

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

Our journey through this pandemic is a marathon, as I'm sure we all realise. We have about 16 months behind us and, unfortunately, probably another year or so ahead.

I thank the people of North Yorkshire again for their tremendous effort and sacrifice and encourage you to keep going as we work our way through this.

The situation in North Yorkshire is changing rapidly, as it is nationwide, and we must be prepared for further ups and downs. The average infection rate in the county is 81 per 100,000 people, a four-fold increase in three weeks.

Our response must remain the same – not only to follow the rules around hands, face, space and fresh air, but also to take up your vaccine. We have high levels of uptake in North Yorkshire. That's great and it gives us protection. However, we need to go further. We need everyone who is offered the vaccine to take it up. Together we can work to unlock summer, but to unlock summer safely.

In Safeguarding Week, we heard at our press conference today from Evie Duarte, North Yorkshire Regional Manager of IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services) about how the pandemic has affected victims of domestic abuse.

IDAS had seen the number of referrals in North Yorkshire double in 2020 to 10,000.

Isolation is a key tactic of perpetrators of domestic abuse to control their victims, and the pandemic presented an opportunity to isolate victims further under the pretext of protecting them. We can all look for the signs of domestic abuse. As well as physical signs, there are subtle signs, such as changes in behaviour or a loss of confidence.

"People who are subject to domestic abuse and violence are often unlikely to disclose unless they are asked," said Evie, "so it is really important that we continue to talk about domestic abuse and ask people if they have been experiencing abuse." [Watch Evie's press conference video.](#)

We also know that there can be increases in domestic abuse during major sporting tournaments, such as the Euros, when people are drinking more.

Anyone can contact IDAS with their concerns on their helpline, 03000 110 110. [Find out more on the IDAS website.](#)

Finally, Saturday, 26 June, is Armed Forces Day. This is always an important day in the North Yorkshire calendar, but this year in particular I thank our armed forces for all their work in supporting essential services and local communities during the pandemic.

Public health and social care

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 21 June 2021, there have been 31,338 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 767 new cases reported in the past two weeks. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 50 cases per day,

allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 80.9 cases per 100,000 people, lower than the England seven-day rate of 100.4. 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.](#)

Vaccination update

The Covid-19 vaccine rollout in England continues at pace, and has been extended further to include anyone aged 18 or over.

For further information visit [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

England remains in Step 3

The government has announced a four-week pause at Step 3. Step 3 restrictions remain in place. It is expected that England will move to Step 4 on 19 July, though the data will be reviewed after two weeks in case the risks have reduced. The government will continue to monitor the data and the move to Step 4 will be confirmed one week in advance.

Some rules changed on 21 June in relation to:

- Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies and wedding receptions or civil partnership celebrations.
- Commemorative events following a death such as a wake, stone setting or ash scattering
- Care home visits
- Domestic residential visits for children

For full details of the changes visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

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 when out with friends and family, including work places, pubs, restaurants etc.
- Hands. Face. Space. Fresh Air.

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 or testing sites.

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

Working together towards recovery

SEND Strategy engagement

The Council, Parent Carer Voice and local clinical commissioning groups are seeking to develop a joint strategy for North Yorkshire that covers education, health and care for children and young people with SEND up to the age of 25 years.

In partnership with children, young people, parents, carers and other key stakeholders, we intend to establish a strategic vision for the future in North Yorkshire.

We're keen to hear from anyone that wants to share their experiences of SEND services ahead of a formal consultation in autumn this year.

Starting next week, we are hosting online events for parent carers and professionals to give feedback. There will also be focus groups for young people, run by NY Voice, our youth voice and creative engagement team. An online survey will be live from 28 June, and there will be other ways to give feedback.

[Find more information and book on to an event.](#)

Supporting our schools and childcare

We would like to thank people in education and their households for taking part in the home swab tests for coronavirus. We have seen several cases where the lateral flow testing has picked up asymptomatic cases of coronavirus, which have acted as an early warning in education settings and prevented the virus spreading. We would encourage people to continue these lateral flow tests.

Sherburn High School is currently working closely with North Yorkshire County Council, Public Health England and the Department for Education, after the STAR Multi Academy Trust took the difficult decision to close the school temporarily due to positive coronavirus cases in both students and members of staff. The school will remain closed from Thursday, June 17, to Monday, June 28, and remote learning will be available for all students.

The school was made aware of a number of positive coronavirus cases last week and over the weekend as a result of routine lateral flow testing and since then more cases have been reported through PCR testing.

The health and wellbeing of all students, staff and members of the wider community, as well as the continuity of education and care for students not currently in school, remain the school's priorities.

Growing our local economy

LEP News: York & North Yorkshire LEP Quarterly Skills Network

With the UK government's aim to slash emissions by 78% by 2035, what skills are needed in a sustainable future? After our first successful Quarterly Skills Forum in April, we are back to answer this question for skills partners and employers with a new theme for July: Emerging and Adapting Skills within a Greener Economy.

[Sign up for Emerging and Adapting Skills within a Greener Economy.](#)

5 July: Start your business today with our free online course

Do you want to start your own business, but are not sure where to begin, or have you started trading but need a guiding hand? The York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub has teamed up with Rebel Business School to offer free places on their acclaimed workshop to help you turn your dreams into a real business.

Over two weeks, the workshop explores a new topic every day, including how to start with no money, sales and marketing, legal, networking, and keeping motivated, as well as providing live business coaching. [Find out more and how to secure your place here.](#)

Keeping in touch

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

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