

Good afternoon

I hope you and your loved ones are well?

See below the latest NYCC Bulletin, please inform me if I can be of any assistance. Stay safe and well.

Best wishes  
Annabel

Cllr. Annabel Wilkinson. Swale division. North Yorkshire.

## A message from Richard Flinton, Chief Executive

On the eve of the second of May's Bank Holidays many of you will be looking forward to a little peace in a somewhat chaotic world. Although we are learning to carve out a new norm for our lives, there remains very little that could be seen under any other circumstances as business as usual.

The weather, albeit today is very blustery, continues to facilitate us enjoying the unlimited time outdoors the easement of the lockdown allows. The fact that people can exercise for as long as they like and drive to open spaces for that will no doubt have helped considerably people with families and limited garden space. The outdoors is a cure for many things. A place to exercise, unburden the mind, play with the kids, walk the dog. But while you are making the most of the county's wonderful green hills and dales, coastal walks and public rights of way, please remember the pandemic remains very much with us. While we are seeing cases in North Yorkshire very slowly decline, we are still seeing new cases, and sadly more deaths all too regularly. Remember you may not have any symptoms that you are aware of, but you may accidentally take it back to someone who becomes very seriously ill. Now is not the time for complacency, so please play your part.

Our ask is that you "**Think ahead to limit the spread**". In my role as Chair of the multiagency command which is leading the fight against Covid-19 In York and North Yorkshire we are doing our best to support you. However, you can help too by sticking rigidly to the social distancing and hand washing guidance and thinking carefully about where you might go and walk or run etc. Remember most shops remain closed, including the majority of cafés and restaurants. It's crucial you avoid crowds to limit the spread and remember that hygiene facilities will be limited. Those that are open will almost certainly be busy and social distancing may be tricky. If you arrive somewhere and it's busy – please go somewhere else. Don't risk it. Have a plan B and a plan C. It will be less stressful and will help you protect yourself and your family.

To support all your good work our highways teams have been reviewing the impact of the mitigation they put in place across some of the places where an influx of visitors would have been particularly challenging regarding staying at least 2 metres apart at all times. This weekend we will again close Foreshore Road, Royal Albert Drive and Marine Drive in Scarborough and there will be several parking suspensions across the Borough to try to enable social distancing. There will also be cones in places across Harrogate and Knaresborough. Please respect these closures and suspensions because we are putting them in place for everyone's safety.

A major piece of work for the County Council continues to be around protecting our most vulnerable people. The shielding effort is going very well – thanks in part to the many volunteers in North Yorkshire giving their time to take provisions to people isolating or just calling them to make sure they don't feel isolated. We are now also working with a number of supermarkets to help other vulnerable people secure priority food delivery slots. There are 235 care home and extra care setting in the county – which has a growing ageing population. Residents in these settings are particularly at risk and our health and adult services, public health and NHS colleagues continue to undertake daily calls with each venue. Helping with a broad range of practical measures and interventions that help to stop infection from spreading or even better – from coming into the setting in the first place. A key part of this good work is around testing for Covid-19 in care homes. This has been extremely complex and taken time to navigate. I am pleased to say that today I believe we have made a breakthrough on this that will help us test these setting more rapidly and regularly and I very much hope – play a big part in the latest fight against this virus. I hope to be able to say more on this next week. We have also set up a number of step down facilities to make sure that when people are discharged from hospital into community settings that there are safe places to send them where they can get the care they need, while also ensuring they are Covid-19 free before being admitted to wider community care facilities. This was positively recognised by the Member of Parliament for Harrogate, Knaresborough and Boroughbridge Andrew Jones, this week at The House of Commons <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRvoT5R1Dko&feature=youtu.be>

So we have come a long way – there is much to do – but we will get through it and North Yorkshire will be different but it will also still be the very special place we know it to be. Remember - play your part and think ahead to limit the spread.



### A message from Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health

Current World Health Organization data shows that we have now passed 4.9 million confirmed cases globally, with over 320 thousand deaths across 216 countries, areas or territories.

At a national level, yesterday's (21/05) Public Health England data show there were 250,908 lab-confirmed cases in the UK, with 36,042 COVID-associated deaths. To date, there have been 1262 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 574 deaths from COVID-19 across Airedale, Harrogate, South Tees and York NHS Trusts to date, of whom an estimated 220 will be North Yorkshire residents.

Although the COVID-19 picture in hospitals is gradually improving, one of our top priorities continues to be to working to support care homes around outbreak management, improving access to testing and PPE. We are currently preparing to support the national effort on contact tracing and we are exploring what our local plans will look like.

We are also supporting schools and other educational settings with their efforts to support them to open safely on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June for more pupils. Work is ongoing internally to prepare for the safe reopening of some of our front-facing services when this will be appropriate and in accordance with national guidance.

### **Covid-19 testing**

As part of the national testing programme for coronavirus, drive-through Mobile Testing Units, run by the Department for Health and Social care, will be operating in the following locations over the coming days between 11am and 3pm:

- **23 May – Harrogate** – The Hydro, HG1 2RP
- **23 May – Pickering** – Flamingo Land, YO17 6UX
- **24 May – Settle** – Greenfoot/rugby club car park, BD24 9RW
- **24 May – Selby** – Drax Social Club, YO8 8PJ
- **24 May – Scarborough** - Park and Ride Seamer Road (A64)

Before you attend you must book a test. There are two ways to do this depending on which testing group you are part of. Tests can be booked from 8pm the night before.

Everyone in the country aged 5 and over who is showing coronavirus symptoms can register at <http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus>

People who don't have access to the internet, or who have difficulty with the digital portals, can ring the new 119 service to book their test.

Essential workers and members of their household can register at: [www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers](http://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers)

You can see the full list of essential workers at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested)

### **No health without mental health: why this matters now more than ever.**

Difficult emotions in the face of Coronavirus are a natural and widespread reaction and, for most, will recede with time. That does not make dealing with this easy. Having good mental health helps us relax more, achieve more and enjoy our lives more.

Mental Health Awareness week helps to promote and reiterate the importance of good mental health for everyone. Practical tips to help you look after your mental health and wellbeing are available [www.nhs.co.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/](http://www.nhs.co.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/)

North Yorkshire County Council

 Planning for recovery

### **Household waste recycling centres opening times return to normal**

Following the successful reopening of 19 of North Yorkshire's 20 household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) earlier this month, the majority of the sites are now reverting to their normal opening hours.

The HWRCs have been open seven days a week, including Wednesdays, when they would normally close, for a temporary period to help clear the backlog of waste that accumulated in people's homes during the lockdown.

Now, 18 of the sites will revert to their normal opening hours and days of 08:30am to 5pm six days a week and will close on Wednesdays from 27 May.

This change back to normal opening times will apply to all sites except West Harrogate, which will continue to be open seven days a week as a further temporary measure while the Harrogate Stonefall site remains closed. Harrogate Stonefall and all mobile HWRCs remain closed for safety reasons.

 Schools and childcare

### **Schools across North Yorkshire will get support with reopening**

We are following the guidance from the Government and advising schools to prepare to be open from June 1 at the earliest.

Some schools may be ready to follow Government advice to allow them to open from that date, but many will have staggered dates and approaches depending on their individual circumstances.

Each school will be required to undertake a risk assessment in order to plan appropriate safety measures for their specific circumstances. This is to ensure each school can decide whether they can open safely.

These risk assessments will also inform the County Council if there are any schools in the county which cannot implement appropriate safety measures. The council will work with schools, head teachers and the unions to support each school and the decision to open by the head teacher and governing body.

### **Home to school transport**

We know that some children who will be attending school from June 1 will be relying on their usual home to school transport. We are currently arranging travel for pupils already entitled to home to school transport where we have advance notice, but demand for the service is difficult to predict, and arrangements will need to be made to ensure there are

enough seats to provide a suitable distance between pupils. As a result, we are asking parents to register their need for transport via an online survey.

To register, parents should visit our [website](#) and fill in the online form. This survey will need to be completed on a weekly basis for the rest of the academic year for children who normally travel on County Council transport and who will need to use it in the forthcoming weeks. A separate form needs to be completed for each child.

Vehicles will be running along usual routes with normal pick-up and drop-off times.

We are working hard to arrange transport for pupils and ensuring social distancing, but where capacity is limited, priority will be given to pupils who are already entitled to free travel.

## Social care and the NHS

### **Dementia**

We would like to remind people that Dementia Forward is available for support, information and advice to support people living with dementia.

This can be accessed through the North Yorkshire-wide Dementia Forward helpline, which connects people to a team of trained dementia support advisors and a dementia specialist nurse.

Anyone with a dementia-related question can call, even if you don't have an official diagnosis. The helpline is 03300 578592 and the website is [www.dementiaforward.org.uk](http://www.dementiaforward.org.uk)

### **Domestic abuse**

The Independent Domestic Abuse Service is continuing to work to support North Yorkshire residents in the rapidly changing circumstances of the pandemic.

IDAS supports anyone affected by domestic abuse, including refuges, outreach services and a helpline. They've had to adapt during the pandemic, but are still responding and developing new ways to help people who are being abused.

They are using online video support sessions, WhatsApp messaging, calls and online live chats on their website.

For many people who are afraid of their partner, isolation with them can be a scary time.

Advice on how to deal with this situation if you are being abused is available on the website, along with advice for friends, family and neighbours of those being abused and how they could help.

Sarah Hill, CEO of IDAS, said: "We are really worried about the risks of people being isolated with abusive people whose behaviour may escalate due to increasing uncertainty, pressure on finances and cramped conditions.



“Many people who face controlling, violent or abusive behaviour from a partner or family member are likely to be feeling very scared about being isolated with them for long periods of time. We want them to know that there is support available.

“Over the next few months, we will work creatively and flexibly to provide vital services in very difficult circumstances. We are immensely proud of our teams who are pulling together during this difficult time to ensure that there is a way for people to get help if they are afraid of their partner or concerned for someone they know.”

IDAS is available on 03000 110 110, [info@idas.org.uk](mailto:info@idas.org.uk) and web chat at [www.idas.org.uk](http://www.idas.org.uk)

### Support for people in isolation

Over the coming bank holiday weekend, the County Council is once again leading a relief service, with staff and volunteers ready to meet any additional demand for help with essentials such as shopping and prescriptions; this will mean that many of the community support organisations are able to take a break.

Julie Macey-Hewitt, the chief executive of Age UK Scarborough, one of the community support organisations working with the County Council, said: “Our staff are working flat out at the minute so the bank holiday relief effort is so important, because it allows us to have a proper break. Everyone can have a couple of days to recuperate and come back feeling fresher afterwards. We work incredibly hard as it is, but at the minute it’s a different kind of pressure.”

Despite some changes to lockdown restrictions, many people are advised to remain at home as much as possible and be particularly vigilant about social distancing. That includes people with some health conditions, including heart disease and diabetes, people over the age of 70 and pregnant women. For people who are being shielded because they are extremely clinically vulnerable to being hospitalised as a result of Covid-19, current Government advice is to stay at home until 30 June at the earliest.

With at least another four weeks of isolation for people who are being shielded, telephone calls and door-knock checks are crucial in making sure that everyone in North Yorkshire is getting the help and support they need. This weekend volunteers from North Yorkshire County Council will be checking on people in areas including Ripon, Skipton, Selby, Pickering and Malton. The checks include delivering a leaflet with the County Council’s customer service centre number and a copy of the Yorkshire Post newspaper.

Tanya Shipley, a teaching assistant working in the council’s adult learning and skills service, checked on 33 residents last weekend. Tanya said: “Some of the people I spoke to were so glad of someone just to chat to. I was pleased to hear that everyone had help from either family members, friends or neighbours. It was so lovely chatting and reassuring them that there is support and help available if they needed it. It is such a difficult time for us all right now and I just so glad I was able to help.”

The Covid-19 support grant scheme is also providing much-needed reassurance to people in need of financial assistance to pay for food and household essentials during isolation. So far, 348 grants have been approved and awarded to eligible applicants through the community support organisations. The majority of people receiving these grants have long-term health conditions or weakened immune systems.

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 including bank holidays.

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](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

### Local economy

North Yorkshire Buy Local ([www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local)) is the online marketplace to bring together businesses and customers.

Many local suppliers are plugging the gap to help the most vulnerable access goods and services. Among them is the Home Farmer in Wensleydale, which signed up to Buy Local to reassure customers that the business is running as normal.

“Many people are changing how they shop, so one simple website connecting people to small independent shops and services is a great idea,” said Sam Spence, who runs the farm with her husband, Ben, and his brother, Adam. “We found it was really easy to sign up and the website was clear and easy to use. We wanted to reassure customers that we are open as usual and have extra safety measures in place, so the Buy Local website was a great place to get that message out.”

Read more here [www.northyork.gov.uk/buy-local](http://www.northyork.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.

### **NYCC / YCC LEP Update 22.5.2020**

#### **BEIS to host webinars to help business adopt COVID-secure workplace guidance**

Following on from the government's recent publication of workplace guidance, produced in consultation with industry, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will be hosting a series of free webinars to help businesses make their workplace COVID-secure.

The webinars cover a range of workplace settings that are allowed to be open. Many businesses operate more than one type of workplace, such as an office, factory and fleet of vehicles, so businesses may need to use more than one of the guides/webinars to adapt work environments to keep people safe.

Webinars start from Wednesday 27th May and will run until Tuesday 2nd June - for more details and to sign up, use this link: <https://bit.ly/BEISWebinars>

### **COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme webinars**

The government is committed to doing whatever it takes to support businesses and individuals through the coronavirus pandemic and the following webinars have the information, guidance and tips relating to the **Coronavirus COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme**.

Providing an overview of the scheme; this webinar looks at who can claim, when to start paying SSP, employees you can claim for, making a claim, keeping records, and more.

[Choose a date and time](#)

### **Future Fund now open**

The government's £500 million Future Fund is now open for applications with innovative and high-growth British businesses able to secure investment to help them through the Coronavirus outbreak.

UK-based companies can apply for a convertible loan of between £125,000 and £5 million, to support continued growth and innovation in sectors as diverse as technology, life sciences and the creative industries. For more information, visit

<https://bit.ly/CV19FFLaunch>

### **Government extends maximum loan size through CLBILS scheme**

Government is extending the maximum loan size available through the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme from £50 million to £200 million.

Loans under the expanded scheme will be made available to large businesses affected by coronavirus from **26th May**. Changes also mean companies receiving help through CLBILS and the Bank of England's Coronavirus Corporate Financing Fund will be asked to agree to not pay dividends and to exercise restraint on senior pay

For more information, visit [Larger businesses to benefit from loans of up to £200 million](#)

### **Latest Education & Skills Funding Agency business update**

[Business update](#) is the Education and Skills Funding Agency's monthly round-up of apprenticeship information and news for businesses, including advice relating to COVID-19.



As the country takes steps towards recovery, apprenticeships and skills investment will be a vital contributor to economic recovery post-pandemic. Guidance on the [re-opening of FE colleges, sixth forms and secondary schools is also now available](#).

The priority remains the safety of all learners and staff and re-opening is based on scientific advice. Employers are now being asked to work with their apprentices, learners and learning providers to help them understand plans for re-opening.

Training will be at the forefront of the country's recovery from this pandemic. It is paramount to continue to upskill our workforce and support people getting back into work. By continuing to invest in further education and apprenticeships, now and in the long term, businesses can ensure they have the skilled workforce they need post-pandemic.

### **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/>

### 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: @northyorksc on Facebook and Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

### Advice on things to do

#### **LGBTQ+ writing competition**

North Yorkshire Libraries has just launched an LGBTQ+ writing competition accessible to anyone, including NYCC staff, with the goal of promoting positive mental health during these trying times as well as generally being something nice and enjoyable to do! It may be of particular interest to professionals working with LGBTQ+ individuals/groups, as well as those who engage with young adults/teenagers.

Here is a link to the post where you can find more information: <https://www.facebook.com/nycclibraries/posts/10157525005797153>

#### **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](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>

