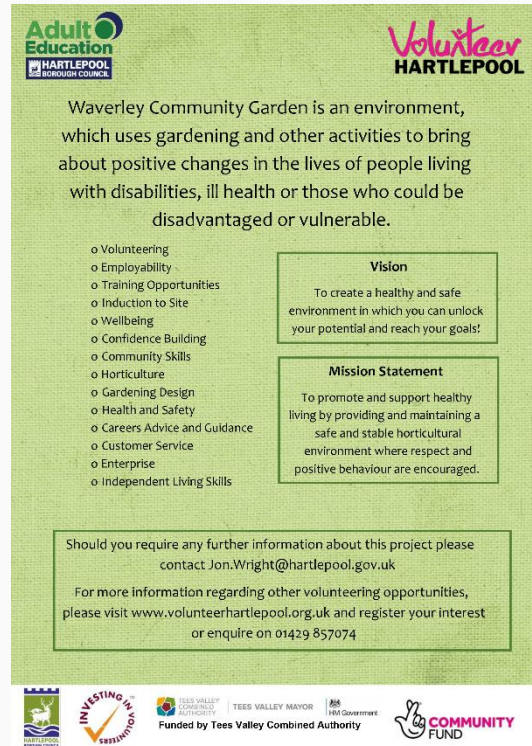
Are you interested in volunteering?



Do you like being outdoors? We can provide a range of skill building opportunities, companionship along with physical and mental health benefits, for all ages.

We are looking for new volunteers to join our lovely team at Waverley Community Garden.

Logos: Hartlepool Borough Council, Investing in Us, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Tees Valley Mayor, HM Government, Community Fund.



Adult Education HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL Volunteer HARTLEPOOL

Waverley Community Garden is an environment, which uses gardening and other activities to bring about positive changes in the lives of people living with disabilities, ill health or those who could be disadvantaged or vulnerable.

- o Volunteering
- o Employability
- o Training Opportunities
- o Induction to Site
- o Wellbeing
- o Confidence Building
- o Community Skills
- o Horticulture
- o Gardening Design
- o Health and Safety
- o Careers Advice and Guidance
- o Customer Service
- o Enterprise
- o independent Living Skills

Vision

To create a healthy and safe environment in which you can unlock your potential and reach your goals!

Mission Statement

To promote and support healthy living by providing and maintaining a safe and stable horticultural environment where respect and positive behaviour are encouraged.

Should you require any further information about this project please contact Jon.Wright@hartlepool.gov.uk

For more information regarding other volunteering opportunities, please visit www.volunteerhartlepool.org.uk and register your interest or enquire on 01429 857074

Logos: Hartlepool Borough Council, Investing in Us, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Tees Valley Mayor, HM Government, Community Fund.

Communication and Engagement Officer – Jack Cummings (Hartlepool Borough Council & Born to Be)

Jack works to address loneliness & social isolation, navigating socially isolated people to groups or services. From January 2022, the Headland library will host coffee-morning style events to help tackle loneliness among older people. A 4 day course (from 20th December) will feature free Christmas themed meals, entertainment & activities for people living in the Victoria ward. It is suitable for people of any age, including with any additional needs.

Additionally, Jack also runs a **LGBTQ+ youth group “Born to Be”** in Rossmere Youth Centre – Wednesdays 7-9pm and Fridays 5:30-7:30pm. The groups support people up to 19, or 25 if they have additional needs – providing a safe space for young people to talk about themselves, learn key life skills and a quiet space to do homework. One to one support is also provided.

Get in touch:

jack.cummings@hartgables.org.uk

Vacancies – paid & voluntary

Hartlepool Carers is recruiting

See: <https://www.hartlepoolcarers.org.uk/usefulinformation/vacancies/>

Hartlepool Covid Community Champions

See <https://www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk/pages/home/hartlepool-community-support-hub/covid-toolkit>

A new voluntary chairperson of the North East Child Poverty Commission is needed

The closing date for the position is 5pm on Thursday 6th January – with interviews scheduled for Monday 17th January.

See: <https://nechildpoverty.org.uk/news/necpc-chair-recruitment>

or

<https://www.vonne.org.uk/jobs/chair-north-east-child-poverty-commission-9999>

*Please retweet/share these posts from the NECPC social media pages if you are able:

<https://twitter.com/nechildpoverty/status/1468509058349117441>

<https://www.facebook.com/nechildpoverty/posts/4774909155902206>*

Your views: Consultation & feedback

| Contribute to one or more of Hartlepool Borough Council's current consultations |

See Hartlepool Borough Council's **Your Say, Our Future** homepage

at <https://yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk/> for details of all current consultations. New consultations on different topics are continuously. You can register an account on the site – this allows you to receive updates on consultations in which you have taken part, as well as receive notifications for new consultations on topics in which you are interested. Please direct any queries to yoursay@hartlepool.gov.uk.

| Help shape Hartlepool's pharmacy services |

Hartlepool Borough Council is currently looking for assistance in creating a better pharmacy service for all. If you would like to help them by giving input, they are running several different surveys to see how they can improve upon their currently provided services. To check out all of the current surveys click the link. [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment - closes 24th December 2021 | Your Say Our Future \(hartlepool.gov.uk\)](#)

Pharmacy users Survey: https://yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk/hbc21-pna/survey_tools/pharmacy-users-survey

Pharmacy Users Survey for 16-24 year olds: https://yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk/hbc21-pna/survey_tools/pna-survey-for-16-to-24-year-olds

Pharmacy users Quick Survey: https://yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk/hbc21-pna/survey_tools/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-quick-survey

Stakeholders Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Survey: https://yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk/hbc21-pna/survey_tools/stakeholders-pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-survey

| Services for young people 16+ with autism - what are the gaps? |

Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group and NECS (a care system support organisation) are working together to look at [gaps in provision post diagnosis for young people 16+ with autism](#). Below is the QR Code for a survey that has been developed in partnership with young people. Please encourage young people to participate. Contact: amy.robinson14@nhs.net
See here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T9L6P3R>



A selection of funding opportunities

Arts Council England: Let's Create Jubilee Fund

£750-£10,000. Deadline February 28th, 2022 (portal opens in January).

This £5m programme will support voluntary and community organisations to develop creative and cultural activities as part of the celebrations. UK Community Foundations will administer the fund and applicants will be encouraged to partner

with established artists, creatives and cultural organisations to develop their activities.

[More](#)

National Lottery Heritage Fund

The fund will invest £5m in supporting communities across the UK to re-connect with the nature on their doorstep. Communities will be encouraged to take action to help natural green spaces flourish as a legacy of the Jubilee. An additional £2m will create 70 paid placements for young people from under-served and disadvantaged backgrounds. These employment opportunities will provide the skills, experience and practical qualifications for those looking to enter a career in wildlife and nature.

[More](#)

Social Enterprise Support Fund (Grant - England)

£10,000 - £100,000. December 21st, 2021.

The Fund, delivered by Big Issue Invest, Key Fund, Resonance, the School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) and UnLtd, will be taking applications from social enterprises supporting those hit hardest by the pandemic, and will help them in managing the ongoing crisis.

The fund partners are working towards a benchmark of more than 50 per cent of grantees across the fund being disabled and/or from a Black, Asian or otherwise marginalised or minority community. They are also particularly encouraging applications from enterprises led by those with direct lived experience of the social issues they are trying to solve.

Social enterprises must be incorporated (at least a year) social purpose organisations with an asset lock, an annual income of £20k-£1.8m and a dual authority bank account. They must be financially resilient and substantially reliant on income from trading.

A second round will open in February 2022.

[More](#)

Recent research



A new report paints a stark picture of inequality for children growing up post-pandemic in the north of England, compared to those in the rest of the country.

The impacts of this inequality are outlined in [The Child of the North: Building a fairer future after COVID-19](#) report, produced by the Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA) and N8 Research Partnership, and written by over 40 leading academics from across the north of England, including NIHR School for Public Health Research academics.

The report looks at a wide range of factors, from child poverty to children in care, to build up a picture of The Child of the North. It sets out recommendations to tackle the widening gap between the north and the rest of England.

Read more at: <https://sphr.nihr.ac.uk/news-and-events/new-report-widening-inequalities-for-children-in-the-north-of-england-cost-billions-increase-poverty-and-cost-childrens-lives/>