

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

As we watched over 40,000 triumphant and ecstatic football fans celebrate England's victory over Germany at Wembley last night, it felt like a truly historic moment. Not only was the national team throwing off decades of defeat in the Euros, but there was a real sense that finally we were taking a big joyful step towards normal life, to being able to attend mass events and share memorable moments in the company of friends and family.

We are not there yet of course. The England team has to get beyond Saturday's quarter finals and we must remember that we are still in step 3 of opening up society out of the Covid pandemic. Indeed with Covid rates rising rapidly everywhere, due to the highly transmissible Delta variant, the county's Director of Public Health, Louise Wallace, was right to remind us at today's press conference to continue to be cautious; continue to follow hands, face, space and fresh air guidelines; continue to get tested regularly, and to make sure we get vaccinated twice. Walk-in and pop-up vaccination sites are now being set up around the county for people over 18 without the need to book.

Thankfully, the vaccine does seem to be having the desired impact. Although cases are rising and the North Yorkshire average per 100,000 population now stands at 143.7 (England average 158.9) the number of those being hospitalised with the virus is significantly lower than in previous waves – 22 are in hospitals serving the North Yorkshire population, one down from last week.

So perhaps it is timely to say a big THANK YOU to all those who have helped bring us to this point over the past 16 months – some of the most challenging months in our history. Sunday (July 4th) is National Thank You Day and Monday (July 5th) is NHS, Social Care and Front Line Workers Day. They give us the chance to pay tribute to all those great volunteers in our county who have helped to protect the vulnerable or have helped out with family, friends and neighbours. We can also give thanks to all those colleagues in social care and the NHS who have pulled out all the stops to look after people on the Covid frontline.

We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude.

Public health and social care

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 27th June 2021, there have been 32,188 positive tests since 3rd March 2020, with 1,420 new cases reported in the past two weeks. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 82 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The 7-day rate for North Yorkshire is 143.7 cases per 100,000 people, lower than the England 7-day rate of 158.9. 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>.

Unlock Summer campaign

Our Unlock Summer campaign is under way. Residents can find it across the council's social media channels, out on the county's streets and in cafés and takeaways. The messages encourage people to carry on sticking to the rules to unlock the benefits of the next step in the Government's road map. Further information is available on our website:

[Let's work together to unlock summer | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

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

Working together towards recovery

Remove a nude image shared online: new tool to empower children and young people

With North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, we are promoting a new tool to help young people keep themselves safe online, as part of our work to support children and young people.

The tool launched by Childline and The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), enables children and young people to report a nude image or video of themselves which has been shared online. The IWF can then take steps to remove it from the Internet. More information from the IWF can be found [HERE](#) and the Childline reporting tool, 'Report Remove', can be found [HERE](#).

For anyone who supports or works with young people, please feel free to share details.

SEND services – tell us your views

With Parent Carer Voice, and local Clinical Commissioning groups, we are developing a joint strategy for North Yorkshire that covers education, health and care for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) up to the age of 25 years.

The strategy will be developed in partnership with children, young people, parents, carers and other key stakeholders, to establish a strategic vision for the future of SEND support in North Yorkshire.

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

Anyone who wants to take part can:

- Come to an online event – book here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendreview>,
- Fill in the online survey on the above link before 23 July (also available as a paper copy),
- Email us at send@northyorks.gov.uk,
- Telephone 01609 780780, or write to us.

If you would like to give feedback in another way, please get in touch – details at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendreview>

NY Voice, our Youth Voice & Creative Engagement team, are also hosting events for young people on 8 and 15 July – email nyvoice@northyorks.gov.uk for more details.

Supporting our schools and childcare

Families in North Yorkshire who are likely to struggle with the additional cost of food and other essentials over the summer holidays, may be eligible for food vouchers.

The Covid Local Support Grant provides supermarket vouchers to parent and carers with children in receipt of free school meals, or other families impacted financially by the pandemic. Following a recent Government announcement, the scheme has been extended to cover the forthcoming school holidays.

We have received grant funding of £1,350,900 from the Department for Work and Pensions, which will be sent out to schools and early years providers early in July.

The funding is primarily for children in receipt of free school meals, to ensure they continue to have access to food while schools are closed. Schools will have discretion to provide some vouchers to other families unable to cover the cost of essentials. Care leavers will also be eligible.

The vouchers amount to £75 to cover the length of the summer holiday.

A programme of healthy holiday activities will also be taking place in North Yorkshire over the summer break. Organisations offering sessions in everything from sports coaching, to creative and performing arts and cooking sessions have signed up to North Yorkshire's FEAST holiday activities programme.

North Yorkshire County Council has commissioned North Yorkshire Together, a partnership between Rural Arts, North Yorkshire Sport and North Yorkshire Youth to oversee the diverse programme.

The holiday clubs will be available to all pupils in North Yorkshire, but will be free of charge to families eligible for free schools meals.

Overall attendance in schools in North Yorkshire remains above the national average. We currently have two secondary schools which have closed due to coronavirus and five early years providers, out of the hundreds of nurseries, child minders and other providers in North Yorkshire. They are based in areas where background transmission rates are high in the community.

We continue to encourage students and their families to test twice a week at home. The lateral Flow tests are successfully helping us to identify children and staff who are asymptomatic. Participation in coronavirus home testing is entirely voluntary, but we would strongly encourage people to continue to test.

Keeping in touch

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

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