

A message from Richard Flinton, Chief Executive

Heading into this weekend, there is some understandable anxiety in many towns, villages and rural beauty spots across North Yorkshire. Even yesterday, we were receiving reports about visitors making the most of the Government's relaxation of the travel and exercise rules and parking in villages to explore the countryside again. These were very small numbers – a sign of the concern in many places. A single post on our Facebook yesterday sparked a real debate about this – reaching more than 85,000 people already! It is very evident many people have strong views on this topic. We understand it is a real concern and – along with our partners in the districts and North Yorkshire Police – we are working hard to try and discourage visitors from outside of North Yorkshire from coming until we can welcome them properly. Our message is clear. There is a very real threat of a second peak of Covid-19. That is why the Public Health advice remains to wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water and to stay at least 2 metres or 6 feet apart from anyone you do not live with. Many hand washing and toilet facilities, as well as car parks, remain closed or are extremely limited, given social distancing rules. And, almost all cafes and shops remain shut. There are also no life guards on duty along the coast. We are a county famous for our warm welcome, outstanding landscapes and wonderful local produce but we are not ready to open the gates to the world yet and so we are asking people to be patient.

We are doing our best to limit crowds in those places where lack of space is particularly concerning such as Whitby, Filey, Scarborough and Harrogate. We are closing a number of streets, shutting certain car parks and suspending parking in a number of areas. We will also have highways crews looking out for any issues of concern over the weekend and ready to take the action open to us, to respond.

We hope this is reassuring, but you all have a part to play in this, too. Of course, enjoy the outdoors; there is no finer place than our county in my, perhaps biased, view. But, please, access open countryside rather than paths, narrow lanes or town and village centres. If you can do so close to your home all the better, and be prepared to change your mind if where you are heading looks busy. Protect yourselves and your family by avoiding crowds and encourage anyone you know who is thinking of coming – to wait until we can offer them a real North Yorkshire welcome in the future.

Many of you will be aware our school hubs have been providing vital support for many key workers involved in the fight against Covid-19. In line with the Government's announcement, we are involved with detailed planning now to deliver a staged reopening of our primary schools. This is a really challenging piece of work. Schools cannot reopen as rapidly as they were forced to close under the Covid laws. Social distancing will have an obvious and important impact on matters such as school transport, catering and, indeed, right across the teaching and learning environments. The initial phase of reopening will enable Reception and Years 1 and 6 to return to class next month. All of this is subject to careful and detailed planning with the safety of pupils and staff at its heart.

On the subject of young people, we are in the midst of Foster Care Fortnight – celebrating the phenomenal people who make a difference to the lives of some of our most vulnerable children. We are blessed to have very many caring families raising children in our care and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their outstanding contribution. We believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life and good beginnings deliver the best life chances for children. Here's the sales pitch...if you have never thought about being a foster carer please read this <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/north-yorkshire-celebrates-impact-fostering>

These words from foster dad, Dave sum it up for me “Every kid has a backstory, usually not a good one – and if you can make it a little easier for them, then you are giving them something they haven't always received from the adults in their lives. That might be a shoulder to cry on, or a bit of normality in what may have been a life full of disruption and upheaval.” Please give it some thought.

On the subject of 'giving' to improve the lives of others – another one thousand people will receive welfare checks this weekend as part of a huge community support programme. These door knocks by community champions are really well-received and making a big difference to people who are shielding or self-isolating because they are otherwise vulnerable. Thank you to every person who is making Team North Yorkshire the force it is. So, this weekend remember you are not going through this on your own; there are thousands of caring and supportive people who will help you if you need it.

No one is alone in North Yorkshire. If you have no one to help you, call our customer service centre 01609 780780. The centre is open seven days a week 8am-5:30pm.



A message from Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health

Current World Health Organisation data shows that we have now passed 4.3 million confirmed cases globally, with 295 thousand across 215 countries, areas or territories.

At a national level, Public Health England data shows there were 233,151 lab confirmed cases in the UK, with 33,614 COVID-associated deaths. Locally, we currently have 1216 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across North Yorkshire.

The number of people currently in hospital with COVID-19 continues to decrease slowly. Sadly, there have been 546 deaths from COVID-19 across Airedale, Harrogate, South Tees and York to date, of whom an estimated 209 will be North Yorkshire residents.

Supporting people affected by dementia

Dementia, often presenting as memory loss, confusion and difficulty carrying out daily activities, affects about 800,000 people living in the UK. Providing end of life care for people with dementia is a key part of delivering good quality care but many people put things off until it's too late, often missing opportunities that could lead to improved quality of life.

Why talk about it?

- Reducing anxiety- knowing what to expect and how to respond.
- Informed decision making- it's not unusual for loved ones to have to make decisions on behalf of the person with dementia.
- This is much easier if their wishes are clear.

- Peace of mind- knowing that everything possible has been done to ensure quality of care for the person with dementia.
- Not being a burden- knowing that things are taken care of, to save families and loved ones unnecessary stress and cost.

Further information:

- Dying Matters: www.dyingmatters.org
- Dementia UK: www.dementiauk.org
- Alzheimer's Society: www.alzheimers.org.uk

North Yorkshire County Council

 **Planning for recovery**

More recycling centres to reopen in North Yorkshire

Following the opening of half of North Yorkshire's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) on 6 May, four more sites are due to open on Thursday (14 May). They are:

- Leyburn, Shawl Quarry Lane, Leyburn, DL8 5LA
- Burniston, Burniston Road, Scarborough, YO13 0DA
- Settle, Sowarth Field Industrial Estate, Settle, BD24 9AB
- Tholthorpe, Flawith Lane, Tholthorpe, YO61 1SG

All sites have been structured to operate within the guidelines and maintain the safety of the public and centre staff.

For safety reasons, the remaining six sites (*Northallerton, Ripon, Malton, Tadcaster, Harrogate (Stonefall) and Wombledon.*) cannot be opened at this time because of their size, layout and difficulty with highway safety, but this will be reviewed continually with a view to opening more as soon as possible.

Please visit the website for all the details about opening times and days. Restrictions are in place for some vehicles and types of waste, so please check before you set off.

For the full list of HWRC's open across the county and full details can be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/CovidHWRC

Key worker mobile testing sites

As part of the national roll out of the **Key Worker and Priority Testing** for COVID-19, drive-through Mobile Testing Units will be operating in the following locations over the coming days:

Here are the locations of the mobile testing units for this week so far:

15 May:

- Scarborough – Seamer Road Park and Ride
- Northallerton – Civic Centre, Stone Cross
- Settle - Greenfoot Car Park, Ingfield Lane, Settle, BD24 9RW

16 May:

- Harrogate- Hydro Leisure Centre, Jenny Field Drive, Harrogate, HG1 2RP

Find out more about testing facilities in North Yorkshire: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/key-worker-and-priority-testing-facilities-north-yorkshire>

Guidance on what you can and can't do

FAQs to summarise what the government guidance on current lockdown restrictions means, have been published. The guidance sets out to inform the public on these changes which apply for England only. For further information, read <https://bit.ly/CV19FAQs>

Further guidance on schools reopening, travelling safely and borders will be circulated as they are released and the FAQs will also be updated to reflect this.

The guide at the link below will help you understand how to travel safely during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in England. It provides guidance for walking, cycling, using private vehicles (for example cars and vans), and travelling by taxis and public transport (for example trains, buses, coaches and ferries).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Please do circulate these trackable links throughout your business networks and supply chains.

Schools and childcare

Following the announcement by the government to prepare for the wider opening of childcare and schools from 1st June at the earliest, we continue to work with head teachers, unions and wider colleagues on this issue. Head teachers and managers, staff and parents need to be reassured that procedures and systems are in place to ensure that children can return safely to educational settings.

Two hundred of our schools have remained open throughout to take in vulnerable children and the children of critical workers but all aspects of the day, from home to school transport, cleaning, catering and education need to be appropriately managed if we are to return to all schools taking in children in greater numbers. There is a great deal of planning that needs to be done if we are to achieve this in a short time.

In this very challenging period we are heartened by the story of one of our young carers, 13-year-old William Stainton from Scarborough, who used money saved for a holiday to buy a 3D printer so he could make PPE.

So far, he has made 670 face shields and 900 ear savers for nursing homes in Scarborough and Bridlington. William cares for his dad Kevin Stainton, 57, who has heart disease and COPD. He decided to make the PPE after seeing what was happening in Italy and wanted to prevent it happening in the UK.

Dad Kevin says he's incredibly proud of his son: "I'm so proud of him and everything he does. "I think he's worried about me getting Covid-19, so he thinks if he can help to protect other people from the virus he can help me.

“He helps me every day with everything I need as well. Cooking, washing, he helps me to get about.

“He just brightens my day up and always does his best to cheer me up.”

Support for people in isolation

Door knock welfare checks continue this weekend, with council volunteers out and about in Filey, Scarborough and Whitby making sure residents have support in place and that people are getting help with shopping and other essentials while in isolation. Six off-duty fire fighters from the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have also volunteered to join the operation on Saturday; the third of four dates planned.

The checks include delivering an information leaflet and a copy of the Yorkshire Post newspaper. They are in addition to outbound calls to people who are shielded and particularly vulnerable as a result of COVID-19; these have been ongoing for several weeks in partnership with district councils. Checks such as these are crucial in making sure that everyone in North Yorkshire is getting the help and support they need.

Gary Fielding, the County Council's Director of Strategic Resources said: “Most people are getting help from family or being supported by neighbours, but these checks are clearly providing the much needed comfort that we are here to help.”

Senior Strategy and Performance Officer, Louise Rideout, volunteered in Bedale last weekend. Louise added: “The response from the public was very positive. All the residents who answered the door had nothing but praise and were extremely grateful. One lady in particular was overwhelmed by the act of kindness and we had a lovely chat. I took my 2-year-old daughter with me and she proved a big hit with residents. I think the check-ins are a wonderful idea.”

It's clear that this continuing crisis is bringing out the best in many people. Neighbours are looking out for each other to make sure nobody is left without essential supplies and people have come together to form groups in their towns and villages. Shelagh, a volunteer with Skipton Step into Action, has been helping Carla and her son with shopping while she's self-isolating.

Shelagh said: “Carla lives quite close to me but we would probably have never met in normal circumstances. Hopefully soon I can take a flask and a chair round and we can have a socially distanced coffee in the garden. I know there are other volunteers doing various things for people of all ages. I think it's brilliant, it's bringing the community together.”

Our Salt of the Earth campaign, to celebrate kindness in North Yorkshire communities, also continues to show how people up and down the county are supporting each other. Derek Bratton from Scarborough has been helping people with shopping, prescription collections, DIY jobs and delivering homemade meals every week since lockdown started. Neighbour Andrea said: “Throughout the pandemic he has put others before himself working all day, collecting items, delivering to people who are in isolation. He is such a wonderful guy.”

Those in need of help, who don't have anyone else to call on, or anyone concerned about the welfare of someone else, should contact North Yorkshire County Council's customer service centre on 01609 780780. The centre is open seven days a week 8am-5:30pm. For more information, including links to the main supermarkets for people who can shop safely for themselves, and a link to the Buy Local site, go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19

Local economy

Buy Local

North Yorkshire Buy Local has achieved its first milestone with over 500 businesses registered on the site just five weeks after it launched – the popularity of the site is an indication that local businesses see it as a great and supportive initiative.

Buy Local brings together all businesses and tradespeople, eligible to operate during Covid-19, with the people who need their services. We would invite any business within North Yorkshire that is trading at the moment to register, especially those who are now able to re-open following the new government guidance this week.

Read more about some of the businesses who have registered at www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local

Please share our social media messages encouraging businesses to register, and directing the public to the site. Follow @northyorksc on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

LEP News: Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme extension

Earlier this week, the Chancellor announced that the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will remain open until the end of October. Full details of the announcement can be found here: <https://bit.ly/CJRSExtension>.

Key details to note:

- Furloughed workers across the UK will continue to receive 80% of their current salary, up to £2,500.
- From August, furloughed workers will be able to return to work part-time with employers being asked to pay a percentage towards the salaries of their furloughed staff.
- The employer payments will substitute the contribution HMG is currently making, ensuring that staff continue to receive 80% of their salary, up to £2,500 a month.

Further details on implementation will be made available by the end of the month.

Government communication of guidance on Covid-safe working practices

Given many businesses and employees are worried about returning to workplaces, new communication assets have been created by the government to help share messaging around working safely. These can be found [here](#).

It sets out practical steps for businesses focused on five key points:

- Work from home if you can
- Carry out a COVID-19 risk assessment in consultation with workers or trade unions
- Maintain 2 meters social distancing wherever possible
- Where people cannot be 2 meters apart, manage transmission risk
- Reinforcing cleaning processes

This also includes several videos which walk through the guidance provided.

Applications for Self-Employment Income Support Scheme open early

The government's scheme to support the self-employed has now opened for claims ahead of schedule.

Self-employed individuals or members of partnerships whose business has been adversely affected by coronavirus can now apply for a Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) grant worth 80% of their average monthly trading profits.

Millions are expected to benefit from the scheme with the payments – to be paid in a single instalment covering three months and capped at £7,500. Everyone eligible for the SEISS will be able to receive the government grant by 25 May, or within six days of a completed claim.

For more information, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/applications-for-self-employment-income-support-scheme-open-early>.

[Here](#) is a video on how to access the scheme.

Funding & Grants: Discretionary Grant Fund

The guidance on the Discretionary Grant Fund has now been published on gov.uk, alongside the main scheme guidance- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding?5432>.

Individual local authorities are now looking at managing this to best meet their local needs. The LEP will be supporting communication of this once details are agreed.

UKRI Innovation

UKRI are now running an open ended grant call for research and innovation ideas which respond to the coronavirus. Proposals can last up to 18 months and must meet at least one of the following:

- New research or innovation with a clear impact pathway that has the potential (within the period of the grant) to deliver a significant contribution to the understanding of, and response to, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts.
- Supports the manufacture and/or wide scale adoption of an intervention with significant potential
- Gathers critical data and resources quickly for future research use

For further information on this, visit: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/ukri-open-call-for-research-and-innovation-ideas-to-address-covid-19/>

Staying informed

As always, we are keen to promote the following as main sources of business support information:

- **GOVERNMENT:** <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>
- **Y&NY LEP:** <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/>
- **Y&NY GROWTH HUB:** <https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/>

Following the Prime Minister's announcement that £600m will be allocated to local councils to work with the care sector on Covid-19 infection control, we have yet to have confirmation of the amount of money that the Government will be allocating to North Yorkshire.

As part of our new care home resilience strategy, we are making daily calls to every care home in the county to pick up issues and give support and we hope that we will be able to address in this way both the practical help and the data returns that the government will require. We are, therefore, working with the Independent Care Group to ensure all homes work together and take part in the daily calls. We are also using every opportunity to make the case for further national funding for care.

Activity packs

Hundreds of activity packs are currently being delivered to older adults, children and families in North Yorkshire to help improve their physical and mental health during the pandemic.

North Yorkshire Sport has teamed up with North Yorkshire County Council to distribute 750 packs to certain groups in the county during the coronavirus outbreak.

The packs contain practical suggestions for staying active at home and tailored exercises, along with items to help people take part in physical activity more easily and maintain positive mental health. They include advice on how to stay happy and healthy from organisations such as Compass Buzz, along with chair-based exercises, mindfulness drawing booklets and exercise bands in the packs for older adults and skipping ropes, disc-markers, throwing bean bags and pavement chalk in the pack for families.

Staying physically active throughout the pandemic can bring a variety of positive outcomes and the packs will help people with practical items and ideas for staying active and looking after their mental health.

Direct payments support

People in North Yorkshire who are funded to pay for their own care are getting special support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We have stepped up help for over 1,000 people across the county who receive direct payments or individual service funds to fund their own bespoke care package as the crisis has meant that many receiving these payments are not able to access their usual support either because a service or centre they use is closed or because their personal assistants are self-isolating.

We have therefore ensured that our direct payment liaison advisors keep in constant touch with people and, in many cases, advisors have been able to mitigate risks and enable care to continue. They have helped to access PPE on a priority needs basis so that where possible personal assistants have been able to continue their support. They have also provided advice as to how budgets can be used differently to access equipment or to pay for family and friends to take over care where this is the safest alternative.

In one case where a person using direct payments was hospitalised with Covid-19, our advisors supported the whole process of discharge, accessing PPE for the person's personal assistants so they could return safely home.

Video shows: Direct payments manager Emma Ryan explains the help that is on offer from the county council <https://youtu.be/KaV28YyxILc>

Communications

NYCC's website has a dedicated area for all the latest COVID-19 related news visit:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

Follow us on social media: @northyorkscs on Facebook and Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Advice on things to do

Tour ancient Rome

You can explore other cities, and even other times, online; this virtual tour of ancient Rome takes you through the forum, Capitoline hill, and famous monuments.

https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/rome?utm_source=fl_blog&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=covid_content

Write a play or short film

Try out a free screenwriting course to learn the ropes and (maybe) catapult you into stardom after your first film is made: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/screenwriting>

Joy of painting

403 episodes of the timeless Joy of Painting have been added to YouTube so you can listen to the soothing tones of Bob Ross while you paint happy little trees and enjoy the beauty of imperfections:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/BobRossInc/videos>

Visit the MoMA

A huge number of art galleries and museums around the world have digitised their collections and are now offering free virtual tours: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/moma-the-museum-of-modern-art?hl=en>

Go to 500 other museums or galleries

Google's arts and culture collection has virtual tours of 500 attractions around the world, including national galleries, individual artist museums, and even the Eiffel Tower:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>

Go to the aquarium

Although they're closed to the public, Monterey Bay Aquarium has added a number of live cams to let you keep an eye on the jellyfish, kelp forest, coral reef, and even the penguins, completely free:

<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>



The P.M. is holding daily press conferences; the highlights from the latest one can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

