



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 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
<p>Monday 12 – Friday 16 January</p> <p>Drop in between 9am – 4.00pm</p> <p><i>Online appointments outside these hours are available on request</i></p>	<p>Ready to Be Your Own Boss? Join Our Drop-In Week!</p>	<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>	 <p>Hartlepool Borough Council</p>
<p>Saturday 17 January</p> <p>10am-1 pm</p> <p><i>Book a 30 minute slot – first appointment 10am , last appointment 12.30pm.</i></p>	<p>Ready to turn your business idea into reality? Dreaming of being your own boss?</p>	<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>	 <p>Hartlepool Borough Council</p>
<p>Monday 19 January</p> <p>9.30am – 11am</p>	<p>Thinking about Starting a Business? The Need to Know Essentials</p>	<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>	
<p>Monday 19 January</p> <p>12.30pm – 3.30pm</p>	<p>Bookkeeping for Start Ups</p>	<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>	
<p>Tuesday 20 January</p> <p>9.30am – 1.30pm</p>	<p>New Year New You: Enterprising Mums - Turn Your Ideas Into Reality</p>	<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>	

Date & Time	Event	Description	Venue (& registration)	Partners
<p>Tuesday 20 January</p> <p>2pm- 4.30pm</p>	<p>Side Hustle -turn your skills, passions and ideas into extra income.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below: https://sidehustle2026.eventbrite.co.uk</p>	
<p>Wednesday 21 January</p> <p>10am-3.30pm</p>	<p>Boost Your New Business with SEO</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below: https://seo2026.eventbrite.co.uk</p>	
<p>Thursday 22 January</p> <p>9.30am-4.30pm</p>	<p>Unlock Your Business Ideas with Design Thinking</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>This course is designed exactly for those moments.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below: https://designthinking26.eventbrite.co.uk</p>	
<p>Thursday 22 January</p> <p><i>Appointments available morning and afternoon.</i></p>	<p>Bring Your Business Idea and Plans to Life with a Start Up Loan.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Book your space via the link below: https://startuploans26.eventbrite.co.uk</p>	
<p>Friday 23 January</p> <p>10am-12pm</p>	<p>Work Smarter - Chat GPT for Start Ups and Small Businesses</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link: https://chagpt2026.eventbrite.co.uk</p>	
<p>Friday 23 January</p> <p><i>Appointments available between 9.30am – 12pm</i></p>	<p>Are you a new business that wants to sell overseas?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Book your space via the link below: https://selloverseas26.eventbrite.co.uk</p>	



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