

## WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

'If I can get through this surely we can get through anything.' I open today with these words from business owner Alex Smith who took over her company, The Treatment Rooms in Harrogate, just 12 months before the pandemic struck. This morning Alex joined some other North Yorkshire businesses at our weekly Covid-19 media briefing to talk about the huge challenges they have had to overcome over the last year and their excitement at being able to reopen again from April 12.

Like so many businesses, Alex's beauty therapy company had to adapt quickly to survive. She has had to take a business reliant on face-to-face close contact services to an online-only presence during three lockdowns. Like so many of the county's innovators, Alex has done everything she can to keep her customers close and her business afloat. Small businesses like Alex's are the life-blood of North Yorkshire's economy and I am humbled by her mammoth efforts, determination and humanity. Not only has she adapted her services to do what she can to trade online, but in the height of lockdown she used her once-a-day exercise session to cycle round delivering products to clients who couldn't get out – even picking up essential shopping on the way for those really stuck. Alex epitomises the Team North Yorkshire spirit we have seen repeatedly over the pandemic right across the county and is one of hundreds of local businesses registered on our free Buy Local business directory, which is a year old this week. On behalf of the county council, I would like to wish Alex and all the other businesses able to reopen again from Monday (April 12) the very best of luck. You can watch more of Alex's story here and I am sure you will find much of what she says resonates with your own experiences.

<https://youtu.be/EuDF7D3a-JY>

If you are a North Yorkshire business operating, in a covid-secure way – and you haven't registered on Buy Local, then you can read about the experiences of a host of businesses that have and learn about the benefits on the link below. Many businesses and residents have found the free directory hugely helpful and we will continue to provide it as we emerge from the pandemic.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local>

If you are looking to support local companies, you can browse them here by category – accommodation, food suppliers, professional services, property services, retail and there is even a section on getting around! There are hundreds of companies and services on offer.

<https://buylocal.northyorks.gov.uk>

But businesses like Alex's can only reopen thanks to the sacrifices and commitment of the hundreds of thousands of people in North Yorkshire who continue to play their part to limit the spread of the virus. So let's not forget the huge efforts you have made to support local firms and to pave the way for the successful road map out of lockdown. Every face covering, every day at home, every time you have kept your distance – every time you put others first – that collective effort has and is making the difference that means the county can reopen safely. Thank you.

On that note, many of you love our libraries and many of you have been making the most of their online offer. I am delighted to say that our wonderful staff and volunteers are also preparing to

welcome you back. Safeguards will be in place, of course, but in just a few days' time you will be able browse for books once more.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/libraries-set-welcome-customers-back-choose-books>

As our libraries prepare to say hello, I wanted to extend my personal good wishes and thanks to a very special person – as we say a fond farewell to Hilary Musgrave. As one of our longest-serving social workers, Hilary has helped improve the lives of countless foster children over almost four decades in North Yorkshire and is now going to enjoy a well-earned retirement. Much of her long career has been spent working in the Knaresborough and Skipton areas and you can read more about her wonderful public service here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/social-worker-retires-after-almost-four-decades-helping-children>

You may already be aware that national Government is currently consulting on how local services should be delivered in North Yorkshire and York in the future. We are proposing a single new council for everyone in North Yorkshire and there is an alternative proposal by some of the district councils for an east/west model. Both are available to view on this link, which will also take you to the consultation if you would like to have your say <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/governance-reform-and-democracy/northyorkshire>

North Yorkshire is a special place and Monday is a very important day for many businesses and residents here, so let's keep going, keep safe and unlock summer.

## 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 4 April, there have been 29,368 positive tests since 3 March, 2020, with 411 new cases reported in the past two weeks. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 32 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 30.6 per 100,000 people, which remains below the England seven-day rate. 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 here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-data>.

### Coronavirus Update

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced that restrictions would be lifted from Monday 12 April as we enter step 2 of the roadmap outlined in the [COVID-19 Response- Spring 2021](#) guidance. Although non-essential retail, personal care facilities and indoor sports and leisure facilities will reopen, it is important to note that unless a specific exemption exists, these must only be attended/used in line with the wider social contact limits at this stage – as a single household or bubble indoors; or in a group of up to six people or two households outdoors.

Non-essential retail will reopen. This will include but not be limited to:

- clothing stores and tailors
- charity and antique shops
- homeware and carpet stores
- showrooms (such as for vehicles as well as kitchens and bathrooms)
- electronic goods and mobile phone shops
- florists and plant nurseries
- retail travel agents
- photography stores
- remaining auction houses and markets
- tobacco and vape stores
- betting shops (subject to additional COVID-secure measures, such as limiting the use of gaming machines).
- car washes (except for automatic car washes that are already open)

Personal care facilities and close contact services will reopen. This will include:

- hair, beauty and nail salons
- body and skin piercing services
- tattoo studios
- spas and massage centres (except for steam rooms and saunas)
- holistic therapy (including acupuncture, homeopathy, and reflexology)
- tanning salons

Indoor sports and leisure facilities will reopen. This will include at:

- gyms and leisure centres
- sports courts
- swimming pools
- dance studios and fitness centres
- driving and shooting ranges
- riding arenas
- archery venues
- climbing wall centres

Self-contained holiday accommodation in which all facilities (including for sleeping, catering, bathing, and indoor lobbies and corridors for entry and exit) are restricted to exclusive use of a single household/support bubble will reopen.

Outdoor areas at hospitality venues (cafes, restaurants, bars, pubs, social clubs, including in members' clubs) can reopen, including for takeaway alcohol. Some venues may wish to erect outdoor shelters. To be considered 'outdoors', shelters, marquees and other structures can have a roof but need to have at least 50% of the area of their walls open at all times while in use. These venues may allow customers to use toilets located inside.

At any premises serving alcohol, customers will be required to order, be served and eat/drink while seated ("table service"). Venues will be prohibited from providing smoking equipment, such as shisha pipes, for use on the premises.

Outdoor attractions will reopen at:

- adventure parks and activities
- animal attractions (such as at zoos, safari parks and aquariums)
- drive-in events, such as for cinemas, theatres, and other performances.
- film studios

- funfairs and fairgrounds
- model villages
- museums and galleries
- skating rinks
- theme parks
- trampolining parks
- water and aqua parks

Public buildings, such as community halls and centres, and libraries, can reopen.

### **Test and Trace Requirements**

From Monday 12 April, venues in hospitality, the tourism and leisure industry, close contact services, community centres and village halls must:

- ask every customer or visitor (over the age of 16) to provide their name and contact details
- keep a record of all staff working on their premises and shift times on a given day and their contact details
- keep these records of customers, visitors and staff for 21 days and provide data to NHS Test and Trace if requested
- display an official NHS QR code poster so that customers and visitors can 'check in' using the NHS COVID-19 app as an alternative to providing their contact details
- adhere to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Please note this is a change to the previous guidance and all persons entering these premises will be required to provide information, not just one person from the group.

Hospitality venues have additional requirements and must also take reasonable steps to refuse entry to anyone who refuses to participate. This requirement applies to any establishment that provides an on-site service and to any events that take place on its premises. It does not apply where services are taken off-site immediately, for example, a food or drink outlet that only provides takeaways. If a business offers a mixture of a sit-in and takeaway service, contact information needs only to be sought for customers who are dining in.

By maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors, and displaying an official NHS QR poster, you will help NHS Test and Trace to identify and notify people who may have been exposed to the virus. Find further guidance [here](#).

## **Working together towards recovery**

### **Testing**

There are two types of tests available at testing sites:

- tests for people with symptoms
- tests if you live or work with a nursery/school/college student

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

### **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

A permanent site at Malton is open 8am to 8pm **every day**, currently for administering tests only.

- **Malton** – Wentworth Street Car Park, Wentworth Street, Malton, YO17 7JR

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

- **Thursday 8 April - Leyburn** - Harmby Road, Car Park, Leyburn, DL8 5EE
- **Thursday 8 April - Easingwold** - Easingwold Town AFC, Stillington Road, Easingwold, York, YO61 3DZ
- **Friday 9 April - Sherburn in Elmet** - Pasture Way Carpark, Sherburn in Elmet, LS25 6LY
- **Friday 9 April - Stokesley** - Stokesley Sports Club, Broughton Road, Stokesley, Middlesbrough, TS9 5JG
- **Friday 9 April - Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4TL
- **Saturday 10 April - Selby** - South Entrance, DRAX Power Station, New Road, Selby, YO8 8PH
- **Saturday 10 April - Thornton Le Dale** - North York Moors National Park Authority car park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Thornton Le Dale, Pickering, YO18 7RR
- **Saturday 10 April - Filey** - Filey Country park, Church Cliff Drive, Filey, YO14 9ET
- **Sunday 11 April - Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4TL
- **Sunday 11 April - Thirsk** - Millgate Car Park, Marage Road, Thirsk, YO7 1PE

### **Tests if you live or work with a nursery/school/college student**

If you live, work or are in a support bubble with nursery, primary or secondary school pupils or college students you should carry out lateral flow device tests at home twice a week. Tests can be collected from locations across North Yorkshire.

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

Testing kits can also be collected between 9am and 3pm from our mobile distribution unit, which will be at the following locations in the coming days:

- **Thursday 8 April - Filey** - Filey Country park, Church Cliff Drive, Filey, YO14 9ET
- **Friday 9 April - Reeth** - Reeth Green, B6270, Reeth, Richmond, DL11 6SY
- **Saturday 10 April - Grassington** - Hebden Rd, Grassington, Skipton, BD23 5LB
- **Sunday 11 April - Thornton Le Dale** - North York Moors National Park Authority car park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Thornton Le Dale, Pickering, YO18 7RR



## Supporting our schools and childcare

We're pleased to say that attendance at primary and secondary schools in North Yorkshire remained high before the start of the Easter break, and secondary and college students settled into a routine of lateral flow testing for the virus.

There were more than 100,000 lateral flow tests carried out across schools during the first few weeks of the return to face-to-face teaching, which thankfully returned only 26 positive cases. Those pupils who tested positive for coronavirus were isolated at home before returning to the class, which successfully prevented the spread of the virus within schools.

Secondary and college students are now using the rapid swab tests at home, twice a week, to test for covid. There has been a high take-up of tests, which should give schools, families and pupils confidence in the system.

The Department for Education will be reviewing the current arrangements for the use of voluntary face coverings in schools and other advice in place for schools at the May half-term.

## Teamwork to support our residents

As well as the volunteers supporting North Yorkshire residents with shopping and other essentials during the pandemic, community transport drivers have also played a vital role in keeping people connected.

For the team at Stokesley and District Community Care Association, providing access to affordable transport was disrupted by the impact of coronavirus. Some of the volunteer drivers were over 70, some trips had to stop and new demands emerged.

But the community transport scheme, which has also acted as the community support organisation for the area, has not only coped with those challenges – it is now expecting a bright future as the pandemic hopefully subsides.

As it became clear some people needed shopping deliveries and prescription collections, some drivers turned their attention to those duties and others came along to swell the ranks.

Manager Phil Henderson explained: "We had a number of people back from university, others who were furloughed and some who just wanted to help. Most are still with us and we are hoping to keep them, post-pandemic."

Covid vaccination appointments have become another important element of the organisation's work and the minibuses have been used for appointment trips.

Volunteer driver Harry Trotter took up the role after retiring and more than 11 years later is still involved: "I enjoy it, that's the reason I do it," he said.

"Pre-Covid, I tended to do a day every Friday to drive the bus around the villages to bring people into Stokesley for the market, shopping trips. There were elderly people who would have never got there without this type of transport," he said.

The pandemic brought those services to a halt, but Harry has continued to drive the bus, taking residents for medical appointments on an individual basis, with the size of the vehicle allowing for easy social distancing.

He is looking forward to the potential of returning to more familiar duties and said: "I miss the people. People and communities are at the very heart of our organisation."

North Yorkshire residents without local support networks who need help with shopping and other essentials, 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).

To find local businesses offering food deliveries and takeaways, go to the Buy Local directory at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local). 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: York & North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon-Negative Roundtables

In York and North Yorkshire, we have the ambition to be carbon-neutral by 2034 and carbon-negative by 2040. We're now working with regional stakeholders and experts to collaboratively develop a route map to set out clear policy, programmes, and demonstrator projects and enabling activities to reach our ambitious carbon-reduction goals.

We're holding a series of roundtables for senior level representatives of local organisations and experts to shape and agree the key actions:

- Energy Roundtable – 27 April 10am-noon <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/co-creating-ynys-routemap-to-carbon-negative-energy-roundtable-tickets-145836754659>
- Land Use & Agri Roundtable – 6 May 10am-noon <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/co-creating-ynys-routemap-to-carbon-negative-land-use-agri-roundtable-tickets-145826875109>
- Travel & Transport Roundtable – 11 May 10am-noon <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/co-creating-ynys-routemap-to-carbon-negative-transport-roundtable-tickets-145840008391>
- Place Roundtable – 26 May 10am-noon <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/co-creating-ynys-routemap-to-carbon-negative-place-roundtable-tickets-145854768539>
- Business Roundtable – 2 June 10am-noon [Co-Creating Y&NY's Routemap to Carbon-Negative: Business Roundtable Tickets, Wed 2 Jun 2021 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/co-creating-ynys-routemap-to-carbon-negative-business-roundtable-tickets-145854768539)

### What Is The Circular Economy?

A sustainable approach to business. As the effects of climate change become clearer, how do we find a balance that is both good for business and good for the planet? The circular economy offers a simple model that can be adapted across sectors and supply chains to help businesses flourish while reducing their impact on the environment.

Our Circular Economy Officer, Erin Wheeler, explains the sustainable approach to business in a blog for Cooper King Distillery, the North Yorkshire-based distillers of England's first carbon negative gin. <https://www.cooperkingdistillery.co.uk/blog/what-is-the-circular-economy>

Further info can be found at [York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub](https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/sustainability/): <https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/sustainability/>

### Circular Malton showcases business benefits of sustainability

At the end of February, Circular Malton hosted an event in partnership with the York & North Yorkshire LEP to help businesses identify profit opportunities while reducing their carbon footprint.

Organised by Sue Jefferson, co-founder of Circular Malton, this event showcased the practical benefits of becoming more sustainable in business, and how businesses can get started with their circular economy journey.

For those who couldn't attend or if you would like to watch this again, please find a link to the film here: <https://youtu.be/E17fv7AZ-Q>

