



Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 11 November 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](#) and [Norfolk Insights](#).

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

Avian Influenza

Last week an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone was applied to everyone who keeps poultry or captive birds in Great Britain.

The prevention zone means bird keepers across the country must follow biosecurity measures. The measures have been introduced because of the recent number of confirmed cases of Avian Influenza in Great Britain. Avian Influenza is also present in Europe, and wild bird migration brings birds to Great Britain from areas where highly pathogenic Avian Influenza is present.

Information regarding the latest situation on Avian Influenza, including full details of the Prevention Zone requirements, can be found [here](#).

Please share this important message with anybody you know that keeps poultry and encourage them to register with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) poultry register. It's quick and easy to register [here](#).

Major funding boost for voluntary sector support

Community groups across Norfolk will have access to more support thanks to a new partnership, funded by Norfolk County Council.

Voluntary Norfolk, Community Action Norfolk and Norfolk Community Foundation will work together as the **Empowering Communities Partnership**, with Norfolk Community Advice Network and FUSE Norwich alongside as strategic partners.

This partnership marks a 45% increase in the funding provided for this support, in recognition of the role community groups have played throughout the pandemic.

Help on offer includes managing funding and finance; expert training and seminars; volunteer recruitment and deployment; and a series of forums and networking opportunities.

A new partnership website will be coming soon, but until then any community group or social enterprise that wants to find out how to get help can contact www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk/contact

The **Empowering Communities Fund** is now open to local organisations to apply for grants up to £10,000 to help build their resilience and become more sustainable. For more information and to apply go to <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/empowering-communities-fund/>

Norfolk wins major government funding

Norfolk has been awarded £6.5 million through the government's community renewal fund. The funding will go towards 14 projects which makes **Norfolk the county with the greatest number of successful applications in England.**

The UK Community Renewal Fund aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK, creating opportunities to trial new approaches and innovative ideas at the local level.

The UK Community Renewal Fund will also help local areas prepare for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022, the scheme that will see UK-wide funding at least match EU money, reaching around £1.5 billion a year.

A full list of all the successful UK bids can be found [here](#)

Norfolk Festive Fun opens for children and young people

A programme to keep children active and support families over the Christmas holidays has opened for booking. The majority of sessions will take place between 20th – 23rd December across the county.

Called Big Norfolk Holiday Fun, the programme is being run by Norfolk County Council and Active Norfolk and is funded as part of the Government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

Dozens of activities including drama, sports, and arts and crafts, are once again available for all children and young people aged between four and 16 who are at school.

There are limited spaces, booking is on a first-come-first-serve basis. They are free for those eligible for means-tested free school meals and chargeable for a small fee for those not in receipt of free school meals.

Details of all the sessions available including how to register and book can be found on the [Active Norfolk website](#).

Nearly a hundred thousand children to take part in Norfolk pantomime

The Norfolk Music Hub, led by Norfolk County Council, is hosting the event in partnership with [Charanga](#), [St George's Theatre](#), [Sheringham Little Theatre](#) and [NYMAZ](#).

Schools and home educators are encouraged to sign up online and will receive a range of resources, so that they can sing along.

The pantomime will take place on Thursday, 16 December and will be signed and captioned to ensure it is accessible to all. So far 91,605 children have signed up to the panto, from 424 schools across the UK. This includes 28,463 children from 176 Norfolk schools.

For more information, or to sign up visit [Jack and the Beanstalk - Livestream Pantomime - Norfolk Music Hub](#)

Childrens Services:

Inspectors praise support for children in care in Norfolk.

Most children in care in Norfolk are well looked after and receive good support for their emotional and mental health and education, Ofsted inspectors have found.

A team of Her Majesty's Inspectors visited Norfolk County Council last month for a two-day focused visit of the council's services for children in its care.

In a letter detailing their findings, inspectors said that social workers know their children well, listen to them and help them to understand their experience. Support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children was "a strength" and they said that senior leaders "have a coherent vision and are taking action to improve support to children and carers". Ofsted also recognised the swift action taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The report can be found on the [Ofsted website](#).

Adult Services:

National Safeguarding Adults Week 2020

This will take place from 15 - 21 November 2021.

This year the focus is on the theme of '**Safer Cultures**'. Promoting safer cultures is about how organisations and individuals can take steps to minimise harm occurring in the first instance. Each day next week, a new blog post will be featured on the [NSAB website](#), from organisations across Norfolk, such as Norwich City Football Club, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and Build Charity, highlighting their approach and work to making safer cultures. You all play a really important role in safeguarding in your contacts with your constituents and in your communities, so we would encourage everyone to stay in touch with the work of the NSAB or follow NSAB on [Twitter](#) to join in the conversation.

NHS Norfolk and Waveney CCG

A new NHS campaign will raise awareness of the many different ways in which patients can access local primary care services (GP practices, pharmacy, optometry and dental services), as well as urging people to be kind to staff who continue to work tirelessly to care for patients.

Further information about this campaign can be found here at: <https://www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/health-services/primary-care>

The campaign is a response to the COVID-19 pandemic over the last 18 months and will reinforce that primary care is open for business with a range of different services available to suit people's needs.

Over the next 12 months, in a staged and targeted way, communications, digital assets and more will be issued and led by NHS Norfolk and Waveney CCG and shared with GP practices to strengthen and extend the reach as much as possible.

For detailed information and supporting materials for the campaign, please contact michael.travers@norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service

Next week, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service will be highlighting the work of **#RoadSafetyHeroes** as this year's theme for **Road Safety Week**. (Road Safety Week is run by the charity Brake).

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service deals with many road traffic collisions, with staff seeing first-hand the devastating impact that poor driving, a lack of concentration and distractions can have on innocent lives. This year, Norfolk crews have already attended nearly 500 road accidents, and rescued/supported nearly 300 road users who were involved in them.

They also run the school crossing patrol service on behalf of Norfolk County Council, with a dedicated team supporting families safely to school, another example of Road Safety Heroes.