

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the LINK?

'LINK' stands for the Local Involvement Network for Darlington. Local Involvement Networks are being set up around the country, replacing the Patient and Public Involvement Forums (and before that the Community Health Councils). The Carers Federation will host the LINK in Darlington.

Why the change from the Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIF)?

The LINKs will broaden representation to existing networks and health groups. The remit of LINKs will also broaden to include adult social care. LINKs are now linked to a geographical area, rather than Trust responsibility area.

Who can get involved?

The LINK is open to all individuals, groups and organisations who live in Darlington. The LINK aims to get a wide range of views so that all health and social care services in the area can be influenced.

What are the benefits of getting involved?

The LINK will provide opportunities for individuals, groups and organisations across communities to work together to make a difference to health and social care services.

What power does the LINK have?

Legislation means that LINKs will be able to:

- enter and view specific types of premises where services and care are provided;
- ask for information and get a response within a specific timescale;
- make recommendations and get a response within a specific timescale; and
- refer matters to the local Overview and Scrutiny Committee and get a response

How can I get involved?

Every section of the community will be asked to contribute their views and experience and will ensure that groups and individuals, who might not often have their voice heard, get a say. To get involved please contact LINK:

Tel: 01325 380145

Email: info@darlingtonlink.co.uk

Text: 07525237734

How much time will it take up?

There are lots of different ways to have a say and it doesn't have to be sitting on a committee. The LINK will provide more ways for more people to be heard and will work hard to engage with people who may be easier to ignore. Opportunities such as using the internet, focus groups, events and other mechanisms will be established for people to express their views. For those who want to get more involved, there will be opportunities to work on a specific issue or join a group.