

Bedlington Place Programme Board Member Pen Portrait



**Chris Johnson
Operations Manager
Leading Link**

Leading Link is all about giving children and young people a real voice by being involved from the beginning in planning stages all the way through to implementation and evaluation. They are just about to celebrate their 15th year of Youth Leadership which focuses on Maximising the Potential of all children and young people.

Leading Link, founded by Lyn Horton was the Phoenix from the fire of the Extended Services Initiative taking on the strongest and most impactful elements of the programme back in 2007. Leading Link now has a strong reputation within communities as it seeks out real opportunities and experiences and will work with key stakeholders across sector to maximise impact for the children and young people within their own community and beyond.

Leading Links biggest drive is to support the best future possible for young people through listening to what is strong, not wrong and Chris will listen to ensure the young people's voices are heard and are embedded in any future plans. Chris has lived in Bedlington for over 20 years and has worked with Leading Link for the past 18 months on various projects and covid response events in the area. Chris was Manager of the Phoenix Theatre in Blyth and is well used to working with volunteers and the community and has a wealth of knowledge of technical and practical skills.