

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

After many difficult months for everyone, it was refreshing to see this week as one of celebration and opportunity.

Many of the county's young people received excellent news in their A-level results yesterday and, I am confident, many more will do so tomorrow when GCSE results are announced. The few who have not achieved the results they wanted should not despair. Support is available through their school and elsewhere.

One of the county's head teachers, Kathryn Stephenson, of Boroughbridge High School, spoke of her pride in the students.

"We have been impressed by the resilience of our young people, who have worked through two lockdowns as well as working really hard in school. There has been absolute commitment by students and staff. Yesterday was a very positive day."

The school's deputy head girl, Kirsten Brocklesby, who gained three A\* A-levels and will study at Bristol University, said the past 18 months had been difficult, but everyone worked together and the teachers were amazing.

"Now that I have got through it, I realise how much resilience we all showed and I know now how to keep going through really hard times," she said. "I will take that thought with me."

One option for young people who perhaps didn't get what they hoped for could be Kickstart, a national initiative to help unemployed people aged 16 to 24 into high-quality jobs. One North Yorkshire employer taking part is Chopsticks, a charity that works with people with learning disabilities. It has taken on three people under the scheme.

Tracy Taylor, of Chopsticks, said: "For these young people, it often comes down to lack of confidence and thinking they don't have skills to get a job. We have offered those skills. These young people now realise that they can achieve their goals, they have skills they didn't realise they had. It is a fantastic scheme and hopefully more employers will take it on."

[Read more about Kickstart.](#)

The Covid-19 infection rate across the county seems to have plateaued. The rate is 269 per 100,000 people, against an England average of 299. This is still high and pressures continue on health and social care services, so our message remains "respect and protect". Please continue to wear face coverings, practise good hand hygiene, give people space and get plenty of fresh air.

We currently have 48 care homes with cases of Covid-19, and these remain extremely challenging times for health and social care. The level of demand for hospitals, primary care, community health services and social care is exceptional.

But while the challenges are great, so are the opportunities and rewards. If you are interested in working in social care or health services, we would love to hear from you.

Look for more details from the NHS or [Make Care Matter](#).

## Public health and social care

### North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 8 August 2021, there have been 45,148 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 1,483 new cases reported in the past week. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 225 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 269.2 cases per 100,000 people, lower than the England seven-day rate of 296. 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 at county, district and local area level.](#)

### Testing Update

If anyone has symptoms, they must book a PCR test. Testing sites across 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 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 PCR test on our website.](#)

Everyone is encouraged to test themselves twice a week with home testing kits and report the results to NHS Test and Trace. You can order rapid lateral flow device (LFD) tests online or collect them from participating pharmacies.

[Find out how to order or collect free LFD tests.](#)

**It remains vitally important that we continue with the key messages:**

- Get your first and second dose of the jab
- 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 where possible, when out with friends and family, including work places, pubs, restaurants etc.
- Hands. Face. Space. Fresh Air.

## Growing our local economy

### LEP News: Guildhall project to offer space and support to entrepreneurs

The University of York has signed a 15-year lease of the Guildhall, which will bring the historic building back to the forefront of the city's social, business and civic life

The building will be leased to York Science Park (YSPL), a subsidiary of the University of York. York Science Park offer support for entrepreneurs and start-ups looking to grow.

The coronavirus pandemic has changed how we live and work. In response to these changes, the Guildhall will provide a flexible and collaborative workspace for local businesses.

[Learn more about this exciting project.](#)

### HM Treasury fundamental review of business rates

The Government committed to conduct a fundamental review of business rates and published the terms of reference for the review in the spring budget.

There is a live consultation that seeks the views of businesses on matters such as the frequency of revaluations. This consultation closes on 24 August.

We encourage all businesses with views on business rates to respond to the consultation, which can be found [here](#).

### **Universal Credit for the self-employed**

The rules for self-employed people claiming Universal Credit were temporarily changed because of the coronavirus pandemic. After 31 July 2021, the pre-pandemic rules will start to be applied again in terms of how to report your self-employed income and expenses to Universal Credit every month.

For more information: [Universal Credit for the self-employed](#)

## **Keeping in touch**

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

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