



A message from Richard Flinton, Chief Executive

I wanted to say thank you to all the people across the county who followed the essential government advice to stay at home over the Easter weekend and to take their exercise from their own front doors wherever possible. This ongoing display of people pulling together, in whatever way we can, is making a real difference; it is so valuable to our front line and, is a real expression of support, to those who are, unfortunately, poorly or who are in fear of the virus spread.

We co-ordinated, and sent out, messages to our communities in the days leading up to Easter asking them to prepare and plan, where they could, to have their needs in place over the four-day weekend in order to ease the pressure on the community support organisations (CSOs) and enable them to have a much-needed break. We are grateful that people in the community heeded, and acted upon, these messages and demand was significantly reduced over this period. I would like to thank those county council staff and Ready for Anything volunteers who supplied support to the 45 people who did need help over the weekend.

All 23 community support organisations (CSOs) are now back and ready to face the increasing demands to supply support to those who have no family, friends and neighbours. Our message to the public remains the same - **no one should feel that they are alone**. We ask that people keep looking out for their neighbours and those who have no other means of support can contact our customer service centre on 01609 780780 8am to 5:30pm seven days a week.

This is a fast evolving situation and many messages which involve practical and critical details are changing and developing by the day. We are working flat out to make sure that up-to-date information on all these messages reaches our colleagues and all relevant partners as soon as we can. Messaging on PPE, including how to use it and distribute it, remains a key area which is under constant review. The Government has just published a new plan for PPE (personal protective equipment), which provides further guidance of when, and what type of, PPE should be worn and, also, the arrangements for ordering PPE: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe-plan>

We have also produced an online learning training session advising on the correct way to use the equipment. PPE is a pressing focus for us right now and, in addition to the above, we co-ordinated a series of messages, over the weekend, to encourage schools and the County's businesses to help, wherever they can, with manufacturing supplies of PPE.

I mentioned, in my message, before Easter that we would be launching a 'Buy Local' website very soon. We launched the site on Good Friday to enable North Yorkshire businesses and tradespeople, who can work under Covid-19 restrictions, to share what they offer with customers who need their services and within the first four days of the launch, almost 100 businesses have registered.

Businesses register in a range of categories, including food suppliers, retail, property services, transport, professional services and accommodation for key workers; we will assess the suitability

and try to verify information within 24 hours during working days. Following this, residents will be able to access the information and contact businesses directly.

We need to promote businesses, traders and professional services who are still open for trade under COVID19 restrictions and this, in turn, could prove to be a massive help to local people and communities. With the full backing of partners and the right promotion, North Yorkshire Buy Local has the potential to be an invaluable resource in these challenging times; complementing the excellent economic support services that you all are already providing to businesses and tradespeople within North Yorkshire. Please will you promote this widely to encourage businesses to register. The LEP, Chamber of Commerce and FSB have all agreed to promote this within their networks and I would be grateful if you can put the link in a prominent location on your own websites and on your business support pages.

North Yorkshire Buy Local can be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local. Please also promote this via your social media channels.

We will continue to develop the functionality of the website over time and it is intended that this website will stay live after COVID19 restrictions are lifted to encourage local people to 'Buy Local' supporting the local economy. Businesses registered on the site are able to update their information themselves at any time.

So, as we continue on this strange journey, many good initiatives from across the county are emerging and the sharing of experiences, expertise and, most importantly, support from all of us who are working together to minimise the impact of the pandemic, continues to be heart-warming. My thanks to all of you and take care of yourselves.



A message from Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health

Global

World Health Organization data shows that there have been 1,812,734 confirmed cases worldwide, with 113,675 deaths across 213 countries, areas or territories.

Cases are currently increasing in many European states, including the UK's closest geographical neighbours.

The UK is thought to be 2 to 3 weeks behind Italy on the epidemic curve. The Italian outbreak took off in the last week of February and there are early signs of a slowdown in cases from the last week in March. For the UK, the epidemic took off in the second week of March, suggesting early signs of a slowdown in the increase might happen in the second week of April. North Yorkshire is likely to be slightly behind the UK as a whole.

The UK

Public Health England data from 13th April shows that in the UK 88,621 people have so far tested positive for COVID-19. Cases have almost doubled in 6 days: on 7th April there were 55,242 cases. There have been 11,329 deaths recorded, almost doubling in 7 days from 5,373 on 6th April.

North Yorkshire

The number of cases in North Yorkshire continues to increase. The 13th April saw a lower daily increase compared with the previous day, with 20 new cases identified, bringing the overall total to 456. These numbers focus on individuals tested in hospital settings, which will only be a proportion of the total number. We expect that hospital cases are around 8% of the total number of cases across the community.

There have been 185 deaths in hospitals covering North Yorkshire to date. Data are reported at hospital trust level and it is not yet possible to determine deaths for North Yorkshire residents reliably. All trusts apart from Harrogate serve large populations outside North Yorkshire.

Care Homes

Before the bank holiday there were 14 care home with laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 and a further 11 with suspected cases, not yet confirmed (post-Bank Holiday data not yet received).

North Yorkshire County Council

Schools and childcare

Hubs

All of our hubs were open and ready to provide emergency childcare for critical workers across the county over the Easter weekend.

All Early Years hubs will remain open for 7 days a week and the school hubs will be open at weekends and bank holidays. There is an online registration and booking system set up for parents and carers.

School support

A large number of schools throughout North Yorkshire have remained open throughout the Easter holidays. We would like to thank all the staff in these schools who are going above and beyond and continuing to provide fantastic levels of support to their local communities with childcare for our key workers.

Support for people in isolation

County Council staff, NHS and 'Ready for Anything' volunteers delivered shopping and other essential support to around 45 needy people across the county as part of a publicised relief operation to allow community support organisations to take a much needed break over the Easter weekend.

All 23 community support organisations (CSOs) are back and anticipating increased demand as NYCC and districts promote the message that help is available for those in need who have no family, friends and neighbours. Last week, volunteers, coordinated through the CSOs, supported 1,857 people with shopping, collecting prescriptions and other essentials. Collectively, the CSOs took 3,347 calls and received 1,128 email and social media contacts.

There have also been around 70 requests for financial assistance through a grant support scheme set up to make sure that people in North Yorkshire, who are most in need or most at risk because of Covid-19, have access to food and other household essentials. For people who are most at risk of being hospitalised by coronavirus, we are continuing to make welfare calls in partnership with district councils.

Our message to the public remains the same - no one should feel that they are alone. We ask that people keep looking out for their neighbours and those who have no other means of support can contact the council's customer service centre on 01609 780780 8am to 5:30pm seven days a week.

Local economy

Support for businesses:

More businesses encouraged to register on online marketplace

We have launched a new website to enable North Yorkshire businesses and tradespeople who can work under Covid-19 restrictions to share what they offer with customers who need their services.

North Yorkshire Buy Local can be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local. Businesses and tradespeople that continue to provide essential goods and services during the outbreak are being encouraged to register now on this online marketplace.

Within the first four days of the launch, almost 100 businesses have registered.

Businesses can register in a range of categories, including food suppliers, retail, property services, transport, professional services and accommodation for key workers.

Information received from businesses will be assessed for suitability for the site. The aim will be to verify information within 24 hours during working days, after which residents will be able to access the information and contact businesses directly.

LEP News:

Updated advice from government on business support

Latest business support updates can be found [here](#).

Guidance on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is available below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

This includes clarification on the scheme, including:

- Confirmation of what should form the basis for furlough pay for employees furloughed on return from (maternity/paternity/shared parental/adoption/sick/parental bereavement) leave
- Confirming employees subject to TUPE transfer/ business reorganisation/ payroll consolidation can be furloughed

- Confirming position for contractors in scope of IR35 in the public sector
- More information on what information employers need to claim the grant
- Clarifying circumstances where an employee shouldn't be furloughed by multiple employers

Stay informed on local support

The LEP, its Growth Hub and many partners are working hard to support the businesses in our region. We are updating all information on a regular basis and are keen to promote the following as main sources of local business support information:

Y&NY LEP: <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/>

Y&NY GROWTH HUB: <https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/>

We know there are some businesses that aren't eligible for support and we want to know about these cases so we can understand the challenges and plug the gaps with solutions.

If you think there is a gap in support for businesses, either from the government or locally – please contact us and we'll feed that in directly: enquiries@businessinspiredgrowth.com .

We would also encourage you to use internally this very simple survey to record feedback from businesses <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LMXF92F>. This information will contribute to our shaping of our medium to long term recovery plan which is being spearheaded by Tim Frenneaux. Please email Tim to be involved in this. Tim.Frenneaux@businessinspiredgrowth.com

Social care and the NHS

Amidst all the challenges, it is heartening to finally see much greater public and media recognition of the role played by North Yorkshire's 17000 care workers. We owe a great debt of gratitude for all that they are doing right now and when the nation claps for key workers on Thursday we need to show the care workforce our huge appreciation.

PPE is a pressing focus for us right now and we co-ordinated a series of messages over the weekend, to encourage schools and the County's businesses to help, wherever they can, with manufacturing supplies of PPE. We had our first delivery last week of PPE to the multi-agency North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum from Government and another drop is expected this week. We welcome this much-needed assistance and are now seeking regular and reliable supplies in the future as these are vital for all care services. Supplies are being kept under constant review.

We have moved our frontline social care teams into a new way of working seven days a week 8am to 8pm, to support emergency discharge from hospital and also to work with GPs and community health staff to ensure emergency support for people with Covid-19 with social care needs. This new way of working has been in operation over the Easter Bank Holiday and members of staff have pulled out all the stops to ensure the right support is in the right place when needed.

We are continuing our urgent recruitment drive for the care sector, including care homes, to take on nearly 400 more staff to address the challenge.

We are also providing practical, advice, training webinars and administrative support for the wider care sector, as well as some financial help.

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

Key Public Health Services

Yorkshire Sport are hosting a webinar, on Tuesday 14th April, for the public and professionals on the benefits of being physically active during the COVID-19 restrictions. The webinar offers advice and guidance - visit <https://www.northyorkshiresport.co.uk/events/2020/04/stayinworkout> for more information.

Sport England have also launched a new campaign called 'Stay In, Work Out' which provides advice on physical activity during this lockdown period at <https://www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout>

Reduce food waste and make your food go further by using Love Food Hate Waste's leftover recipe search <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

GOV.UK

The P.M. is holding daily press conferences the highlights from the latest one are on the link above.
