

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

This week, I am pleased to share some really hopeful news courtesy of the York and North Yorkshire Federation of Small Business. The organisation represents around four thousand businesses here and their most recent survey reveals that confidence in a bounce back from the pandemic is higher here than it is nationally! Nearly 50 per cent of the businesses involved in the survey also said they had plans to grow over the coming months. This is really positive, particularly given that many sectors are not able to reopen to capacity due to social distancing and other covid-secure measures. Speaking at our weekly media briefing today, Carolyn Frank, who is the Development Manager for the FSB in North Yorkshire, praised the resilience and creativity shown across many sectors and talked about the importance of the large number of independent retailers welcoming back customers in many of our market towns once more. Many are trading over longer hours and opening seven days to adapt their business to the restrictions in place. I was particularly pleased to hear about the new and exciting start-ups that are being born here during a time of unprecedented challenge. I also completely agree with Carolyn when she praises the loyalty of the people of North Yorkshire during a time of crisis. Your continuing support to help reignite our economy will be vital in helping us create new opportunities for skills and jobs as we emerge from the pandemic. We will be doing everything we can to ensure every chance to stimulate clean economic growth is supported here. In the words of Carolyn, many of our businesses 'are going for it in a covid-secure way' – let's keep supporting them and help our special county back onto its feet. You can hear more from Carolyn here:

<https://youtu.be/TeMFKiTPo34>

Today, the Covid rates in North Yorkshire stand at 26 per 100,000. That continues generally to reflect the England average, which stands at 22 per 100,000 over a seven-day average. We do have two areas above the national rate – one of which is Selby, which I discussed in some detail in this bulletin last week. This is largely linked to a workplace outbreak and is being very carefully managed by the affected business, Clipper, and a number of the agencies involved. Our director of public health has put additional measures in place, including more testing, to ensure this is contained and reduced effectively. All indications are that this multiagency approach is effective, but it is a reminder that we will all be living with covid for the foreseeable future and we must not forget the actions we know to be very effective in protecting ourselves. Washing our hands, keeping our distance, covering our face and letting fresh air in – together these remain a key aspect of our defence.

Of course, another is the hugely successful vaccination programme. As of today our wonderful NHS colleagues, supported by an army of volunteers, have successfully administered nearly 380,000 doses of the vaccine here in North Yorkshire. Take-up here remains good and, together with a robust testing programme, this is extremely important to

our road map out of restrictions. Thank you to everyone who is supporting this and we are reassured that supply will be in place to ensure that we reach that target of offering all adults a first dose by the end of July. Together, all these measures will help us unlock summer and we are grateful for everyone's support.

One of the topics where the pandemic has offered some opportunity is climate change. Fewer cars and less travel on the roads and a greater awareness of the value of the space and clean air across our communities. We are committed to taking on board all learning to support a green economic recovery here, and often it can be the cumulative value of smaller changes we all make that deliver lasting improvements. One small but important step may be to reuse and recycle more and that includes food waste. If, like me, you are a keen gardener looking to reduce CO2 emissions – and given its Compost Awareness Week – you may wish to take advantage of our cut-price compost bin offer. Find out a bit more about how to turn kitchen waste into great compost here:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/simple-step-towards-more-sustainable-world>

Finally, this week I would like to join my colleagues at the County Council in congratulating Harrogate Town on that fantastic achievement of lifting the FA Trophy on Monday. I absolutely agree that they are a great example of a community grassroots club doing really well at a national level. We have heard a great deal about the impact on people's mental health of the three lockdowns and much about the vital part sport and physical activity can play in helping people's health and wellbeing. Grassroots sports are springing back into life and your support remains vital. Not just as the events season approaches, but for our own good, too.

So do, please, get out and enjoy the county's rich offer – safely! There is no better place to be, in my humble opinion!

## Keeping in touch

NYCC's website has a dedicated area for all the latest news, see link below:

- Covid-19 related news: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

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

## Public health and social care

### North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 2 May 2021, there have been 29,936 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 327 new cases reported in the past two weeks. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 30 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 26.4 cases per 100,000 people, higher than the England seven-day rate of 22.4. Work continues to ensure effective monitoring of all areas, with support for incidents being provided across a range of settings, which are reviewed daily.

Further information on North Yorkshire data provided at county, district and local area level can be found here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-data>.

## **Events Update – help to unlock summer!**

As we move through the Government’s roadmap out of lockdown, we see the gradual lifting of restrictions on events. From Step 1b (29 March) outdoor grassroots sport and outdoor socially distanced under-18 activities have been allowed to resume. From Steps 2-4, events organised by businesses, charitable organisations, sporting and public bodies will be permitted, providing that certain conditions are met. The guidance varies according to the type of event, and could include outdoor events, funfairs, performing arts or sports events. For full details of relevant dates and types of permitted events, visit the [gov website](#).

### **If you are organising an event**

- Follow all relevant Covid-secure guidance depending on the type of event, and complete a related risk assessment.
- Ensure that organisers and attendees adhere to all legal requirements, including maintaining group sizes permitted by social contact restrictions at the relevant step in the roadmap and preventing mixing between groups, enforcing social distancing guidelines and mandating face coverings in indoor areas where required.
- Ensure that all reasonable action has been taken to mitigate risk to public health.
- In North Yorkshire, we require all event organisers to consider 14 key principles when producing all event plans and associated risk assessments. Further information, and details of who to contact if you are planning an event can be found [here](#).

### **If you are planning to attend an event**

- Please follow all relevant guidance, and adhere to the messaging and instructions provided by the organisers.
- “Know before you go” - do some research on the event, so you understand what measures will be in place and what will be required of you.
- Remember ‘Hands. Face. Space. Fresh air’.
- If you are unwell or are required to self-isolate, you must not attend the event.

### **Impact on local community**

A comprehensive communications plan for all attendees and the local community reinforcing key principles for staging the event is vitally important. Organisers must consider how attendees get to the event, including the impact on and capacity of public transport, car parking (consideration whether more space is required as attendees should not be car sharing), impact on road network and emergency services. It is essential that event organisers engage with the local community to provide assurance that the event is taking place within the Covid requirements and the actual footprint of the event is also being managed.

### **Research into lifting restrictions on events**

Over the spring, the government is running a scientific Events Research Programme, which includes a series of event pilots, using enhanced testing approaches and other measures, to run events with larger crowd sizes and reduced social distancing to evaluate

the outcomes. The findings will help determine the approach to lifting restrictions on events. Depending on the outcome, and subject to the government's four tests at all stages in the roadmap, the government hopes to be able to lift restrictions on these events and sectors as part of Step 4 (no earlier than 21 June).

We can all play our part. Covid is not over yet – stick to the rules to unlock the next level.

## Working together towards recovery

### Testing

Everyone can now get coronavirus tests:

- if you have symptoms you must self-isolate and book a test for people with symptoms
- if you do not have symptoms you are encouraged to get tests to carry out at home twice a week

### Tests for people with symptoms

Testing sites in North Yorkshire, as elsewhere in England, are operated and managed by the Department of Health and Social Care and private contractors employed by them. We try to help the department by promoting the mobile testing site locations and hosting information on how people with symptoms can book a test via the national government portal. We do not manage the national booking system or laboratory testing process.

**Before you attend, you must book a test. Tests can be booked from 8pm the night before.**

Permanent sites are open **every day** for testing between 8am and 1:30pm:

- **Harrogate** – Dragon Road Car Park, Dragon Road, Harrogate, HG1 5DB
- **Scarborough** – William Street Car Park, Scarborough. YO12 7PL
- **Northallerton** – The Forum, Bullamore Road, Northallerton, DL6 1LP
- **Selby** – Portholme Crescent Car Park, Selby, YO8 4YR
- **Skipton** – Cavendish Street Car Park, Skipton, BD23 1RP

The new permanent sites at Malton and Catterick are open 8am to 8pm **every day**, currently for administering tests only.

- **Malton** - Wentworth Street Car Park, Wentworth Street, Malton, YO17 7JR
- **Catterick** - Ypres Lines, Richmond Road, Catterick Garrison, DL9 3JF

Mobile sites are open for testing from 9am to 3pm on the following days:

- **Thursday 6 May - Leyburn** - Harmby Road, Car Park, Leyburn, DL8 5EE
- **Thursday 6 May - Easingwold** - Easingwold Town AFC, Stillington Road, Easingwold, York, YO61 3DZ
- **Thursday 6 May - Sherburn in Elmet** - Pasture Way Carpark, Sherburn in Elmet, LS25 6LY
- **Friday 7 May - Sherburn in Elmet** - Pasture Way Carpark, Sherburn in Elmet, LS25 6LY

- **Friday 7 May - Stokesley** - Stokesley Sports Club, Broughton Road, Stokesley, Middlesbrough, TS9 5JG
- **Friday 7 May - Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4TL
- **Saturday 8 May - Selby** - South Entrance, Drax Power Station, New Road, Selby, YO8 8PH
- **Saturday 8 May - Thornton Le Dale** - North York Moors National Park Authority car park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Thornton Le Dale, Pickering, YO18 7RR
- **Saturday 8 May - Filey** - Filey Country Park, Church Cliff Drive, Filey, YO14 9ET
- **Sunday 9 May - Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4TL
- **Sunday 9 May - Thirsk** - Millgate Car Park, Marage Road, Thirsk, YO7 1PE

### Tests for people who do not have symptoms

If you do not have symptoms, you can get tests to use at home in several ways:

- online at [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)
- through your employer if they are registered for workplace testing
- at participating pharmacies, you can find local ones at <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- collecting them from one of the sites below

Testing kits can be collected **every day** between 2:30pm and 8pm from the following permanent testing sites:

- **Harrogate** – Dragon Road Car Park, Dragon Road, Harrogate, HG1 5DB
- **Scarborough** – William Street Car Park, Scarborough. YO12 7PL
- **Northallerton** – The Forum, Bullamore Road, Northallerton, DL6 1LP
- **Selby** – Portholme Crescent Car Park, Selby, YO8 4YR
- **Skipton** – Cavendish Street Car Park, Skipton, BD23 1RP

### Assisted testing in Selby

An additional testing site is available in Selby as part of measure to contain the workplace outbreak in the district. At this site, you can get an LFD test carried out by trained staff.

This site is for people who do not have symptoms. You do not need to book an appointment. The site is open from 9am to 4:30pm:

- **Selby** - Union Lane, Selby, YO8 4BA

Find more information and the latest dates and locations at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing)

## Supporting our schools and childcare

Safety and hygiene procedures to prevent the spread of coronavirus remain in place in schools across North Yorkshire. The Government is set to review its current guidance at the end of this month, but we are not expecting a change to the current instructions to schools.

As long as we keep background rates low, we're asking schools to keep up their good work. The measures are working very well and attendance at all our schools to remain high.

The food voucher scheme to help families cover the cost of food or other essentials, is set to continue this May half-term holiday.

We have received up to £338,000 of funding from the Department of Work and Pensions to ensure families in receipt of free school meals – and families who are struggling to provide food for children during the pandemic – can continue to cover the cost of food for children or other essentials such as utilities over the school holiday.

Funding has now been sent out to schools, including academies, early years providers, child minders and care leavers in North Yorkshire, so they can distribute supermarket vouchers to those eligible. The vouchers amount to £15 per child, for the week.

The Covid Local Grant scheme is a continuation of the Covid Winter Grant scheme, which has been used over previous school holidays. We anticipate the latest round of funding will benefit up to 20,000 individuals across the county.

## Teamwork to support our residents

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For over a year, the County Council has been working alongside our partners with 23 community support organisations and the voluntary sector to provide a safety net of support for people without family, friends or neighbours to lean on during the pandemic. Thousands of volunteers have helped with shopping, collecting medication, walking pets, taking people to medical appointments and being there for a friendly chat.

As restrictions have eased, community support organisations are now shifting their focus to gradually building people's confidence as well as continuing to offer support to people who are self-isolating or limiting their social contact.

Reassuringly, calls to our customer service centre for Covid-related help and support are now below 50 a week, down from almost 450 last April. In recent weeks, there have been no calls requesting support over the weekend.

Since last March, more than 1,260 Covid-19 support grant scheme awards have also been made through the community support organisations, providing financial assistance to pay for food and household essentials during isolation. The majority of applicants have long-term health conditions or weakened immune systems and Scarborough is the district that has received the most awards to date. Food remains the primary award type received, though support for energy and utilities has increased since February. The scheme will be reviewed again in September.

North Yorkshire residents who need help and support, or anyone concerned about the welfare of someone else, can contact North Yorkshire County Council's customer service centre on 01609 780780 seven days a week 8am to 5.30pm. People can also complete an online form to let us know what help they need at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/covidhelp](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/covidhelp).

People can also find details of other local voluntary and community groups offering support at [www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk](http://www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk).

Find advice on how to help others safely and information about volunteering with a local organisation in your community at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/helpingduringcovid](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/helpingduringcovid)

## Growing our local economy

### **LEP News: Be a part of the York Community Stadium Leisure Complex!**

City of York Council is currently developing signage to welcome fans, residents and visitors to the York Community Stadium Leisure Complex, with potential sites inside and outside the stadium building. Friends and fans of York are invited to submit their head and shoulders photo to mix with many others and create a community mosaic - the background to all the signs.

Be part of the stadium for free by uploading your photo at <https://weareyork.co.uk> it's quick and easy to do and you can upload up to 10 photos of you and your friends or family (making sure you have their consent first).

The deadline to get your image uploaded is 6 May 2021 at noon.

### **Circular Yorkshire: A Practical Guide to Increasing Efficiency and Productivity**

If you want to create a more efficient business, become more environmentally responsible, save money and find new business opportunities, this is the webinar for you. The event will cover:

- Internal Audits – why do them and what they can tell us?
- Collaboration and Sharing – exploring all the options
- Engaging Local Supply Chains
- Right To Repair – the potential benefits to business

There will also be a Q&A session with your speaker, Erin Wheeler, Circular Economy Officer at York & North Yorkshire LEP.

Sign up: <https://wnychamber.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a2v1v000001CAenAAG>

### **Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Investment Readiness Programme – Meet the Funders event.**

Meet the Funders has been designed to help early-stage SMEs to understand the full and diverse range of finance options available within the market that best support their growth plans.

This 12-hour mini-series will give access to bespoke finance and pitch deck preparation workshops along with one-to-one coaching to help you prepare for investment. All participants that complete the programme will have the opportunity to pitch your proposition to a network of angel, venture capital and corporate investors.

The programme will be delivered across three cohorts. Dates for cohort 1 are as follows:

- 12 May – Investment Landscape
- 19 May – Pitch Deck Presentation
- 3 June – Meet the Investors

Businesses can learn more and register here: <https://lnkd.in/dVjn4vx>

