

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

Who would have thought the prospect of a haircut would become so looked forward to! I am one of the lucky cohort to have managed to get an appointment and what a pleasure it was to feel a bit more normal again. It is such a joy to see North Yorkshire bursting back to life. Like many of you, I am buoyed by the sound of laughter as people enjoy our market towns and villages again, loving our wonderful outdoor dining options, shopping in our local businesses. Spring has well and truly sprung – the sun is up and things are beginning to feel hopeful again. So, a hearty thank you to you all for everything you have sacrificed to get us to this point. Without your sterling efforts, we would most certainly not be in this position.

We are about half way through the road map out of the pandemic – there's a long way to go but so far so good. I am hoping some of you will start to see and hear our Unlock Summer campaign over the coming days and weeks. It's designed to help us all remember how we have won these freedoms and what we need to continue to do to keep them coming. Reports from our colleagues at North Yorkshire police confirm how respectful and thoughtful the vast majority of people are being as they enjoy the longer days and outdoor socialising more. We are also hearing lots of positive news from the hospitality settings that have been able to reopen their outdoor areas. The Hotel Manager of West Park Hotel in Harrogate has spoken of welcoming two thousand outdoor guests since restrictions eased – that's fantastic to hear. Perhaps not so fantastic though for the member of staff who clocked up 26 miles in one day serving meals and drinks to guests! You can hear more Anthony Blundell: <https://youtu.be/Dw7jAu82Guk>. Well done to all those businesses and settings reopening safely and thank you for all the terrific care you are taking to keep staff and customers safe. It is much appreciated.

We are also hearing a great deal about a predicted boom in the staycation market – partly linked to the obvious issues around international travel just now – but also because the pandemic has helped us reconnect with our local communities. We are understandably looking to explore from our doorsteps and in doing so discovering all sorts we may not have known, I am sure. For example, did you know you can now 'wakeboard' in North Yorkshire? In truth, I am not entirely sure I know what that is or indeed how I would get on with it – but I am very sure lots of people will raise an eyebrow at that and plenty of folk will be keen to try it. On our weekly media briefing today we heard about the work that has been going on at the North Yorkshire Water Park. Based at Wykeham near Scarborough, during the latest lockdown, the park managers have been busy making more than £900,000 of improvements and expanding their offer to residents and visitors, including training staff on the new water feature! We are truly blessed in North Yorkshire with the wonderful mix of culture, landscapes and heritage but equally we are full of surprises, and if we can take one positive from this whole Covid-19 experience it is surely that we live in a special place, full of very special people and have many things we can explore and enjoy right here. I hope you will find this video with Gareth Davies, the park's general manager, as interesting as I did. It's a great account of how our businesses are investing and being innovative in the face of such great challenges: <https://youtu.be/scZMtUZyyns>

I am pleased to report that our libraries are loving seeing you all again and our schools are buzzing with pupils back learning again following the Easter break. Attendance at schools is up to pre-pandemic levels at around 93%. Positive cases of Covid-19 remain very few and far between and staff and pupils are greatly benefitting from their return.

This week we are also reopening our records office for research. Another small step toward that goal of normality. From April 27, people will be able to book to access the archives again – I know this is hugely valued by many people, so it's lovely to be able to welcome you back. You can find out a bit more and how to book here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/record-office-welcomes-back-researchers>

So, a lot to be grateful for and a much greater sense of freedom in our lives. Our position with regards to Covid-19 cases is encouraging, but this virus is volatile so please keep going Team North Yorkshire and stay safe.

## 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 18 April 2021, there have been 29,585 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 277 new cases reported in the past two weeks. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 21 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, higher than the England seven-day rate of 24.1. Work continues to ensure effective monitoring of all areas, with support for incidents being provided across a range of settings, which are reviewed daily.

Further information on North Yorkshire data provided at county, district and local area level can be found here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-data>

### Coronavirus Update

Nine in ten pharmacies across England are now distributing free rapid lateral flow tests for people to collect and use at home.

Rapid, regular testing is now available to everyone in England and the new Pharmacy Collect service provides an additional route to regular testing, making it as easy as possible for people without COVID-19 symptoms to access testing twice a week.

The Pharmacy Collect service is available to anyone aged 18 or older without symptoms, who is able to visit a participating local pharmacy and collect a box of seven rapid tests to use twice a week at home.

Alongside the rollout of the vaccine, testing will form a crucial part of everyday life as parts of society reopen. Around one in three people with coronavirus doesn't have symptoms, which means they can spread the virus without knowing it. Regular testing continues to play a critical role in stopping the spread of the virus and breaking the chains of transmission.

An [online checker](#) has launched so you can find your nearest pharmacy offering free rapid test kits.

New analysis by NHS Test and Trace shows lateral flow (LFD) tests to have a specificity of at least 99.9%. This means that for every 1,000 lateral flow tests carried out, there is fewer than one false

positive result. All positive results from LFD tests must be followed up with a confirmatory PCR test within 72 hours. Confirmatory PCR testing will also mean variants of concern are detected more quickly.

If testing at home, individuals will need to register their results online or by calling 119, even if they get a negative result. They should self-isolate if they get a positive result and order a confirmatory PCR test online or by calling 119.

Please note that anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell) should [book a PCR test online](#) or by calling 119.

You can also get help to register and take the test for people who are visually impaired. You can have a live video call with specially trained NHS Test and Trace staff to help you register and take a home coronavirus test, or you can download the free Be My Eyes app <https://apps.apple.com/app/apple-store/id905177575?mt=8>

We must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives, and to help stop the spread of coronavirus, we all need to:

- carry on with 'hands, face, space and fresh air';
- comply with the COVID-secure measures that remain in place at different stages;
- meet outdoors when we can and keep letting in fresh air;
- get tested when needed;
- get vaccinated when offered.

If we all continue to play our part, we will be that bit closer to a future that is more familiar.

## Working together towards recovery

### Testing

Everyone can now get coronavirus tests:

- if you have symptoms you must self-isolate and book a test for people with symptoms
- if you do not have symptoms you are encouraged to get tests to carry out at home twice a week

### 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

The new permanent sites at Malton and Catterick are open 8am to 8pm **every day**, currently for administering tests only.

- **Malton** - Wentworth Street Car Park, Wentworth Street, Malton, YO17 7JR
- **Catterick** - Ypres Lines, Richmond Road, Catterick Garrison, DL9 3JF

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

- **Thursday 22 April - Leyburn** - Harmby Road, Car Park, Leyburn, DL8 5EE
- **Thursday 22 April - Easingwold** - Easingwold Town AFC, Stillington Road, Easingwold, York, YO61 3DZ
- **Friday 23 April - Sherburn in Elmet** - Pasture Way Carpark, Sherburn in Elmet, LS25 6LY
- **Friday 23 April - Stokesley** - Stokesley Sports Club, Broughton Road, Stokesley, Middlesbrough, TS9 5JG
- **Friday 23 April - Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4TL
- **Saturday 24 April - Selby** - South Entrance, DRAX Power Station, New Road, Selby, YO8 8PH
- **Saturday 24 April - Thornton Le Dale** - North York Moors National Park Authority car park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Thornton Le Dale, Pickering, YO18 7RR
- **Saturday 24 April - Filey** - Filey Country park, Church Cliff Drive, Filey, YO14 9ET
- **Sunday 25 April - Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4TL
- **Sunday 25 April - Thirsk** - Millgate Car Park, Marage Road, Thirsk, YO7 1PE

### Tests for people who do not have symptoms

If you do not have symptoms, you can get tests to use at home in several ways:

- online at [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)
- through your employer if they're registered for workplace testing
- at participating pharmacies, you can find local ones at <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- collecting them from one of the sites below

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 22 April - Reeth** - Reeth Green, B6270, Reeth, Richmond, DL11 6SY

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

## Supporting our schools and childcare

We're pleased to say that the return to school following the Easter break has gone very well and attendance in schools is now almost at levels seen before the pandemic, with average attendance at 93 per cent across all schools in the county, which is excellent news for schools, pupils and families.

We are also pleased to report that of the 1,100 educational settings in North Yorkshire, including schools, academies, colleges and early years providers, we have just 32 pupils or staff who have tested positive for coronavirus. These figures cover the last 28 days.

The fact that the overwhelming majority of pupils in North Yorkshire are now back in school is great news for children and young people, not just for their education and learning, but also their wellbeing and emotional development.

## Teamwork to support our residents

Prior to the pandemic, people of all ages living in and around Leyburn were able to take part in a number of activities and community events. As the restrictions are gradually lifted, the community support organisation for the area has launched their Community Restart programme to address concerns about a lack of confidence among people who have had limited social contact for over a year.

The aim of the programme is to encourage groups and individuals to organise community activities within the relevant Covid restrictions and get the community 'out and active'. Volunteers from the CSO are engaging with parish councils in the surrounding area, faith leaders, pubs, clubs and leaders of other groups. Volunteers will encourage people to start thinking about what events and activities they could safely organise in their area. As events and activities start to be introduced, residents will be encouraged to take part through local promotion and publicity. Befriending volunteers will also chat to the people they support about the programme.

David Poole is Treasurer at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, the community support organisation for the area. David said: "The confidence bit is the first part we addressed so people could see that there was life outside the bubble they've been in for some time. That's where the Community Restart programme fitted in.

"We wanted all of the organisations in the area to input what's happening from coffee mornings to yoga classes. People will see there's lots of activities going on to build their confidence. As they say, it's fine to win the war but then you have to win the peace."

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: How diverse businesses have outperformed their peers – and can again

Helen Simpson, new York & North Yorkshire LEP Chair, talks in the Yorkshire Post about how diverse businesses have outperformed their peers – and can again.

<https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/news/how-diverse-businesses-have-outperformed-their-peers-and-can-again/>

## Government launches consultation to create new flexible apprenticeships

A consultation has launched seeking views on how new flexi-job apprenticeship schemes could be run. Apprenticeships are at least 12 months long, so some sectors with flexible employment patterns and short-term roles, such as agriculture, construction and creative sectors including TV, film and theatre production, find it challenging to create enough opportunities.

Announced by the Chancellor in the Budget, the new flexi-job apprenticeship schemes would enable an apprentice to work across a range of projects and with different employers to gain the full skills and experience they need to complete their programme.

For more information, visit [Consultation launched to create new flexible apprenticeships - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## Hambleton Business Week 2021 and opening of C4DI Northallerton digital hub

The Hambleton Business Week 2021, organised by Hambleton District Council, will be held virtually from 11 to 13 May. The official launch of the C4DI Northallerton hub will take place as part of this event on Monday, 11 May.

The £2.3m digital hub, part funded by the Local Growth Fund secured from the York & North Yorkshire LEP, is based at the Treadmills development in Northallerton and will focus on helping tech companies grow and traditional businesses innovate within the agriculture, food processing and digital sector. For more information on this launch, visit <https://www.c4di.live/>.

The 2021 business conference continues on 12 May to focus on growing the local economy through digital technology, supporting high streets, market towns as well as those traditional businesses within the district. Keynote speaker **Kate Hardcastle MBE** will talk about the Digital High Street and will be joined by other speakers, **Amanda Lindsay** from Human Resources Consultancy, 2hbr and **Matthew Hopkinson** from Didobi, Founder Director of the Local Data Company.

Thursday, 13 May, is aimed at traditional businesses and will showcase support from the LEP on the circular economy and sustainable supply chain – and include how agritech plays a part in traditional businesses.

You can find out more about the speakers, agenda for the week and sign up for the event [here](#).

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