

About the Community Council

NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for planning, designing and paying for a range of local NHS services. We are looking to recruit local people from across Darlington to join our Community Council. As a member, you will be the voice of your community, sharing experiences of using local health services and taking an active role in shaping and delivering new and exciting services.

Membership on the Community Council is voluntary. The aim of the Community Council is to help the CCG effectively engage with and involve local people in the planning, development and commissioning of health services in Darlington, sharing views and comments to help ensure that development of services are high quality, safe and meets the needs of our local population.

We want our volunteers to represent a wide range of communities across Darlington and members are encouraged to provide feedback and recommendations that are solution focused, allowing the CCG to positively improve patient experience.

The Community Council will comprise of:

- Lay Member, patient and public involvement (PPI), who will chair the group
- Members of the public – Community Champions
- Representatives from the voluntary and community sector
- Practice manager – on rota basis
- Communication Officer (NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit on behalf of Darlington CCG)

The role is very flexible without a strict time commitment, other than one meeting a month therefore input from individuals can vary.

The council will have an understanding of the needs and backgrounds of others and will represent a variety of different groups of people and will ensure local people, patients and carers are properly involved when the CCG develop new or existing health services or in some cases, discontinue services.

It is important that the council act in the interests of patients and that the community remain at the heart of discussions and decisions.

Members will be responsible for feeding back decisions made by the governing body to local patients, carers and public members.

Background

NHS Darlington CCG is a group of Darlington GPs and NHS officers who work together to commission (or purchase) health services for our patients.

Darlington CCG was established in April 2013 and is made up of 11 member GP practices. We cover a total population of around 107,000 over a mainly urban area, covering the same areas as Darlington Borough Council (DBC).

We are responsible for commissioning (planning and buying) the majority of health services on behalf of our local population and from 1 April 2015 we were delegated the responsibility for commissioning primary care (GP) primary care General Medical Services (GMS) services. Since 1 May 2016 we have also had a shared management arrangement with NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG.

This collaboration supports the delivery of our statutory responsibilities and commissioning plans through a shared workforce, shared learning and development helping us to transform health services for our respective communities in a more sustainable way.

We are responsible for commissioning the following services;

- Mothers and newborn children
- Mental health
- Learning disabilities
- Emergency and urgent care
- Routine operations
- Long term conditions
- End of Life
- Continuing healthcare
- GP services.

Our Vision and Aims

Our vision is; 'Working together to improve the health and well-being of Darlington'

This means:

- Health services which are safe and of the highest quality

- Best possible health outcomes
- Joined up services which benefit patients and the public and give best value for money

To deliver our vision we focus on these key aims:

- improve the health status of the people of Darlington;
- secure the right services in the right place for the people of Darlington;
- invest in primary care and services;
- secure meaningful engagement with people.

Community Council Member Role Description

About you:

- You are enthusiastic, caring and have a passion for health
- You want to improve health services in your local community
- You want a voice to share your experiences, views and ideas and to get involved in the way your health service is run to make services better for everyone
- You live or are registered with a GP in Darlington and use or have experience of local health services
- You have an understanding of the local community and it's health needs
- You demonstrate a positive commitment to engagement and involvement in health at a local level.
- You develop and maintain good working relationships
- You take an objective view, seeing issues from all perspectives
- You hold others to account and probe and challenge constructively
- You think clearly and creatively and continually identify opportunities for improvement

Your role:

We are looking for local people who use Darlington health services (for example hospital, GP, community services) to ensure that the patient voice is represented. The CCG wants to ensure public members and carers are considered at all stages of their decision making process relating to local health services, therefore members should have an understanding of the needs and backgrounds of others and be aware that they are representing a variety of different groups of people. This role will give you the opportunity to have your say in how services are planned, developed and evaluated.

As one of the members, you will be required to attend monthly meetings at a venue(s) in or around Darlington.

You will be entitled to claim reasonable expenses for travel for either bus fare or car mileage to cover fuel costs.

Skills:

- Good and effective communication skills
- Ability to listen to other people's perspectives in a respectful way
- Ability to demonstrate how you have used your voice, on behalf of others to influence change
- Be able to provide own opinions in a constructive and positive manner and have the confidence to get involved in debates
- A broad understanding of the NHS and its structure, roles and responsibilities of commissioning organisations (CCG) or the ability to quickly get up to speed
- Committed to participate in engagement events when required
- To represent the voice of others, especially those from seldom heard communities
- Able to work as part of a group and build effective relationships
- Good time management skills
- Awareness of and commitment to equality and diversity
- Ability to understand and evaluate a range of information and services and provide timely feedback to the CCG
- Be confident in feeding back decisions made by the governing body, and its committees, to local patients, carers, and members of the public
- Understand the need for confidentiality in some circumstances

Recruitment and Selection Process

We are always looking for new members to join the Community Council. To apply to become a member all you have to do is fill in the application form and e-mail it to Rachel McCabe at info@healthwatchdarlington.co.uk. We will then contact you to arrange an informal interview.