

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

This week we are raising awareness about the crucial role of carers across our county's communities who day in day out carry out critical, often behind-the-scenes work to look after loved ones in their family, friends or neighbours. There are 60,000 carers in North Yorkshire, one in 10 of us, who carry out caring duties as part of their everyday lives. Support for carers is therefore a priority for us at the county council. Many carers have found themselves caring more than ever during the pandemic with emotional and practical support for loved ones, who became increasingly isolated.

At today's North Yorkshire press conference, we heard the moving and powerful story of Christine who cares for her mum and who continued to do so through the pandemic and through her own breast cancer.

She described how her mum, who suffers from Alzheimer's, deteriorated due to the isolation of the pandemic but is now improving as she receives visits from the wider family and trips out.

Christine found she needed to look after herself too, and she told us how she did Pilates and went on lots of walks and lost weight in order to maintain both her own health and caring duties. Christine's story is a reminder of how demanding life can be for carers and we have plans to extend the help available. We already provide funding for carers centres, sitting services, respite care and short-term breaks, but we are now teaming up with North Yorkshire Sport to help carers improve their own physical health as they tell us this is critical to their own sense of well-being.

We are also asking people to remain vigilant and continue to remember hands, face, space and fresh air as Covid infection rates increase across the county. Although North Yorkshire's rate is still well below the English average, numbers are rising as the highly transmissible Delta variant of Covid continues to push up cases. So we must all remain cautious, meet people outside where we can and avoid large crowds. Mindful of the upcoming Euros – let's all be careful that we watch them in a Covid-safe way. And with a heat wave on the way this weekend let's remember to use our sun cream, too, and remain safe in the sun!

Public health and social care

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 6 June 2021, there have been 30,458 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 274 new cases reported in the past two weeks. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 15 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 25.7 cases per 100,000 people, lower than the England seven-day rate of 47.1. 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.](#)

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.

Booking a coronavirus (Covid-19) test if you've got symptoms

Anyone who is showing coronavirus symptoms is eligible to book a test to find out if they have the virus. You can also book a test if you are self-isolating after being in contact with someone who has tested positive.

[Find further information on our website.](#)

[You can also book a test via this link.](#)

People who don't have access to the internet, or who have difficulty with the digital portals, can call 119 to book their test.

Get a coronavirus (covid-19) test if you don't have symptoms

If you do not have symptoms, you are still encouraged to test yourself twice a week, using rapid lateral flow tests for you to conduct at home. There are several ways you can get a test. [Find full information.](#)

You should report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day as you take your test.

Important vaccination update

The Covid-19 vaccine rollout in England has been extended to under-30s for the first time, with everyone aged 25 or older now invited to book a jab. [Find further information and book your jab.](#)

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

- Get your first and second dose of the jab when it is your turn.
- 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 out with friends and family, 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

Safeguarding Week 21 to 25 June 2021: Sign up for virtual Safeguarding Week sessions

A virtual, online conference will take place between Monday 21 and Friday 25 June, to mark Safeguarding Week 2021. Everybody has a part to play in keeping themselves, friends and family, employees and our wider community safe.

Partners from Safeguarding Adults Boards, Children's Safeguarding Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships across North Yorkshire, the City of York and East Riding have come together

to develop an extensive programme of learning events, seminars and interactive sessions which all underpin this year's theme, 'Safeguarding is everybody's business'.

As well as learning events for safeguarding professionals, there are a number of online sessions during the week, for which anyone is welcome to register. These cover a range of topics, including using online banking in safety (by North Yorkshire Police) and reducing loneliness and isolation (East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board, East Riding Council).

[View the full conference programme and register.](#)

[Read more here.](#)

Supporting our schools and childcare

We have now completed an extensive engagement on outdoor learning in North Yorkshire to gather the opinions of hundreds of adults, children, stakeholders and organisations on how it should look in the future.

The pandemic has had a significant financial impact on the County Council's two residential sites at Bewerley Park in Nidderdale and East Barnby near Whitby, after they were closed in line with Government guidance in March 2020.

The review of the outdoor learning service is looking at bringing back the service after the pandemic in a way that places it on a sustainable footing, makes the best use of the sites and offers a range of facilities and experiences to schools, children and young people.

In recent weeks, we have engaged extensively with individuals and organisations. Questionnaires were sent to members of the public, staff and schools in North Yorkshire, as well as groups and schools situated outside of the county that use the centre. We also met parish councils and other groups, including staff groups, NY Sport, the Head Teachers Network and school governors. A user group involving representations from schools was also set up.

We had a high response to questionnaires and the engagement exercises and thank everyone who took the time to give their feedback.

The council also worked with nine schools in North Yorkshire on an art project to get them to draw up plans and illustrations of what they would like to see from outdoor learning. It resulted in more than 300 drawings, which have been included in the review.

Over the coming weeks, the results of the engagement will be used in helping draw up several different options for the future of the Outdoor Learning Service, which will then go before the executive for a decision in autumn.

Both sites are currently now open and 1,563 students from 71 schools will be using the sites this summer. In addition, 176 groups will be using the facilities for day activities. Both sites will remain open for the next academic year, while the review takes place.

Growing our local economy

LEP News: Working with partners to bid for a Greener, Fairer and Stronger future

Earlier this year, Government launched the [UK Community Renewal Fund](#) (CRF) for pilot projects that support local skills, employment, businesses and places. The response from our partners has been excellent, and has led to a range of innovative projects being submitted – both via ourselves, or direct by our partners – by the 13 May deadline to North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC).

These projects build on our [vision](#) and [strategy](#) for a greener, fairer and stronger economy in York & North Yorkshire.

Chair of York & North Yorkshire LEP Helen Simpson OBE said, “It has been great to work with our partners and communities on the UK Community Renewal Funding bids – between us we have a clear understanding of what is needed at a local level and how we might make best use of the funding, so you have been key in this process. We really appreciate all the time and effort that you have contributed to this, in challenging timescales, and are hopeful that the region will benefit significantly if we can secure a good share of CRF funding. We expect to hear the outcome of the NYCC final bid to Government later this summer and will let you know the outcome when we hear.”

Keeping in touch

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

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