



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 24 June 2021

This weekly briefing is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice.

Covid-19 Trusted sources of information

The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from Public Health England [here](#) and the Norfolk Insights website [here](#).

Everyone has a key role in promoting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and www.gov.uk/coronavirus as trusted sources of information to the public. It is important to ensure people go to the right sources of information and keep up to date with how to look after themselves.

Keep up to date: We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk and impact on Norfolk County Council services. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.

Service updates: The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#). The council will continue to monitor its services and, if regulations and circumstances change, it will review its current plans.

Latest national announcements

Vaccine Deployment

The Government have announced that since the UK created the world's first clinically authorised vaccine 6 months ago, a first dose has been given to 82% of the population.

3 in 5 adults (60%) have now been given a second dose, and any adult in the UK is now able to book their first dose.

The vaccination programme has saved an estimated 14,000 lives and has prevented over 44,500 hospitalisations in England alone. In January, people over 65 made up the vast majority of hospital admissions, following vaccination of this group, the latest data shows people over 65 now make up less than a third of hospital admissions.

Of the admissions, 324 (over 60%) are unvaccinated, 87 had received one dose of the vaccine, while only 40 had received two doses.

There are currently under 900,000 over 50s who have not received their second dose. This figure was over 2 million two weeks ago.

Social care

Carers Emergency Planning

As part of our work on Carers Emergency Planning, we have recently redesigned our online web form. Carers Emergency Planning asks people with caring responsibilities to complete a simple form, or card, to ensure that if the carer is caught up in an emergency, the people they're caring for continue to receive the help and support they need, giving both carer and cared for peace of mind.

The redesign of the webform, which aims to allow carers to provide more information about their caring role and the person they support, has been completed in conjunction with Adult Carers, NCC Adult Practitioners & Carers Matter Norfolk staff.

The new form, which will go live on the 28th June, allows carers to provide key detail on the people they care for, including:

- how to access their home
- information about what specific support their emergency contacts can provide
- information about any pets they have
- Where key information is stored, such as their care plan, any documents on Limited Power Of Attorney (LPOA), and other key information that might be relevant to provide the care they need

In the past, carers have been asked to provide two emergency contacts to complete their form registration: to allow more carers to complete the form, this is no longer mandatory, and NCC will provide temporary support if required in an emergency.

Please do take a look on our website at: [Sign up for a carer's emergency card - Norfolk County Council](#)

When your work as local councillors brings you into contact with anyone with a caring role, please do take the time to ask them if they have a plan and if they do, encourage them to update it. If they don't, you can let them know about the scheme and ask them to consider registering. Carers Matter Norfolk – Norfolk's dedicated support service for carers, commissioned by the County Council – can support them with this.

It is also worth highlighting that if a Carer is supporting more than one Adult, they will need to complete a separate plan for each person they care for.

For Carers who already have an emergency plan and 'In My Place' Card registered with Adult Social Services, we will be arranging to write to them over the next few weeks, to raise awareness of the new form and inviting them to complete it as soon as they can.

Education and settings

New Special School

Permission has been granted to [build a new special school](#) with 170 new places just outside Norwich. The school will be for children with learning and cognition needs, aged 4 to 19. The school will be situated in the village of Easton and will provide purpose-built facilities such as a forest school area and a specialist Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) unit.

The free school will be run by the Bridge Trust and is part of [Norfolk County Council's £120 million five-year transformation programme](#) which has pledged to create 500 new specialist education places. It will be funded by the Department of Education following a successful bid.

Food vouchers continue

[Food vouchers for children will continue over the summer](#) holidays after Norfolk County Council has received additional funding support from the Government.

The vouchers, which are worth £15 per child per week, will be provided over the six-week summer break, supporting around 27,000 children in the county. Schools and colleges will be able to order vouchers worth £90 each on behalf of all registered eligible.

Business and economy

LEP Success Story

A local company based in Diss called *Just Another Label* [has received grant funding](#) via the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)'s Growth Through Innovation Fund.

The grant will help the company build a unique search engine and database of music for media, audio mastering, promotional, and music videos. The fund provides grants of up to £25,000 to help businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk invest in research, innovation, and development.

Transport and Environment

E-Bikes

[More residents across Norfolk will get to trial E-bikes](#) in the coming months as the council has secured Government grants provide a funding boost of £250,000. The grant funding will target those who were excluded from existing schemes to access e-bikes, such as those who were not eligible for the cycle to work scheme.

The funding will deliver a range of initiatives such as making e-bikes available to trial on a free-loan from bicycle shops, as well as increasing the number of e-bikes available for on-street hire through the [current Beryl scheme](#), which will expand to parts of greater Norwich.

New bus and cycle lane

Journeys into Norwich for those cycling or taking public transport will become easier from this week onward, [following the official opening of a new bus and cycle lane on Thorpe Road](#). The lane was originally due to be completed in July, but the works have been completed ahead of schedule.

The new contraflow bus and cycle lane is available between Carrow Road and Clarence Road. The project cost £941,000 and came from the £32 million awarded from the Department for Transport's Transforming Cities Fund.

Habitats

Habitats will be protected by returning up to three billion litres of water to the Norfolk Broads, following the Environment Agency [announcing changes to water abstraction licenses](#).

The changes will affect 20 businesses who currently take water from the Ant Valley, the businesses will instead be required to develop alternative and sustainable sources of water. The Ant Valley is home to a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and has been facing water pressures with evidence showing this may be causing damage to habitats and the environment.

Road Works

Highways England will start preparatory work to [upgrade the Thickthorn Interchange](#) with the A11 at Norwich. Ground investigation work has started, with works expected to start in 2023.

Once complete, the works are expected to improve journey times by between 4 and 5 minutes for the drivers who use the roundabout, while bringing in safety improvements. The work is part of the £450 million committed to improve road connectivity along the A47 between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth.

General updates

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service

This week Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service has been promoting national Drowning Prevention Week. This sadly follows an incident last week where a member of the public drowned at Bawsey Country Park; a site where the service has been working closely with the owner to help reduce risk and improve signage in recent years.

The service has shared messages through social media and external media including BBC Look East, as well as through partnership work to help reduce public risk in open water areas and educate against potential dangers.

On Saturday, crews from Sprowston and Carrow will attend Thorpe River Green near Norwich (11:30-1:30). They will engage with the public and support nearby businesses by offering throwline training which helps to save lives, without putting the rescuer at risk.

This year, the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service has been unable to carry out their usual levels of face to face public engagement, so they welcome the chance for this socially distanced visit to mark the start of their return to usual activities.

Reuse shops

Thetford recycling centre will host East Anglian Air Ambulance event to mark fundraising from reuse shops.

There will be a cheque presentation at 11:45am on Saturday 26 June to celebrate the partnership with the East Anglian Air Ambulance and the total funds raised for the charity which have hit £21,178.

Volunteers will set up at the reuse shop at Thetford recycling centre, on Telford Way, from 10am to 3pm on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 June.

Members of the public can drop by, talk about the charity's work with the volunteers, purchase Air Ambulance merchandise as well as grabbing a bargain from the reuse shop. The East Anglian Air Ambulance will also be accepting donations throughout the day, and goods can be brought to the reuse shop at any time.