



Complaints Procedure

Hartlepool Baby Bank is committed to helping the people of Hartlepool and their children. We do this by maintaining high standards across all aspects of our work. However, we recognise that there is always the possibility that we may fail to meet those high standards that we set for ourselves.

If you have a complaint.

Should you feel that Hartlepool Baby Bank has not lived up to its standards or something has happened that you wish to complain about, then please let us know as soon as possible. If we do not know about a problem, we cannot begin to resolve it for you and take action to ensure it doesn't happen again.

In particular, as a children's organisation, we take child protection extremely seriously. If you have any concerns about the behaviour of one of Hartlepool Baby Bank's staff, volunteers, or beneficiaries in any situation, it is vital that you tell us about it immediately so that appropriate action can be taken.

All complaints are dealt with by the trustees.

How to contact us

You can email us at babybankhartlepool@gmail.com

You can also write to us at: Hartlepool Baby Bank, 29 Sedgewick Close, Hartlepool, TS24 9EU

What we will do on receiving your complaint

- We'll listen, record your complaint and advise you how it will be handled.
- We will forward your complaint to the appropriate trustee, who will investigate the complaint, listening to all staff, volunteers, children and families affected or involved.
- If the complaint involves a member of staff or volunteer, this person will have the opportunity to express their point of view, accompanied by a friend. We will not divulge the name of the person who has made the complaint during an investigation unless you give us permission to do so.
- We'll take action to resolve the problem and tell you what that action is.
- We'll take steps to avoid a repeat occurrence or if necessary exclude a person/persons from Hartlepool Baby Bank.

- Any decision to exclude a person from the organisation due to discriminatory or harassing behaviour will be made in reference to Hartlepool Baby Bank's constitution and employment policies.
- At all times we will treat you with understanding and respect. We ask that you do the same for our staff and volunteers.
- Confidential information in relation to your complaint will be handled sensitively.
- We are not able to respond to anonymous complaints.
- We cannot deal with matters for which Hartlepool Baby Bank is not directly responsible unless it involves a child protection or safeguarding issue.

Complaint response times

We would appreciate your understanding that, with limited resources, we cannot always respond to your complaint immediately. However, we will act as promptly as we can.

You will receive an initial acknowledgement and/or response within five working days of receipt of your complaint and we expect to resolve most problems in that time.

Where a more in-depth investigation is required, we aim to provide a full response within 20 working days. If there are exceptional circumstances, where that is not possible, we will advise you.

What constitutes a complaint?

We regard a complaint as any expression of dissatisfaction with any aspect of Hartlepool Baby Bank, that is under the control of the organisation, its staff or volunteers.

What if our response does not satisfy you?

If you are not happy with our response, please let us know and your complaint will be reviewed by one of our Trustees.

Policy number 5

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Next review End of October 2022