NEW!

The portable pendant and location service which gives you the freedom to live independently with help on hand wherever you are

0300 999 2 999
www.care-line.co.uk/bernie

Welcome Pack

Herts Careline
Because independence is important

Community alarm and teclare service

Herts Careline, North Hertfordshire District Council, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 3JF

January 19

0300 999 2 999
www.care-line.co.uk
Welcome to Herts Careline

Thank you for choosing Herts Careline as your assistive technology service provider. This Welcome Pack contains important information about your service.

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Feedback survey card - tucked in the back of this pack - we value your opinion - returned cards will be entered into a prize draw.

Your free Medical Alert card, Keyfinder Key Fobs and Finance Statement will arrive separately.
Assistive Technology Service Pack

Summary of service

Herts Careline’s award-winning assistive technology service, provided in collaboration with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) offers independence and reassurance to thousands of people living in Hertfordshire. The service is substantially discounted by HCC and provides a convenient and reliable way for you to summon assistance whenever you need it, via the following means:

• **Standalone service** - equipment that is not linked to our Control Centre, but is useful in helping maintain your independence; for example preventing overflowing baths or basins (barometric plug), or helping to monitor varying seizure types (bed based and wrist worn seizure monitors).

• **Community alarm service** - summon assistance at any time of the day or night at the press of a pendant and be connected to our 24/7 Hertfordshire based Control Centre.

• **Telecare service** - modern and discreet equipment (such as smoke or flood detectors) installed in your home that will automatically alert our Control Centre in the event of an issue. Telecare can help standard or more complex issues - let our specialist Assessor talk to you about different options to match your condition and lifestyle.

The operation of your standalone equipment

If you have subscribed to our standalone service, which means that your equipment isn’t connected to our Control Centre, your fee goes toward Herts Careline maintaining your equipment and servicing of it when necessary. Please refer to the manual(s) that came with your standalone equipment for information about their operation. If you feel there is an issue with your standalone equipment, or if you would like to discuss further areas of support we may be able to offer you, please call us on 0300 999 2 999.
The operation of your community alarm equipment

Your community alarm system allows you to summon help by pressing your call button on your pendant.

The Alarm Unit is reliable and simple to operate. Upon installation the technician will demonstrate to you how it works and will make a test call to the Control Centre to confirm your installation was successful. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the manual that was supplied with the equipment and its recommended use.

The most important buttons to become familiar with are the big red emergency alarm button on the Alarm Unit and the button on your pendant.

To raise an alert for help, simply press either of these and it will automatically dial through to our Control Centre – it will be responded to quickly.

Test your equipment - we ask you to test your system once a month by pressing the button on your pendant to ensure it is working correctly.

Please note, equipment images are for illustration purposes and are subject to change.
The operation of your telecare equipment

Depending on your specific telecare package, an alert will be automatically generated by each device (if fitted) in the following circumstances:

- **If you stumble or fall** – via your falls detector pendant worn around your neck or wrist
- **If there is a fire** - via your smoke detector
- **If there’s a sudden rise or drop in room temperature** – via your ambient temperature monitor or heat detector
- **If carbon monoxide is in the air** – through your carbon monoxide detector
- **If there is a flood in the bathroom or kitchen** – via your flood detector
- **If no movement is detected in a property or if unwanted visitors are at the door** – via Passive Infrared (PIR) Sensor
- **Complex cases / bespoke telecare** – your assessor from our partner, Independent Living Supplies, will explain how your equipment works when it is installed

**IMPORTANT - Testing your equipment**

Regular testing is an important element of any service of this kind and helps provide maximum reassurance that all of your equipment will work in an emergency. It is therefore essential that you check your kit and test it regularly.

We ask you to test your system once a month by pressing the appropriate button on each device – please see the diagram (overleaf) which shows where the test buttons are. Please refer to the manual that came with each piece of equipment for further guidance.

**Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service advises that smoke detectors are tested once a month;** we recommended that when testing this detector that you test all of your equipment at the same time. If you need help to do this, please ask a relative, friend or your carer - do not put your self in danger by over-reaching or climbing to access the device.

Please tell our call operators that you are testing your equipment when they answer your call. There is no need to worry about the batteries in your equipment – the devices will self test and if they are running low Herts Careline will be automatically notified and we’ll arrange for their replacement.

**Automatic Test Calls**
Your system makes calls to the Herts Careline Control Centre on a local rate number which begins with the prefix 03. If for any reason the alarm cannot call this number then it will use an alternative number with the prefix 01462 which will be charged at your telephone providers rate for your particular area. The system performs automatic diagnostics calls typically on a monthly basis - this is essential to make sure your equipment is functioning correctly and comply with various British and European industry standards.

*Please take time to familiarise yourself with the manual that was supplied with each piece of equipment and its recommended use*
Locating the test buttons

Please take time to familiarise yourself with the manual that was supplied with each piece of equipment and its recommended use.

Test Button
- Smoke detector
- Pendant with incorporated Falls Detector
- Heat detector
- Ambient temperature monitor
- Flood detector
- Carbon monoxide detector

Help us to help you
Community alarms and telecare

These 5 points will help you make the most of your assistive technology service.

1. The unit should remain connected at all times even if you are going to be away from home. If you do need to turn the electricity off for any reason please disconnect the unit from the telephone socket as well. To reconnect, plug it back in and make a test call to our Control Centre.

2. Please test your pendant once a month to ensure that it is working correctly. In addition to this, the alarm will self-test by calling through to our Control Centre every month or when it determines a service is required.

3. Let us know if you are going to be away from home for more than a few days. Please contact us again when you return by pressing the pendant button to ensure the unit is working properly.

4. It is important that you advise us if your circumstances change:
   - If your key holders change
   - If you change the code to your key safe
   - If you change your doctor
   - If a key holder or relative changes their telephone number
   - If there is any change to your medical condition

5. If you wish to nominate a family member, friend or legal representative to pay for the service on your behalf or look after your interests, (in relation to your alarm or payments of the alarm service), please let us know.
Frequently Asked Questions

How does the equipment work?
Your Alarm Unit is plugged into your telephone line and power socket. You have been issued with a pendant which can be worn around your neck or on a wrist strap. When you press the button on your pendant it will automatically call our Control Centre and one of our highly trained operators will help you.

Your telecare sensors will trigger automatically in case of emergency. If you trip or fall, your pendant falls detector will sense this and automatically trigger a call for help through your alarm unit. The smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector, ambient temperature monitor and other sensors, dependent on your needs, are also linked to the Alarm Unit. If they detect an issue, they will automatically dial our Control Centre and we will speak to you to alert you to the situation or take other appropriate action.

How much does it cost?
Details of your charges can be found in your Service Agreement. The price includes the monitoring of emergency calls, maintenance of the equipment, and a Fallback Emergency Response Call-Out Service when circumstances warrant it. Payments are made by monthly direct debit and VAT exemptions may apply.

Do I wear my pendant in bed?
You can if you wish although generally we recommend you place your pendant on your bedside table; but remember to take it with you should you need to get up at night.

Can I wear my pendant in the bath?
Most pendants are waterproof so you can wear them in the bath. You will be advised if yours is when the alarm unit is installed. However, we generally recommend you don’t submerge them in water.

Will the alarm work in a power cut?
Yes. The alarm has a back-up battery and will still work for up to 48 hours without mains power.

Will my alarm work throughout my entire property?
The alarm usually works across a distance of up to 50 metres (55 yards or 160 feet). In typical homes this would include upstairs, downstairs and in small gardens. Your installer will have checked this for you. If you have self installed, we recommend you test your pendant from the furthest points in your property to make sure.

Will having the service affect my electricity bill?
The Alarm Unit does require a power supply so there will be cost for the electricity. You may notice a minor increase to you bill from your electricity provider. A calculation to explain this amount can be found on our website www.care-line.co.uk

What if I press the pendant by mistake?
This is easily done so please don’t worry - just tell the operator that you have pressed it by mistake.

What if the alarm doesn’t work?
If you notice a problem please call us and we will arrange for a trained engineer to visit you and resolve the issue.

What happens if I cannot hear you or speak to you?
If we have received a call and do not get a response, we will telephone you back immediately. If you do not respond to that call, the operator will contact one of your nominated responders. If your responders are unable to attend you we will arrange for an emergency visit. No call will be ended until the operator is sure the issue has been dealt with appropriately.

What is a responder?
We advise that you have at least two people who are willing to hold keys to your home and who can attend if you need assistance.

A full list of Frequently Asked Questions can be found at www.care-line.co.uk
VAT guidance

Herts Careline must charge Value Added Tax (VAT) on the supply of your assistive technology service unless you have an exemption recognised by Her Majesty’s Revenues and Customs (HMRC). If you are chronically sick, disabled, or terminally ill it is very likely that you will be exempt from the VAT charges.

If you think you are eligible please contact us and we will send you a VAT exemption form to complete. Alternatively, you can obtain further advice from HMRC by calling their local rate telephone number 0300 123 1073 or visiting its website www.hmrc.gov.uk

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Herts Careline will comply with the obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation and will endeavour to ensure that any information provided by you will remain confidential.

In exceptional circumstances, we may be obliged by law to disclose certain information about a client. If this occurs, we must adhere to these requests and in such circumstances we will be released from our duty of confidentiality. However these requests are rare and at all other times any information provided by you will remain confidential.

Further details about our Data Protection Policy can be found by searching for ‘data protection’ at www.north-herts.gov.uk

Adult Safeguarding Policy

Working in partnership with the community, partners, and safeguarding authorities, Herts Careline aims to make sure that vulnerable adults using its services are listened to and protected from abuse.

We actively encourage our staff and partners to report all incidents or concerns they may have in relation to the wellbeing of vulnerable adults, no matter how minor that concern may seem, or indeed if it is ultimately proven to be unfounded, and support the principle that it is best to report than look away or ignore.

Further details about our Adult Safeguarding Policy can be found by searching for ‘adult safeguarding policy’ at www.north-herts.gov.uk

Fair Usage Policy

Herts Careline is committed to providing a dependable service to its clients when they most need it. Accordingly, we respectfully request that you refrain from using your assistive technology to make non-emergency contact with the Control Centre. If you need to discuss any aspect of your service please telephone the Customer Service Team on 0300 999 2 999 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or email CarelineSupport@north-herts.gov.uk

If your equipment is persistently used inappropriately we will make contact with you to discuss your needs and whether you would benefit from additional or alternative services. In extreme cases Herts Careline reserves the right to discontinue the provision of a service in order to safeguard the reliability of its operations.

Guidance on landline telephone repairs

The Herts Careline assistive technology service usually makes use of your landline telephone. If a fault arises on your telephone line, your alarm base unit will alert you via the verbal message – ‘Please check your telephone line’.
It is essential that an engineer from the telephone provider attends your property to correct the fault as soon as possible because it is likely that the community alarm or telecare system will not function correctly without a functioning telephone line.

**Priority fault resolution for telephone landlines**

Ofcom states that you are entitled to priority fault repair service on your landline telephone because of the nature of our services.

Each telecoms provider will have their own policies surrounding this but it is worth taking note that this service could be available. Please contact your individual provider for details.

BT has a Free Priority Fault Repair Service letter template for their customers to use. You can find it at [www.bt.com/includingyou](http://www.bt.com/includingyou) Other providers may offer their own templates.

**Return of Equipment Guide**

The cost of the Herts Careline community alarm and telecare service is substantially subsidised by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). This means that new customers benefit from all of their equipment free of charge as it is provided on loan to them, rather than having to pay an additional fee for it. The equipment loaned to each new client is done so on the proviso that once it is no longer required that it is returned* to Herts Careline (this is a free service – please see overleaf). The equipment is of value to Herts Careline and can be reused (by another member of the community), after it has been serviced by its manufacturers.

**Help us to help others and protect the environment**

Sometimes our equipment is only needed by our clients for a short period of time, for example, if they’re being discharged from hospital or requiring some help after a period of illness. So it is inefficient to dispose of this valuable equipment when it’s still in perfect working order and can be safely used again. Even after prolonged use it is usually possible for us to reuse some of the equipment.

When equipment is returned, we carefully assess whether it can be remanufactured or refurbished to current industry standards, rather than start the manufacturing process from scratch. This allows us not only to provide cost effective services, but also benefits the environment by reducing the carbon footprint associated with the manufacturing of our equipment. However, we can only continue to do this with your cooperation.

**If you no longer need your service**

Due to the nature of our service, we require written instruction if the service is to be discontinued from one of the following people:

- Next of Kin
- Nominated Responder
- Appointed Executor
- Lasting Power Attorney
- Appointed by the Court

Once we receive written instruction regarding the cancellation, we will confirm how the equipment should be returned* to us – this will either be via the post (free of charge) or we will arrange a convenient time to collect the equipment. Cancellations can be made via our Cancellation eForm found on our website at [www.care-line.co.uk](http://www.care-line.co.uk) or by letter in the post.

*We reserve the right to charge a £50+VAT fee if equipment is not returned to us upon request.
Refer a friend or family member and receive a £10 voucher!

“A few weeks ago I had fallen and hurt myself so I activated my pendant. I was very impressed by the quick response and the caring way I was treated. Within moments my neighbour, daughter and paramedic had been contacted and help was on the way. I’m so, so pleased to have your service and find it so valuable – It’s worth every penny and I have told all my friends!”

Mrs Rogers, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire

Refer a friend

Help a friend or family member stay independent and safe within their home by referring them to us. Our community alarm service makes a big difference to the independence and wellbeing of people of all ages and circumstances across Hertfordshire, including:

- Older people
- People returning from hospital
- Those prone to falls
- Vulnerable adults
- People with disabilities or restricted mobility
- Unpaid Carers

How to refer:
Simply complete the form opposite and post it back to us. If your friend then joins the service you shall receive the £10 voucher of your choice in the post.

For more information:  Visit: www.care-line.co.uk
Call: 0300 999 2 999   Email: careline@north-herts.gov.uk

No limit to how many people can be recommended. Terms and conditions apply. See website for details. Not open to professional referrals.
My friend or family member is interested in receiving information about the Herts Careline range of services.

Your details

Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms
First Name ____________________________
Surname ____________________________
Address _____________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
Postcode ____________________________
Email ________________________________
Telephone __________________________

Friend’s details

Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms
First Name ____________________________
Surname ____________________________
Address _____________________________
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Postcode ____________________________
Email ________________________________
Telephone __________________________

Please tick your preferred voucher

[ ] MARKS & SPENCER
[ ] JOULES
[ ] WYEVALE
[ ] JOHN LEWIS
[ ] JOHN LEWIS
[ ] WAITROSE

Return to: MSU Herts Careline Support, NHDC, Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3JF.

Herts Careline is a not-for-profit service provided by North Hertfordshire District Council. We have been providing independent living services across Hertfordshire for over 30 years and are one of the largest independent providers of assistive technology in the UK.

We would like to know what you think about our community alarm and telecare services so please let us know if you have a comment, compliment or complaint.
Comments, Compliments, Complaints

We would like to know what you think about our services so please let us know if you have a comment, compliment or complaint.

How do you let us know?
You can talk to us in person, or phone us, write to us, send us a fax, email, or use our website.

If you prefer, you can fill in the enclosed form on page 29 and post it to us.

If you need help to do this, you can ask someone to contact us on your behalf. Many problems can be sorted out by talking to us. Most differences or misunderstandings can be sorted out simply and quickly. If you don’t tell us about a problem, we may not know how to help you. As a starting point you should talk to the manager of the service involved, or if you don’t know who to contact, phone 0300 999 2 999 and we’ll direct you. If you have tried to sort out a problem but are still not happy, you may then decide to make a complaint.

Or, you may decide to make a complaint straight away.

What could you complain about?

- When we have failed to do something we should have done
- When we have done something badly or in the wrong way
- When we have treated you unfairly or not politely

This form is intended for reporting comments, compliments or complaints for Herts Careline’s community alarm and telecare services only.

What happens next?

If you have contacted us with a comment or suggestion, we will consider what you have said carefully and see if we can improve the quality of the service we provide.

If you have a compliment for us, we will happily pass it on to the employee or service involved!

If you have contacted us with a complaint, we promise to:

- be fair
- deal with it as quickly as possible
- deal with it in confidence
- keep you informed at all stages

We aim to resolve complaints as quickly as possible but it may take up to 10 working days.

If we are unable to provide a response within 10 working days we will contact you to explain when we expect to complete the investigation.

What if you are not happy with our response to your complaint?

If you are not happy with our response, we have a review process.

You can write to the Director of the Service you are complaining about saying why you are not happy with the response. They will look at the issue again. We need to receive this letter within 14 days of our response to you.

Local Government Ombudsman

We hope that we can sort out your problem, but if you have followed our complaints procedure and you are still not happy, you may contact:

The Local Government Ombudsman
PO Box 4771
Coventry CV4 0EH
www.lgo.org.uk

Phone: 0300 061 0614
Fax: 024 7682 0001
E-mail: advice@lgo.org.uk
Text: ‘call back’ to 0762 480 4299
This leaflet is about comments, compliments and complaints. If you would like it in a different language or format please complete the form and return it to the address below.

 перевод на бенгальский, арабский, итальянский, китайский и турецкий. Если вам нужен перевод на другой язык или формат, заполните форму и возвратите ее по указанному адресу.

We aim to listen to our customers and deliver responsive, high quality, value for money services.

We will:
- be speedy, efficient and polite, no matter how you contact us
- provide fair and accessible services to all groups and individuals in a way to suit your needs without discrimination
- provide well-trained and easily identifiable staff
- always provide a contact name, phone number and e-mail address for your enquiry
- greet you clearly and politely with ‘good morning’ or ‘good afternoon’, our service area and name
- respect your rights to confidentiality, privacy and safety

We also aim to:
- reply to your e-mails within two working days, and your letters within four
- let you know if we are not able to provide a full response within this time, with our reasons why, and aim to reply within 10 working days
- give you an appointment so that you can visit us and we can visit you

We promise to:
- continue to improve our service to you by treating your comments, compliments and complaints positively and learning from experience
- clearly explain our complaints procedure and follow it, keeping you informed of the progress of your complaint
Comments, Compliments, Complaints

Please complete and return in an envelope to:

Herts Careline, North Hertfordshire District Council, Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 3JF

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

Phone: _____________________________

Email: ________________________________

This is a: Comment ☐ Compliment ☐ Complaint ☐ (please tick the appropriate box.)

Have you raised this matter with the service involved? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tell us about your comment, compliment or complaint.
(Please give as many details as possible, for example, what happened, where and when it happened, and what action you would like us to take.)

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Feedback card prize draw terms and conditions

At the back of this Welcome Pack is a feedback card which we ask you to complete and return to us (free of charge). When completing the feedback card you have the option to enter our prize draw, and the terms and conditions below relate to this.

1. The Prize is either one calendar month’s free Herts Careline monitoring service worth £14.10 excluding VAT or a £10 shopping voucher (choice of John Lewis, Waitrose, M&S).

2. The draw will take place quarterly throughout the calendar year. The dates the draw will take place are 1 December, 2 March, 1 June, and 1 September.

3. The winner will be selected at random using a Random Generator internet tool, from participants who have returned and completed a Herts Careline feedback survey card. Responses received after each quarter’s draw date will be put forward into the next available quarter.

4. The winner will be notified by telephone. If no response is received from a winner within 14 working days, an alternative name will be drawn at random.

5. After acceptance of the Prize, the winner will be given details of how to redeem their Prize and will be able to choose from the two Prizes on offer, please see point 1 above.

6. Please allow 28 days for arrangement of the Prize.

7. The Prize Draw Promoter is North Hertfordshire District Council.
8 The Prize is non-transferable and non-refundable. No cash alternative can be substituted for any Prize. However the Promoter reserves the right to substitute the Prize for a Prize of equivalent or greater value without notice if this is necessary for reasons beyond its control. Only one entry per person is permitted. Duplicate entries will be removed.

9 The Promoter does not accept responsibility for postal failures of any kind, which may restrict or delay your feedback survey card reaching Herts Careline’s offices. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery.

10 Entries not submitted in accordance with the rules, illegible, incomplete or altered will be disqualified. Anyone involved in the administration of the Prize Draw, and their direct families, are prohibited from entering this prize draw.

11 The name and postcode of the winner will be available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Herts Careline, North Hertfordshire District Council, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 3JF.

12 The Prize Draw is only available to current clients of Herts Careline’s community alarms and telecare services, over the age of 18.

13 It is a condition of entry that the winner’s name will be used for promotional purposes. This will only be in summary e.g. Mrs Jones from Hertfordshire, and could be used online or in print.

14 By entering this prize draw, entrants are deemed to have accepted these terms and conditions. Herts Careline’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.