



Date: 8 May 2020

A message from Richard Clinton, Chief Executive

Today, we would have been witnessing crowds of people celebrating, concerts and services and street parties across our county as we commemorated VE Day and the end of the Second World War in Europe 75 years ago. It is touching to see the efforts people have made hanging out bunting and flags around their own homes and business premises, but for the most part we are marking this momentous event in our own homes and with our own reflections while the streets remain quiet and the pubs shut and the services and concerts are virtual. As we continue with our current battle against the global coronavirus pandemic it is uplifting to remember that we can go through the most difficult times and pick ourselves up and change things for the better. But we must never forget the sacrifices people made then, and are making now, for better days.

It is particularly touching to read and hear the reflections of older people who lived through the celebrations of VE Day and can remember them still, like residents of Benkhill Lodge, our older people's home in Bedale, who have spent the day recollecting. Les and Doris Kelly, aged 100 and 99 and married for 79 years spent VE Day apart but will never forget it. Les was in Germany where he had been fighting and remembers the relief and the joy but also the sadness at coming across three British soldiers killed the day before the war ended. Doris spent her time queuing for stockings - a fortune at five shillings - to dress up for the party and she recalls the excitement and the merriment. Staff have worked tirelessly to help residents remember with socially distanced celebrations and video calls with family.

However, many of our care home residents and the staff who look after them now find themselves on a new front line. While new Covid-19 cases in hospitals have continued to reduce, the number of care homes affected by coronavirus is increasing. At the moment we have 75 outbreaks at care homes and there have been 129 deaths of residents believed to have been from Covid-19. This is a sobering and desperately difficult number which emphasises where our focus needs to be.

For this reason our staff in health and adult services have worked round the clock to step up support to the care home sector and this week a newly created team has started to make daily calls to our 235 care homes and extra care settings and a second team is working with the homes around specific problems that they identify to us.

There will also be a major effort in the coming days to test every person in every care home in order to help track down the disease and to help us to build a wall around those care homes that are currently Covid free.

We also carry on working to protect people in the community who are self-isolating. We are coordinating 23 community support organisations who are dealing with something in the region of 5000 requests for support in an average week. We are also working to protect and support people with underlying health conditions who are at the centre of an operation to shield them from the virus. This weekend we have a group of volunteers going out to visit 1000 people and we are even dropping off a free copy of the Yorkshire Post to them as well. We are also making outbound calls

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to check up on people. People tell us these calls make them feel less isolated, that somebody cares.

We will also have an increased number of school hubs in operation over the Bank Holiday weekend to cater for the increased number of vulnerable children and children of critical workers who are attending. We are enormously grateful to all the school staff who support these children with such dedication.

Our County Music Service is also continuing to teach pupils with more than 1000 currently receiving lessons online. As well as giving pupils vital access to music teachers at home, our service is supporting teachers and the children of key workers by running class singing and music lessons to those still in school. Indeed the music service has also made its own contribution to mark VE Day, getting children from across the country individually to sing that great World War II anthem "We Will Meet Again" and to pull it together into a virtual choir. It can be accessed on this link <https://youtu.be/ku9y50Af6HI> and speaks to the time when we will all physically meet each other again in different circumstances having come through this crisis.

So we must now begin to look to the next phase and the gradual relaxing of lockdown regulations which the Prime Minister will set out for us in his roadmap on Sunday. We have already opened half of our Household Waste Recycling Centres across the county under strict controls to keep the public and staff safe and this has gone very well - we would like to thank members of the public for keeping to the rules. The next few weeks will be focused on carrying on responding to the virus but also trying to get businesses safely back up and running to reduce the extent of the economic shock that will follow on after the health impact. The Recovery Coordinating Group established by the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum, which brings together all first responder agencies delivering public services in the county, met for the first time yesterday and reviewed the initial assessments provided by partners on the impacts of Covid-19 as a baseline for moving forward together

And as we head into the Bank Holiday weekend let's remember that as Team North Yorkshire we must keep up the fight against coronavirus. We urge people to keep on checking on neighbours and friends, observe social distancing regulations, enjoy the fresh air and exercise but stick to essential travel only.

A message from Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health

World Health Organization data shows that there have been 3,726,292 confirmed cases globally, with 257,405 deaths across 215 countries, areas or territories. At a national level, Public Health England data shows there were 206,715 lab confirmed cases in the UK as at 7th May, with 30,615 COVID-associated deaths. This now includes deaths from all settings. Previously only deaths in hospital were reported.

We currently have 1102 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across North Yorkshire. For the most part this has focused on hospital cases although there continues to be an increase in the amount of testing that is carried out in our communities, particularly around key workers and care homes, through Regional Test Centres and Mobile Test Units.

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There have been 488 COVID-19 deaths in hospital trusts covering North Yorkshire (Airedale, Harrogate, South Tees, and York) to date (07/05). Of these, an estimated 187 deaths will be of North Yorkshire residents. National work to understand deaths in all settings (including care homes and the community) reports that, up to 24th April, there have been 259 COVID-19 deaths registered in North Yorkshire since 1st March. Detailed analysis shows 77 residents died from COVID-19 in the week 18th to 24th April, with additional deaths relating to earlier weeks. Current priorities include support to care homes, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and access to testing. It remains very important that local residents continue to stay at home as much as possible over the Bank Holiday weekend.

How are you?

The 'How Are You?' online quiz is free and analyses your lifestyle to provide a personal health score and give tailored advice on how to improve your health. Search **One You** and take the quiz or visit www.nhs.uk/oneyou/how-are-you-quiz.

Depending on your results and personal health goals, the quiz will direct to one of a number of One You apps, available to download for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play:

Active 10: quickly and simply shows you how many brisk 10-minute walks you're doing and how to fit more into your day, to benefit your health, improve the way you feel and reduce the risk of a number of long-term conditions such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

Drink Free Days: a simple and easy way to track the days you drink alcohol and the days you don't. Feel healthier, lose weight and save money – simply nominate days to take off drinking and get practical, daily support to help you stick to it.

Easy Meals: a great way to eat foods that are healthier for you, and find delicious, easy meal ideas to help get you going if you're ever short of inspiration.

Smokefree: to help you stop smoking by providing daily support and motivation; if you stay smokefree for the 4-week programme, you're up to 5 times more likely to quit for good.

North Yorkshire County Council

 Schools and childcare

Goody bags to help care leavers during lockdown

Young people who have left local authority care in North Yorkshire are to be given goody bags to help to keep them safe and well during the pandemic.

North Yorkshire has more than 300 care leavers – young people who left local authority care after they became 16 and who often had difficult lives before coming into care. We are committed to supporting them during the lockdown.

The cost of the goody bags has been met by county councillors from their locality budgets in their role as corporate parents, led by children's champion Cllr Annabel Wilkinson.

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The bags have been put together by our leaving care team, include a voucher to spend at a local supermarket and sweet treats, as well as information on activities to help the young people to stay well. Councillors were also keen to ensure these young people were given hand sanitiser and gloves to protect themselves.

During the pandemic, the leaving care team has worked tirelessly with care leavers, using digital methods to keep in touch. The team's Facebook page has become a source of support and advice. Care leavers have received laptops to help those who weren't able to access online college work and to help particularly vulnerable young people to keep in touch and access support.

Our school staff continue to provide a vital service for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children during the Covid-19 crisis and we now have 16 hubs for children to attend across the county with an increase of 500 children attending over the last month. We have seen modest increases in the number of vulnerable children with education, health and care plans and those who have a social worker attending school hubs. But, we are taking further steps to ensure attendance of all the vulnerable children who we believe need to be in school as their welfare is of paramount importance. Therefore, our social work and inclusion teams will be working closely with schools in the coming days to prioritise supporting more of these children back into school.

Meanwhile, our county music service is teaching weekly music lessons to more than 1,000 children online. The service started running after the Easter holidays for all pupils and now has 1020 signed up for weekly classes.

As well as giving pupils vital access to music teachers at home, our service is supporting teachers and the children of key workers by running class singing and music lessons to those still in school. The tutorials provide vital structure and routine for the children signed up, as well as helping them build a skill.

There is evidence to suggest learning to play an instrument and read music benefits children in other areas of school life while gaining confidence, communication skills and concentration. The music service has found that students have gained from the lessons by having some structure, normality and something to look forward to. The teacher can also email over music or backing tracks.

Feedback from parents includes how much children have enjoyed the sessions and how they've seen their children motivated to practice at home. It's possible that this is the only contact some children are getting outside of their immediate family and it means they know there's still a world outside of lockdown.

Parents of students who want to sign up for lessons get in touch with the music service who book the student in for a slot and email over a link to join a video meeting.

For more information, parents should email countyhall.music@northyorks.gov.uk .

Support for people in isolation

To make sure people have the help and support they need while in isolation, some North Yorkshire residents have been receiving a 'door knock' check. This includes delivering a leaflet with the County Council's customer service centre number and a copy of the Yorkshire Post newspaper. This weekend, the second of four dates planned, council staff have volunteered to check on over 1,000 people. One North Yorkshire resident posted on social media to say "What a lovely surprise and gesture. Feel less isolated and that someone cares. Many thanks!"

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Kevin Mort, a passenger assistant from Malton who was out checking on people last weekend added: "Everyone we checked on is getting help from their family or neighbours, taking them stuff in. They were managing fine which is good. People were thankful that we were out checking, even though they're getting help. One lady said it was nice to have someone coming round and asking. I've been helping my neighbour; she has family but I've been getting bits for her, too. For people who can't drive, it's difficult to get out anyway. You don't see a lot of people to talk to because of social distancing but we're all looking out for each other like most communities."

Seven weeks into lockdown and the community support organisations (CSOs), and the partners they are working alongside, continue to make sure that nobody in North Yorkshire feels alone or is left without food, medicines or other essential supplies.

In Ryedale, the CSO is made up of Scarborough and Ryedale Carers Resource, Ryedale Carers Support, and Ryedale Community Transport and involves local voluntary sector and community groups, such as Ryedale Charities Together and the Scarborough and Ryedale Voluntary Sector Leaders Forum. Stronger Communities, Ryedale District Council, and emerging groups in the community are working closely to support the people of Ryedale.

Claire Robinson, who is working in the Ryedale community support organisation, said: "The last few weeks have allowed us to build on these systems and efficiently receive and manage referrals from different partners. Now, in week seven, we are in a strong and healthy position. We are dealing with requests the same day they come through, which is fantastic, and we're working closely with colleagues in the wider networks across our district."

Council staff and extra volunteers meet any additional demand from across North Yorkshire while many of the community support organisations take a well-deserved break over the bank holiday weekend. People have been encouraged to plan ahead and think about whether they might need help with essentials such as shopping and prescriptions.

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

Local economy

Buy Local

There have been more than 44,000 visits to our free online marketplace, Buy Local; the 430 businesses now registered range from plumbers to organic farm shops and solicitors.

Over the last four weeks alone, 900 people have used the platform to click straight through to business websites.

Buy Local brings together all businesses and tradespeople, eligible to operate during Covid-19, with the people who need their services. Go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local to see the range of registered local businesses.

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Charlotte needed to diversify her photography business, and used Buy Local to reach new audiences. “I stock my Greeting Cards in a number of local shops, but when these closed I had to re-evaluate my business and look for other opportunities,” Charlotte said. “I was one of the first to sign up to Buy Local with the aim of pushing my online sales and adapting to the current situation. It’s a great place for people to go and find those businesses that are still operating. I hope it will encourage customers to shop with me even when lockdown is over.”

Read more about Charlotte and other 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 @northyorkscoc on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

LEP Update

The York & North Yorkshire LEP, through its Growth Hub, is working with partners across the region to deliver practical support to businesses to help them through the current crisis and beyond.

This continuous programme of support is being co-created and delivered by the Growth Hub along with a range of expert external partners. We encourage promotion of these support packages to ensure businesses can achieve maximum benefit.

New “Managing Cash Flow in a Crisis” webinar

In collaboration with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub is hosting a webinar for businesses struggling to manage their cash flow during COVID-19.

The 45 minute, free session on 12th May will look at:

- Strategies for effective cash flow management in a time of crisis from ICAEW member Tom Bottomley
- The free support and mentorship that businesses can access through the Growth Hub from David Ryden, Programme Manager.

For more information and to sign up, visit <https://www.yngrowthhub.com/events/covid-19-managing-cash-flow-in-a-crisis/>

To enable you to share and communicate this support with stakeholders, access the Cash Flow Crisis Webinar communications pack [here](#)

York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub promotes new COVID-19 Learning Toolkit

The [York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub](#) has created a new [Learning Toolkit](#) to help businesses and employees in the region access online learning resources during these difficult times. This follows the launch last week of the Government's own national [Skills Toolkit](#).

As a response to COVID-19, which has seen many employees furloughed, or now working from home, skills providers across the region have been working hard to adapt their provision to this new environment.

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Working with local providers and partners who offer high-quality learning resources, the Growth Hub has been able to create this local Learning Toolkit to help individuals and businesses access the knowledge and skills they need for resilience and productivity during and beyond the pandemic.

The Growth Hub, and its skills partners, are committed to helping businesses and individuals to remain engaged, productive and positive in these times and the Learning Toolkit will be regularly updated to ensure the resources meet the needs of businesses.

To enable you to share and communicate this support with stakeholders, access the Learning Toolkit communications pack [here](#)

Jobs Fuse support for employers and employees

This service was launched two weeks ago to help those who have been made unemployed as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak in the York & North Yorkshire region to get back into employment, whilst also supporting key regional employers with the challenges they face where staffing is concerned due to the pandemic.

York & North Yorkshire Jobs Fuse brings the expertise of the National Careers Service, the Department for Work and Pensions and the York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub together to provide a ‘one stop shop’ for both job seekers and local employers.

As businesses and individuals continue to be concerned about employment, please promote this service which can be accessed through the [York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub website](#) and social media channels, including the [Growth Hub's Facebook Group](#) which at a grassroots level, is promoting the sharing of jobs and skills amongst our communities.

To enable you to share and communicate this support with stakeholders, access the Jobs Fuse communications pack [here](#)

Stay informed on local support during and post COVID-19

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.yngrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/>

Social care and the NHS

Today marks a special remembrance of VE Day for people across North Yorkshire. It is 75 years since victory was declared in Europe and residents in many of our care homes are sharing their precious memories of that momentous occasion. We heard, in the introduction to this bulletin, the recollections of Les and Doris Kelly, at Benkhill Lodge, and many others have shared their memories, too. Carrie Watson, 93, remembers the butcher giving extra ham for the village celebration; Mary, who is 96 and lives in Harrogate, and is currently being supported by the County Council’s reablement team, remembers her mum “getting the bottle out as soon as we heard the news” and then going with her boyfriend into Knaresborough to dance the night away in the castle yard with hundreds of others.

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For many who lived through the Second World War, this is the first VE Day anniversary they can't celebrate with family or friends because of lockdown. But this hasn't stopped both care homes and extra care housing schemes – both those run by the County Council and by other care providers - working tirelessly to ensure the day is marked and that important memories are remembered through socially-distanced celebrations and video calls with family and friends.

However, while new cases of Covid-19 in hospitals continues to reduce, in a number of residential and nursing homes, it is increasing. For this reason, in partnership with the NHS and the Independent Care Group (the umbrella group representing most care providers), the County Council has stepped up the work we were already doing to support the County's 235 care homes and extra care housing schemes to try and prevent new outbreaks, as well as managing those outbreaks that exist already.

From day one of the crisis in this country we have been providing practical support to care providers, including help with staffing and HR, help with safe hospital discharges, advice on infection control and a dedicated email address for advice and support:

SocialServices.Contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk

These measures have been open to all care providers but have, inevitably, been focused on the care homes and extra care housing schemes which have outbreaks.

Now, in order to stem infection and deaths from Covid-19 in care settings, we have adopted a broader approach aimed at prevention of outbreaks and keeping homes Covid-free as well as responding to outbreaks.

The Council has put in place additional teams to spearhead this enhanced service. From this week, each home in North Yorkshire is receiving a daily call seven days a week from a named care home contact officer with a welfare checklist. They will find how each home is doing and if they have any issues related to Covid-19.

Homes experiencing problems will then be supported by a care home liaison officer who will channel resources to meet requirements such as support on HR, staffing and recruitment, reducing agency usage if possible, help with sourcing PPE, infection control, zoning of care homes, cohorting of staff and residents, safe hospital discharge, clinical advice, registered manager support and more. They will also be able to draw on support from the NHS and other agencies.

An unprecedented amount of work has been undertaken over the last week and additional staff redeployed and trained to carry out this vital supporting role for the care sector during the current crisis. Our new teams are there to build a rapport with care settings and to help residents and staff. Intelligence gathered from daily calls will be used to escalate any concerns to get the right interventions and help.

This work also accelerates what the County Council expects will shortly be requested by Government as part of a national response to Covid-19 within care homes.

There is also a major effort going on at present to plan for the Government's introduction of testing kits for care homes, which will hopefully start next week, subject to confirmation from the Department of Health and Social Care.



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: @northyorkscoc on Facebook and Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Advice on things to do

Council chairman: our spirit links us to VE Day

On the 75th anniversary of VE Day today (8 May), North Yorkshire residents are being encouraged to reflect on the togetherness and community spirit that they share with those who celebrated the end of the Second World War in Europe in 1945.

County Council Chairman Cllr Jim Clark believes the messages behind the celebrations remain as relevant as ever.

He said: "This anniversary was never just about looking back at something that happened 75 years ago, and the situation in which we find ourselves today makes that even more pertinent.

"Then, as now, it is about community spirit. The theme of Holocaust Day this year was Stand Together. While we can't do that physically, we can in spirit. We can stand together in remembrance and thanksgiving, against hatred and prejudice and for building stronger communities.

"I encourage people in towns and villages across North Yorkshire to take time to reflect and to remember in their own way."

Cllr Clark will give a reading at a virtual Ripon Cathedral VE Day service at 11am on 8 May. The service can be accessed at www.riponcathedral.org.uk

A celebratory concert planned by our Music Service has been postponed, but the service has invited children that were to sing to record themselves singing along at home to two wartime Vera Lynn songs. Listen to the recordings, which have been edited to feature the choir in a video, here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku9y50Af6HI&feature=youtu.be> or on our social media channels.

VE Day activities from North Yorkshire libraries

As part of the VE Day anniversary activities, libraries will use their Facebook pages to host activities and displays and to invite wartime memories from library members. They will also promote digital resources, including family history sites Find My Past and Ancestry, as well as relevant e-books, e-audio and e-magazines.

Find more details here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/council-chairman-our-spirit-links-us-ve-day> or visit your library's Facebook page.

Archive exhibition

North Yorkshire County Record Office has compiled an online collection recalling VE Day and wartime on the home front in North Yorkshire. This can be viewed at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/celebrating-ve-day>

History month for libraries

The 75th anniversary celebration of VE Day is the focus of North Yorkshire's Local and Community History Month 2020. Our libraries are promoting free home-access to family history sites Find my

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Past and Ancestry, as well as e-book and e-audio collections including Second World War and VE Day titles.

Selby library is encouraging its customers to send in family wartime memories and others are highlighting their digital local history collections. Harrogate library is posting a weekly Then and Now photograph, Ripon library is featuring covers from the Ripon Gazette, and Northallerton library is sharing photographs from its local history collection.

For details of all events, please visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries-news-and-events or your local library Facebook page.

Made in North Yorkshire

Great North Yorkshire Sons and Daughters presents the fourth nomination from the public: Dr William Pickles, a leading epidemiologist who spent more than 50 years as the GP in Aysgarth, Wensleydale. He dedicated his life to investigating disease and epidemics, studying the science behind incubation periods of infectious diseases.

To find out more about Dr Pickles and the Made in North Yorkshire project follow this link:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/made-in-north-yorkshire>

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 (hopefully) 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

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Although they're closed to the public, Monterey Bay Aquarium have 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>

GOV.UK

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