

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

The weather forecasters tell us that warmer weather is finally on its way at the back end of this week so as the Bank Holiday approaches we can look forward to getting out in the sunshine and enjoy society opening up.

We can all take confidence in the successful rollout of the vaccination programme and news that current Covid-19 vaccines are effective in reducing transmission and preventing serious illness from new variants of concern, such as the one which originated in India.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of our NHS colleagues and volunteers, 482,000 people across North Yorkshire and York have had their first jab and 312,000 have had their second.

But while we can be confident we must remain cautious while Covid is still circulating. We know how quickly things can change.

Covid rates in North Yorkshire at 12.8 per 100,000 are well below the England average of 23.4 and people across the county are demonstrating that they are willing to follow the basic but critical safety rules of hands, face, space and fresh air.

As summer months progress, hopefully there will be a whole range of exciting events across our county that people can attend and enjoy. We do not yet know what decisions the Government will take on lifting restrictions on June 21, but we do know that event's organisers across North Yorkshire have been planning for every eventuality.

At today's North Yorkshire Public Health press conference we heard how councils and emergency services have been working hard together in local Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs), offering [specialist advice and guidance to events organisers](#) to ensure all safety measures are in place.

It was great to hear from Janette Hugill, who is in charge of the Stokesley Show and the painstaking care her team is taking to ensure the show, planned for September, is Covid-safe. The team has been inundated with people who want a trade stand or to be in a craft marquee and competitors saying they can't wait.

Please do [look out for our Unlocking Summer campaign](#) so we can all enjoy the days ahead with care and confidence.

Have a good – and safe – Bank Holiday.

Public health and social care

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 23 May 2021, there have been 30,196 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 171 new cases reported in the past two weeks. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 13 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 12.8 cases per 100,000 people, lower than the England seven-day rate of 23.4. Work continues to

ensure effective monitoring of all areas, with support for incidents being provided across a range of settings, which are reviewed daily.

[Find further information on North Yorkshire data provided at county, district and local area level.](#)

Testing Update

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.

[Find information about where you can get a test on our website.](#)

[Book a test.](#)

You can collect rapid lateral flow tests to conduct at home. You should test yourself twice a week using these kits, and report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day as you take your test. [Find information about lateral flow testing.](#)

[Find where you can collect your free lateral flow test kits.](#)

As the roadmap continues to allow us to get back to normal, it is important that we remember the key behaviours:

- Continue to think about the vulnerability of loved ones.
- Outdoors is always safer than indoors.
- Keep getting tested regularly, even without symptoms.
- Continue to follow social distancing when no with friends and families including work places, pubs, restaurants etc.
- Hands. Face. Space. Fresh Air.

Let's keep going. Everyone can play their part... together, we can beat this.

Working together towards recovery

Supporting our residents

Next week is volunteers' week (1-7 June), and we're thanking the army of North Yorkshire residents who have helped keep our communities safe and vital council services going throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Volunteers bring a variety of skills, knowledge and expertise and we can't thank them enough for their commitment, energy and enthusiasm.

Since last March, community support organisation volunteers have given more than 100,000 hours of their time, providing a lifeline for people without family, friends or neighbours to lean on. As restrictions have eased, volunteers are now shifting their focus to gradually building people's confidence and many voluntary organisations and community groups are back up and running.

Volunteers have also played a crucial part in the rollout of NHS vaccinations. We would not be where we are now on the roadmap out of restrictions without volunteers. The last 15 months have been incredibly challenging for many people in many ways, but in North Yorkshire we can thank our incredible volunteers for helping to minimise the impact of coronavirus.

Volunteers also help to deliver other vital council services, including helping to manage and maintain public rights of way, promoting the council's reduce, reuse and recycle waste reduction priorities and working with our archives team. Volunteers are also critical in keeping North

Yorkshire libraries open and thriving. Last month, we deployed Ready for Anything volunteers who helped at the Covid test site set up in response to the rising infection rates in the Selby area.

Volunteer driver Harry Trotter joined the team at Stokesley and District Community Care after retiring, and more than 11 years later is still involved. During the pandemic, Harry helped to make sure people were able to get to medical appointments, and is looking forward to a return to more familiar duties. Harry said: "I miss the people. Pre-Covid, I tended to do every Friday to drive the bus around the villages to bring people into Stokesley for the market. People and communities are at the very heart of our organisation."

[Find volunteering opportunities in North Yorkshire on the Community First Yorkshire website.](#)

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.](#)

Businesses' care aims to reassure cautious customers

After pubs, bars and restaurants re-opened to indoor customers, North Yorkshire businesses have revealed the extent of the safety measures they have put in place both to meet the Government's 'roadmap' rules and reassure those who may feel cautious about taking steps back towards normality. Owners and managers have put wide-ranging measures in place – from providing hand sanitiser to re-arranging the layout of their premises – to ensure customers enjoy their visits and stay safe.

The effort reflects the kindness and caring which has been a constant theme in North Yorkshire and provides reassurance to those who are cautious about returning to their old routines after more than a year of lockdown and shielding.

[Read and hear what two North Yorkshire businesses have done to welcome customers back.](#)

People urged to watch for signs of "hidden harm" among children and young people

Communities in North Yorkshire are being urged to be alert to changes in children and young people which could suggest they are suffering "hidden harm" or abuse.

As more meeting places, clubs and venues open up as further Covid-19 restrictions are eased, North Yorkshire's Safeguarding Children Partnership is asking people to be their eyes and ears in the community and report any concerns they might have for children.

Pressures on families arising from periods of social isolation during the pandemic have increased the risk of mental and physical harm to children and young people, but these signs of harm have been harder to detect, due to the lack of usual face-to-face interaction.

NYSCP have produced [a podcast explaining what hidden harm is.](#)

[Read more about the signs of hidden harm.](#)

Supporting our schools and childcare

This summer holiday, a programme of sports coaching, creative and performing arts sessions for children will be taking place across North Yorkshire. Funding for the programme has come from the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food Programme, to provide holiday club places to children eligible for free school meals. The holiday clubs will involve engaging activities, including activities around health and nutrition, as well as provide children with healthy food.

We have commissioned North Yorkshire Together – a partnership between Rural Arts, North Yorkshire Sport and North Yorkshire Youth – to oversee the FEAST holiday activities programmes.

Organisations are being invited to apply for a grant to provide holiday activities for the FEAST programme. Voluntary groups, sports coaching organisations, existing holiday activity providers, arts organisations and schools can all apply for a grant to provide activities.

The activities provided should enable children to be active during the school holiday and help develop resilience, character and wellbeing, along with their wider educational attainment, as well as prevent social isolation among children and teach them about health and nutrition. North Yorkshire Together can support organisations to access healthy food options if needed.

The holiday clubs will be available to all pupils, but will be free to families eligible for free schools meals.

Organisations interested in taking part needs to apply by June 7. [Find information on applying and download an application form](#). If you have questions, email grants@northyorkshiretogether.co.uk

Growing our local economy

LEP News: New Business Board Chair appointed

Our new business board chair Sue Jefferson is confident the York and North Yorkshire economy will grow back and better, as it recovers from the impact of Covid-19.

Sue said: “Having been involved with the Board since 2018, I’ve valued the breadth of independent, experienced private sector members, bringing a diversity of thinking to our discussions. The agility and impact shown during this unprecedented time, the success stories already emerging and the important initiatives now rolling out, makes it an exciting time to chair the Business Board and see the region’s greener, fairer, stronger growth realised.”

[Read the full story](#).

Routemap to Carbon-Negative Business Roundtable

The Y&NY LEP are seeking representation from business support organisations and businesses themselves across all sectors to contribute to a regional plan for reaching negative carbon emissions. We are particularly interested in tourism and hospitality, food and drink, construction and professional services. The [Routemap to Carbon-Negative Business Roundtable](#) will be held on Wednesday 2 June, 10am to noon.

The session will focus on co-creating a plan for the greener future of York & North Yorkshire’s businesses.

If you have any questions about the session, contact Energy Programme Lead Katie Privett, katie.privett@businessinspiredgrowth.com

Keeping in touch

[Keep up to date with Covid-19 news for North Yorkshire](#).

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