

FAQs about our e-panel

<i>What is an e-panel?</i>	<p>It's a community of people who are interested in helping shape the future of Kirklees – made up of people that live, work or visit here or have a local link to the area.</p> <p>E-panel members take part in around three online surveys per year, to tell us about the kind of local services they need and want.</p>
<i>Why does Kirklees need one?</i>	<p>By having an e-panel that broadly mirrors the make up of our area, we can make sure we survey the right balance of men and women, of different ages and backgrounds, from all parts of Kirklees.</p> <p>Online surveys are a fast and cost-efficient way of gathering views.</p>
<i>Who can be on the e-panel?</i>	<p>Anyone 16 or over can apply to be a member, but we need to make sure the e-panel has the right mix of people to roughly match Kirklees as a whole.</p>
<i>What are the benefits of being a panel member?</i>	<p>You get to make sure your views count by telling us what you think about local services and what's happening in your local area.</p> <p>This will help the council to prioritise the things that are most important to you and to know how well we're doing in different areas so we can try and improve.</p> <p>As a panel member you will also be more in the loop with what's happening locally and more knowledgeable about the services your council provides – having more opportunity to influence this.</p>
<i>How do I join?</i>	<p>Take two minutes to fill in the short online joining form to give us some key facts about you, then we'll be in touch.</p> <p>You may get to join the panel immediately or we might add you to a waiting list if we already have enough people. Either way we'll let you know.</p>
<i>Can more than one member of my household be on the panel?</i>	<p>Anyone who is interested can apply as we need people of different ages and genders so if older relatives or your children still live with you this is not a problem. However as we need to make sure we've got enough people from different groups in Kirklees some of you might be offered a place, others might need to join the waiting list initially and could be invited to join in the future when we refresh the panel. We would need to avoid too many people from the same household being on the panel at the same time to be fair to other applicants.</p>

<p><i>What will be expected of me?</i></p>	<p>We will invite you to take part in around three online surveys a year. They won't take too long or be too complicated – around 5-10 minutes – and will be on local issues and services.</p> <p>Once the panel gets established, we might offer other opportunities over time, like discussion groups.</p>
<p><i>Once I've joined, how will I know when there's a survey happening?</i></p>	<p>We will always send you a personal email invite, which will contain a direct link to the survey. It's therefore very important that you keep us updated of any change to your email address. It also needs to be you that takes part (rather than someone else in your household) as we'll be looking at how views differ between different groups (e.g. age) based on the information you provide in your joining form.</p> <p>Our surveys sit within the Kirklees Council website (www.kirklees.gov.uk) but e-panel surveys will only be available to panel members.</p>
<p><i>Will I have to take part in every survey, what if I'm on holiday?</i></p>	<p>As a panel member we'd strongly encourage you to complete every survey. This helps to ensure that we hear your views and keeps the survey as cost-efficient as possible, but we understand this might not always be possible. If panel members repeatedly choose not to take part then we will have to take this into account when reviewing the panel and your place may be offered to someone else on the waiting list.</p>
<p><i>Will I find out the results?</i></p>	<p>Yes, we'll always let you know the results from our surveys. We will let you know by email when these are available, and they will be linked from our e-panel webpage, www.kirklees.gov.uk/epanel</p>
<p><i>What difference will it make?</i></p>	<p>By sharing your views we get a much better idea of how you feel things are going in Kirklees and what it's like living here. It's important we know how well local people think our services are performing to help us decide what our priorities should be</p>
<p><i>Can I leave the e-panel?</i></p>	<p>Of course, let us know if you wish to leave and we'll remove you from the e-panel. It's important that we take on new members from time to time, and lose some that have been on the panel for a long time so we will review panel membership about once a year.</p> <p>If you simply wish to defer your place for a set period of time (for example if you are leaving the country for a few months or have a long term illness and don't feel up to participating) please get in touch to discuss.</p>
<p><i>Can I still have my say in other ways?</i></p>	<p>Of course, if you are specifically invited to take part in other council consultations please do. You can also find out more about what's coming up by regularly checking the calendar on Involve (www.kirklees.gov.uk/involve). Being a member of the e-panel doesn't prevent you from making your views count in other ways.</p>

What if I want to be on the panel but online surveys aren't for me?

Online surveys are much cheaper and faster than postal or phone surveys, so by taking part this way you're helping us be more efficient in how we survey local people.

If you're unable to complete surveys online, but still want to be a panellist, please get in touch as we might be able to offer another format for you instead (such as a postal paper survey).

We know that being part of an e-panel isn't right for everyone - this e-panel to be just one of the many ways you can have your say on Kirklees issues.

How else can I get involved and have my say?

Take a look at [Involve](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/involve) (www.kirklees.gov.uk/involve). Involve is a tool to help Kirklees Council and local public services, such as NHS Kirklees, to plan and share community involvement work - like public events, surveys and consultation.

You can use it to find past, present and future involvement across Kirklees. Involve will tell you what's happened since the work has taken place as well, so you can see what difference getting involved has made.

You can use Involve's searchable calendar to see what's happening, including things you can get involved in yourself.