



Hartlepool
Business Support

Be Your Own Boss 2026

MONDAY 12TH - FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY

Advice and support for local residents
looking to start-up in business and for newly
established businesses based in Hartlepool.





Welcome to Be Your Own Boss






MONDAY 12TH - FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY 2026







We are delighted to be launch the Be Your Own Boss campaign taking place from 12th - 23rd January 2026.

A fantastic programme of events organised by Hartlepool Council's Economic Growth Team to raise awareness of advice and support available to residents looking to start-up in business and newly established businesses.

Registration details are provided in this programme. Those wishing to enquire about events can email **business.support@hartlepool.gov.uk**



Date & Time	Event	Description	Venue (& registration)	Partners
Monday 12 – Friday 16 January Drop in between 9am – 4.00pm <i>Online appointments outside these hours are available on request</i>	Ready to Be Your Own Boss? Join Our Drop-In Week!	<p>Have a brilliant idea and want to turn it into a business? Come along and chat with us during Drop-In Week! We'll help you explore your vision, answer your questions, and show you the support available to kickstart your journey to self-employment.</p> <p>Whether you're just curious or ready to take the leap, we're here to guide you every step of the way.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>No need to book – just drop in.</p>	 Hartlepool Borough Council
Saturday 17 January 10am-1 pm <i>Book a 30 minute slot – first appointment 10am , last appointment 12.30pm.</i>	Ready to turn your business idea into reality? Dreaming of being your own boss?	<p>Take the first step today! Book a free 30-minute one-to-one session and discover the support and resources available to help you launch your business with confidence. Your future starts here—don't wait!</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Appointment only. Book your 1-1 appointment via the link below: https://startup1-1s26.eventbrite.co.uk </p>	 Hartlepool Borough Council
Monday 19 January 9.30am – 11am	Thinking about Starting a Business? The Need to Know Essentials	<p>This Self-employment basics session will provide all you need to know if you are considering taking the leap to becoming self-employed. It will cover what your responsibilities would be and is a great opportunity to ask any questions you might have.</p>	<p>Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, Brougham Terrace, Hartlepool. TS24 8EY.</p> <p>Book your space via the link below: https://starturessentials2026.eventbrite.co.uk </p>	
Monday 19 January 12.30pm – 3.30pm	Bookkeeping for Start Ups	<p>Learning how to manage your books can be daunting when you are a new business and navigating the world of self-employment - you might find they're more manageable than they first seem.</p> <p>This session also includes insights into the governments Making Tax Digital initiative</p>	<p>Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, Brougham Terrace, Hartlepool. TS24 8EY.</p> <p>Book your space via the link below: https://bookkeeping2026.eventbrite.co.uk </p>	
Tuesday 20 January 9.30am – 1.30pm	New Year New You: Enterprising Mums - Turn Your Ideas Into Reality	<p>Are you a mum with big ideas and the drive to make them happen? This free, practical session is designed for mums who want to explore starting their own business and create a flexible, fulfilling future. Motherhood brings creativity, resilience, and problem-solving skills—the very qualities that make great entrepreneurs. Whether your children inspire your business or you're ready to revive old passions then join us in a supportive atmosphere and take the first step toward your enterprising future!</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below: https://enterprising-mums2026.eventbrite.co.uk </p>	

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Tuesday 20 January 2pm- 4.30pm	Side Hustle -turn your skills, passions and ideas into extra income.	Looking to top up your income or try something new? From handmade crafts and home-grown produce to online shops, social media ventures, freelance skills and digital services – the possibilities are bigger than ever, and you can do many of them from the comfort of your own home.	The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD Book your space via the link below: https://sidehustle2026.eventbrite.co.uk	
Wednesday 21 January 10am-3.30pm	Boost Your New Business with SEO	Join our hands-on session designed for startups and small businesses. Learn what SEO is, how Google ranks websites, and the key strategies to improve visibility—keywords, content, technical, local, and backlinks. Discover how to create traffic-driving content, optimize your site, and repurpose marketing efforts for maximum impact and leave with practical steps to grow your online presence and attract more customers.	The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD Book your space via the link below: https://seo2026.eventbrite.co.uk	
Thursday 22 January 9.30am-4.30pm	Unlock Your Business Ideas with Design Thinking	Ever felt stuck at a crossroads? Maybe you've got a business idea but don't know where to start. Maybe redundancy or life change has nudged you into thinking, "What next?" Or perhaps your business has hit a wall, and you're wondering how to push through, find more customers and get more sales. This course is designed exactly for those moments.	The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD Book your space via the link below: https://designthinking26.eventbrite.co.uk	
Thursday 22 January <i>Appointments available morning and afternoon.</i>	Bring Your Business Idea and Plans to Life with a Start Up Loan.	A Start Up Loan is available to individuals looking to start or grow a business in the UK. Whether you have a great business idea and no funds, or a newly trading business, book an online informal 1-1 appointment to see if this is the right option for you.	Book your space via the link below: https://startuploans26.eventbrite.co.uk	
Friday 23 January 10am-12pm	Work Smarter - Chat GPT for Start Ups and Small Businesses	Unlock the power of AI to simplify your day-to-day operations! This beginner-friendly guide shows you how ChatGPT can transform your business by streamlining admin, improving communication, and boosting productivity—saving you time from day one.	The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD Book your space via the link: https://chagpt2026.eventbrite.co.uk	
Friday 23 January <i>Appointments available between 9.30am – 12pm</i>	Are you a new business that wants to sell overseas?	Whether you are new to trading overseas or looking to enter new markets the Department for Business & Trade are offering Hartlepool businesses the opportunity for a free 30-minute one-to-one online appointment with an International Trade Advisor; the appointment will provide advice specific to your business and discuss any challenges you may be experiencing with sales overseas.	Book your space via the link below: https://selloverseas26.eventbrite.co.uk	



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