

Current services

» **Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP)**

Aims to identify moderate, severe and profound hearing impairment in newborn babies. The programme automatically offers all parents the opportunity to have their baby's hearing tested shortly after birth. Early identification, via the programme, gives babies a better life chance of developing speech and language skills and of making the most of social and emotional interaction from an early age.

» **National Deaf Children's Society**

Operates a free telephone helpline on 0808 800 8880 (open between 10am and 5pm, Monday to Friday).

» **Focus on Health Project**

Hartlepool Deaf Centre, based within Hartlepool Families First offers classes including healthy eating, cookery and yoga, as well as providing access to BSL DVDs on a range of topics including general health, depression, breast cancer, stress and relaxation. The sessions are supported by a BSL interpreter and written information is more accessible through the use of BSL graphics.

For more information contact Wendy on 07872 607124 or email wendy@hartlepoolfamiliesfirst.org.uk.

» **North Regional Association for Sensory Support (NRASS)**

Provides a drop-in advocacy and welfare rights service. The service operates from the Hartlepool Central Library and is available for two hours every Monday.

For further information contact NRASS:

- Telephone: 0191 4922 035
- Fax: 0191 4922 043
- Minicom: 0191 4922 036
- Email: office@northregions.org.uk

» **Hartlepool Job Centre Plus**

Offers a service for disabled workers by putting them in touch with a Disability Employment Advisor (DEA). A DEA will help you to find work or gain new skills for a job. They can help with work preparation, advocacy, recruitment, and even confidence building. DEAs offer an employment assessment to find out what kind of work would suit you best.

For more information contact Hartlepool Job Centre Plus:

- **Telephone:** 0845 604 3719
- **Textphone:** 0845 600 1770

» **North Tees and Hartlepool Audiology**

The department provides a complete diagnostic and hearing aid rehabilitation service making special provision for deaf and hearing impaired patients and offering guidance and support to patients and their families.

» **South Tees ENT and Audiology Department**

Regional cochlear implant service as well as NHS treatment for those patients with more complex hearing disorders.

The peripatetic services for teachers of the Deaf provide support for children and young people throughout their education.

» **Durham Deafened Support**

Promotion for the relief, integration, rehabilitation, welfare and education of people who have become isolated because of hearing loss, enabling them to cope with their disability through advocacy, support, education, information, the teaching of lip-reading skills and other ways of helping them to understand and meet their communication needs.

» **Hartlepool Now** (www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk)

A website that provides information on a range of services available in Hartlepool. Offers advice on the wide range of equipment and adaptations that are available to help people carry out daily tasks and help people live as independently as possible.

» **In Good Hands** (<http://www.in-good-hands.org/>)

In Good Hands Project North East (IGH) is a 3.5 year £1million project funded by the BIG Lottery in association with The Daily Mail. The project is a unique and far reaching programme of awareness raising, training, qualifications and opportunities to volunteer in support of older people with age acquired deafblindness. It will also initiate the development of support and training around age acquired communication disorders.

Beneficiaries and stakeholders will come from: Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham and the Tees Valley local authority areas