



**HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

HARTLEPOOL DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2023

START

Introduction by Craig Blundred

Director of Public Health for Hartlepool

This year's report looks at the working age population and focuses on the links between work, skills and health - looking at economic and employment opportunities across the town and the work we are doing with businesses to improve health and wellbeing in the workplace.

People who work spend a large proportion of their time in work, and jobs and workplaces can have a big impact on our health and wellbeing so it is important that workplaces support people. This report will give examples of ways we are working with businesses in Hartlepool to create healthy workplaces.

Having access to good work is important and in Hartlepool we know that the gap in employment rate between those with a physical or mental long term health condition (aged 16 to 64) was significantly worse than England. Therefore, work and health are important public health issues, that impact both directly and indirectly on the individual, their families and communities.

The report ends with [what we can do together](#) to create further opportunities to support people into employment through [skills, education and employment](#) opportunities, supporting businesses to promote health at [work](#) and for large organisations to look at the opportunities they have to make a difference to the health of local people in Hartlepool.



Video introduction by Craig Blundred

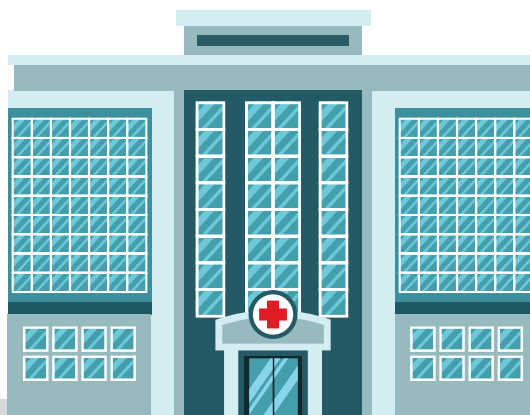
Welcome to our Hartlepool town

Welcome to our Hartlepool street – Click on each heading to find out more.

ECONOMY AND HEALTH

WORK AND HEALTH

EMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH



ECONOMY AND HEALTH

Our health depends on more than the availability of health care services - it is shaped by the social, economic, commercial and environmental conditions in which we live. The health of the town also impacts on economic activity and therefore the employment opportunities available to residents and the skills available to employers.

Delivery of improvements to the economic wellbeing of Hartlepool residents continues to be a priority with the delivery of a 'wave of regeneration' over the next 20 years that reflects the town's huge potential as a place to live, do business and invest.



Bev Bearne
Hartlepool Borough Council Assistant Director
(Development and Growth)

The situation in Hartlepool

Detailed data is [here](#) but some key challenges and positives are noted below:

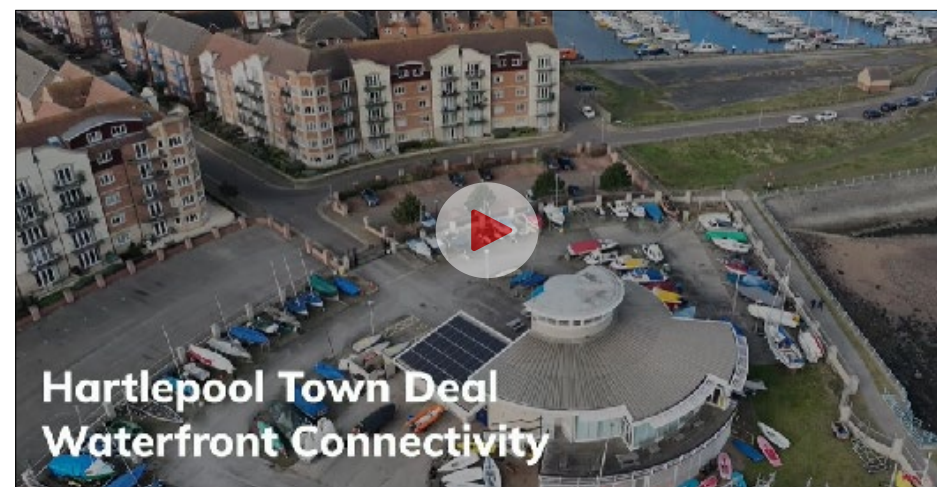
We have to date been successful in delivering:

- £300m of additional economic investment, 650 new jobs (plus support for 1,500 construction jobs through the Town Centre Masterplan).
- Skills Academies, through the Hartlepool Town Deal, delivering training that leads to high-quality/well-paid jobs. The 400th learner recently placed into employment via the Seymour Civil Engineering Skills Academy.
- £52.m of additional economic investment, 130 new jobs as part of the Screen Industries Production Village.

Going forward, work is to continue on the delivery of the Town Investment Plan via projects including connectivity improvements to The Waterfront and re-imagining of the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. We will also be expanding the Skills Academies scheme to further develop a Hartlepool workforce that is ready to fill the high-quality/well-paid jobs of the future.

Health and care organisations can have a positive impact on local communities and have the potential to improve the health of individuals and communities, which is the main objective for organisations acting as anchor institutions in health and care. Anchor organisations are large organisations rooted in their communities. The NHS and Local Authorities are examples of anchor organisation which can make a difference to the health of local people by:

- Working closely with local partners
- Using buildings and services and spaces to support local people
- Purchasing locally
- Providing employment opportunities
- Reducing the environmental footprint



Hartlepool Town Deal



Victoria Watson, Assistant Director of Procurement and Supply Chain Management for North Tees and Hartlepool Solutions

WORK AND HEALTH

Why is health at work important?

Creating a healthy workplace has many benefits for both employees and employers. Enabling employees to feel supported to manage their long-term health conditions and for others to maintain their health and wellbeing at work are crucial and can also support employers to reduce the time their staff take off sick.

One of the ways Public Health is supporting businesses across Hartlepool is through the Better Health at Work Award, which supports and recognises the efforts of employers addressing health and wellbeing in the [workplace](#).



Sue Leather, Advanced Public Health Practitioner with Hartlepool Borough Council



The situation in Hartlepool

Detailed data is [here](#) but some key challenges and positives are noted below:

- Mental health conditions are the biggest cause of lost working days in the UK. In Hartlepool it is estimated that almost 1 in 4 adults has depression or anxiety. For severe mental health disorders, Hartlepool's Employment Support Allowance claimants citing mental health disorders is higher than the England average by almost a quarter.
- Hartlepool has one of the highest rates of long-term musculoskeletal conditions (back pain, neck pain, arthritis, etc.) in England. 1 in 4 adults in Hartlepool has a long-term musculoskeletal condition, and 1 in 5 adults in Hartlepool has at least one other long-term condition on top of their musculoskeletal issues.
- Smoking, drinking and obesity all have health impacts on the adult population in Hartlepool. Smoking prevalence in adults is at a 12 year low, but the long-term health consequences are still evident, with lung cancer registrations in Hartlepool almost 50% higher than England. Similarly, hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions in Hartlepool is almost 50% higher than England. Adult obesity in Hartlepool is at a 7 year high, with three quarters of adults in Hartlepool classified as obese.
- Hartlepool has some of the highest rates of deaths from respiratory diseases, including preventable respiratory conditions. Hospital admissions for Chronic Constructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) are also particularly high in Hartlepool.
- However in Hartlepool working days lost to sickness is at an 11 year low, showing that on the whole the population of Hartlepool is actively engaged in employment.



A visit to the Menopause Cafe

Why is menopause a workplace issue?

Around 1 in every 3 women has either experienced or are currently going through the menopause and there is still much to be done to tackle the taboo around menopause, particularly in workplaces, where often women do not feel able to talk about the menopause at all. Hartlepool Borough Council through the Better Health at Work Award supports the promotion and awareness of menopause support for staff including access to the menopause drop in café delivered by Hartlepool and Stockton Health which provides a relaxed, non-clinical atmosphere where people can discuss their experiences, identify their symptoms, and access support.

Creating a healthy workplace has many benefits for both employees and employers. Enabling employees to feel supported to manage their long-term health conditions and for others to maintain their health and wellbeing at work are crucial and can also support employers to reduce the time their staff take off sick.

The Better Health at Work Award (BHAWA) supports and recognises the efforts of employers addressing health and wellbeing in the workplace. The award can also improve an organisation's reputation with staff, partners and wider community as a good place to work.

The benefit and effectiveness of the award has proven important as whilst at work individuals benefit from a healthier environment and culture, have more access to health information and health activities where they wouldn't normally; workplace activity as part of the award has potentially saved lives on many occasions, for example identifying dangerously high cholesterol levels and early stage cancers.

For Hartlepool this approach is a priority because of the health challenges people who live in Hartlepool face, including poor life expectancy rates, high long-term sickness, poor mental health and high disability figures.

In Hartlepool there are 13 businesses that are currently active in the scheme, ranging from large multi-site engineering companies to emergency services and charity organisations supporting Hartlepool people in need.

The award scheme is free, flexible and open to all employers in Hartlepool regardless of size, Hartlepool locality or type of business. Many organisations already promote healthy lifestyles and consider the health of their employees this Award recognises the achievements of these organisations and helps them move forward in a structured and supported way.

For further information about the award contact – www.betterhealthatworkne.org



Stephen Bennett, Assistant Operations Manager for Stagecoach in Hartlepool



EMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH

Why is employment important for health?

There is a connection between health and employment. Good work improves health and wellbeing across people's lives and protects against social exclusion. Therefore being in good work is better for your health than being out of work.

'Good work' is defined as having a safe and secure job with good working hours and conditions, supportive management and opportunities for training and development.

However the relationship can go both ways: unemployment can harm health, and poor health makes it harder to find or sustain employment. From the data we know that people living in areas with high employment rates are more likely to live longer than those living in areas with high unemployment rates.

- 2,364 - Employment Support Interventions delivered in last 12 months via Jobs & Skills @ the Hub
- 1,019 - Unique residents from Hartlepool supported in last 12 months via Jobs & Skills @ the Hub
- 1,772 - Hartlepool Starts through the Tees Valley Youth Employment Initiative
- 789 - Hartlepool Progressions into Employment through the Tees Valley Youth Employment Initiative



Scott Campbell, Service Manager for Education, Employment and Skills at Hartlepool Borough Council



The situation in Hartlepool

Detailed data is available [here](#) but some key challenges and positives are noted below:

- Employment rates for those aged 16-64 years are at their highest level for 19 years. The rate has increased by 11% in four years. Currently around 1 in 10 people in employment in Hartlepool are self-employed.
- Employees in Hartlepool have the second highest average wage in the Tees Valley. In six years the wage has increased by 24%. However average disposable income per household in Hartlepool is 24% below the England average.
- Hartlepool's employment rates for those receiving support for mental health or a learning disability are both in the top five in England.
- In Hartlepool, 4 out of every 10 people who are not looking for work are long-term sick. This is the highest level in 19 years. Of those not looking for a job, only 3 in 10 want to have a job.



Scott Campbell, Service Manager for Education, Employment and Skills at Hartlepool Borough Council



Rebecca McDonald, Senior Employment Specialist at Stockton & Hartlepool Employment Connections.

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

This year's report provides a summary of the main health issues for the working-age population. The report also provides a summary of the numbers of people in employment and numbers of people who are long term sick.

However, we want to focus on the importance of work and how this can improve people's health and wellbeing and look at the opportunities Hartlepool has to offer in supporting people into work and also creating healthy workplaces.

For example we can work together in:

- Creating healthy workplaces
 - Creating further opportunities for employment and health
 - Creating opportunities for learning and skills development
 - Supporting businesses to flourish
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- There is funding coming into Hartlepool to support business investment and economic growth. These resources represent an important contribution to health improvement.



Conclusion by Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health for Hartlepool

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the preparation of this report:

Claire Robinson - Public Health Principal, Hartlepool Borough Council

Joan Stevens - Statutory Scrutiny Manager, Hartlepool Borough Council

Sue Leather - Advanced Public Health Practitioner, Hartlepool Borough Council

Dean Langstaff - Public Health Intelligence Specialist, Hartlepool Borough Council

Bev Bearne - Assistant Director (Development and Growth), Hartlepool Borough Council

Connor Kerr - Head of Marketing and Communications, Hartlepool Borough Council

Julian Heward - Senior Communications and Marketing Officer, Hartlepool Borough Council

Ben Donnison - Graphic Designer, Hartlepool Borough Council

Victoria Watson - Assistant Director of Procurement and Supply Chain Management for North Tees and Hartlepool Solutions

Stephen Bennett - Assistant Operations Manager for Stagecoach in Hartlepool

Scott Campbell - Service Manager for Education, Employment and Skills at Hartlepool Borough Council

Rebecca McDonald - Senior Employment Specialist at Stockton & Hartlepool Employment Connections

Lin Greenfield - Nurse Lead, Hartlepool & Stockton Health

Emma Mills - Health and Wellbeing Coach, Billingham & Norton Primary Care Network, Hartlepool & Stockton Health (H&SH)