NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has developed the Community Health Ambassador Programme to help it effectively engage and involve local people in the planning and development of health services.

Community Health Ambassadors work across the whole Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees area, but the role includes a particular focus on helping the CCG to engage and involve people from minority, marginalised and disadvantaged groups and communities. This is an important part of the Health Ambassador role, as people from these groups and communities are particularly likely to be affected by health inequalities and deprivation.

The CCG is proud of the relationships it has achieved with key voluntary sector organisations in Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees. It is working in partnership with Catalyst Stockton, one of its voluntary sector partners, to maximise the number of local people who are given the opportunity to take part in the Community Health Ambassador initiative.

What do Community Health Ambassadors do?

- Raise the profile of the CCG and what it does
- Seek and listen to the views of local people on behalf of the CCG
- Take into account the diverse make-up of the local population and its health inequalities
- Engage people, groups and communities in a way which is accessible to them, depending on their needs and abilities
- Develop on-going links and relationships with local people, groups and communities
- Feedback views and opinions from local people to the CCG
- Communicate information from the CCG to local people about health services and health issues

How does the work of Community Health Ambassadors help the CCG?

It helps the CCG to:

- Identify local health priorities
- Develop commissioning intentions (which health services should be bought and developed)
- Ensure that the views of the public are properly reflected in the decision-making of the CCG
- Feedback to those taking part on how their feedback has been used to inform and influence the work of the CCG

What makes a good Community Health Ambassador?

- Community Health Ambassadors are people with local knowledge of Hartlepool and/or Stockton-on-Tees and the diverse population that lives in the area. They have the ability to communicate and engage others in discussions about health-related issues
- Community Health Ambassadors work on a voluntary basis, but appropriate travelling and out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed

Interested?

If you are interested in becoming a Community Health Ambassador, or would like more information, please contact:

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