



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 1 July 2022

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.

Living with Covid- 19 – Norfolk Outbreak Management Centre - REMINDER

The Government's '[Living with Covid](#)' guidance was published in April 2022. The plan, underpinned by vaccines, removed remaining legal domestic restrictions whilst continuing to protect people most vulnerable to Covid-19 and maintaining resilience within our communities.

Following the move to 'Living with Covid,' after two years of working closely together with Norfolk partners to protect people in Norfolk throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the Norfolk Outbreak Management Centre (OMC) will be closing **on Friday 15 July 2022**.

All health protection incidents and outbreaks will be managed by the UKHSA Health Protection Teams (HPT) who provide specialist support.

The local HPT for Norfolk can be contacted at: East of England HPT (Norfolk) Email: eastofenglandhpt@phe.gov.uk. Telephone: 0300 303 8537

The Norfolk Outbreak Management Centre thanks all colleagues and partner agencies for their contribution in protecting Norfolk throughout the pandemic.

Council Leader Andrew Proctor's speech to business leaders at the Royal Norfolk Show

Cllr Andrew Proctor spoke to business leaders positioning the council's vision to grow our economy and build a stronger, greener, fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable future for Norfolk. During the speech he described the council's progress in reaching its ambitious target to be net zero, in terms of carbon emissions, by 2030.

He also outlined the council's current position of being one of just nine authorities nationwide that have been invited to negotiate with the Government on a devolution deal, which could see significant powers and funding transferred to us. In addition, he gave an update on our devolution negotiations with the Government and described how a devolution deal "could see Norfolk gain additional powers and funding to improve people's lives".

You can [read more on the devolution page on our website](#), which will be kept updated with new developments. The negotiations are part of the Government's levelling up agenda, which aims to spread opportunity equally across the UK. [Read more about levelling up the United Kingdom](#) on the GOV.UK website.

Local Government

Seven in 10 councillors reported experiencing abuse and intimidation within the last 12 months, with 1 in 10 experiencing abuse frequently, a new Local Government Association (LGA) Councillor Census, published on 30 June 2022, has revealed.

The LGA said councils are calling for government to work with local authorities and partners to urgently address toxic discourse and abuse against councillors or risk long-term impacts on local democracy and representation.

The report [Debate Not Hate: the impact of abuse on local democracy](#), highlights how councillors are facing increasing abuse and intimidation from the public, with little power to deter perpetrators or support to tackle the issue. This is leading to the expectation that councillors must tolerate high levels of sometimes extreme abuse and threats, discouraging prospective candidates from engaging with local politics.

The support available to protect the safety and wellbeing of councillors is limited and inconsistent across the sector and can be uncoordinated between agencies. As a result, the LGA is calling for government to prioritise a change in legislation to put it beyond doubt that councillors can proactively withhold their home address from the public register. The LGA is urging local government leaders, the Government, partners, political parties and social media companies to sign up to [a public statement](#), pledging to come together to develop and implement an action plan to address the issue of abuse of local politicians and their safety.

Integrated care systems launch day

Today marks the launch of 42 integrated care systems (ICSs) covering the whole of England. They bring together councils and healthcare delivery services tailored to the needs of their populations. Cllr David Fothergill, Chairman of the LGA Community Wellbeing Board said: "Integrated care systems will allow local authorities and the NHS to

pool their wealth of skills and local knowledge to ensure people are receiving appropriate, timely and effective care.”

Norfolk's Carers invited to apply for free Wellbeing Packs

Norfolk County Council is delighted to provide a further 3,000 free Wellbeing Packs to unpaid carers over the coming months, after previous packs were taken up enthusiastically across Norfolk.

The packs, which are provided through Covid funding from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), are designed to support unpaid carers and include Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to support recipients in their role as a carer, as well as a range of pick-me-up items for the carer including chocolates, toiletries, and other treats to bring a little joy in these difficult times.

So far, Norfolk County Council has provided over 4,000 packs to unpaid carers since February 2021, working with partners Carers Matter Norfolk, Caring Together and Carers Voice to deliver them to carers across Norfolk. If you are caring for a friend or loved one, or know somebody that is, [you can register your details online to receive a pack](#). Those who are eligible will have a pack posted directly to their home.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun opens for summer bookings

Children across Norfolk can benefit from a range of fun activities this summer, as the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun scheme returns for the six-week school holiday. Bookings are now open for the scheme, which provides free activities with a healthy lunch for children eligible for means tested free school meals.

The scheme is delivered by Norfolk County Council in partnership with Active Norfolk and supports children aged 5 to 16 as part of the government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

Activities will be running from 25 July to 2 September where children will have the opportunity to learn a new skill, play a range of sports or take part in a host of activities such as outdoor adventures, science workshops, cooking, art, and lots more.

Those who have taken part in previous Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programmes have reported doing more physical activity and many have said they've been inspired to try healthier foods.

The summer programme is now open for bookings for children aged 5-16 (or 4 if they turn 5 in August).

Those who are eligible for means-tested free school meals can claim free spaces, whilst paid spots for a small charge are available on many activities for those who don't qualify for a free place, more can be found on this at www.norfolk.gov.uk/bignorfolkholidayfun.

This year there will be no special codes needed to book activities making it much easier for families to take part. Families are encouraged to explore the wide range of activities available and book as soon as possible. [Find out further information on how to book](#) and the video '[What is Big Norfolk Holiday Fun?](#)' gives a great summary of the scheme.

Norfolk's Princely Family exhibition opens

A new exhibition is being held at the Norfolk Record Office, exploring the life of Maharajah Duleep Singh, the last emperor of the Punjab, and his family.

Over 150 years ago, the Duleep Singhs purchased the Elevden Estate near Thetford and made East Anglia their new home. For the next century the family continued to live in the region, from Old Buckenham, Hockwold, Blo' Norton, Breckles, and Walcot.

On the 4 July the doors will open to a three month exhibition on the lives of this extraordinary family, with artefacts and objects loaned from the renowned collection of Peter Bance, who has spent 25 years amassing this largely unseen archive, much of which will go on display for the first time.

The family's legacy is still present today, from the Ancient House Museum, which was donated by Prince Frederick, to the numerous Norfolk churches he saved from closure and restored. He went on to join the Norfolk Yeomanry and later served in the First World War, and even built War Memorials for those who fell.

The Princesses were not only active Suffragists supporting the rights for women to vote but the youngest, Sophia, belonged to the renowned Suffragettes and gave a gift of over 200 portraits to the Town of Thetford from the family collection. The town is home to the Maharajah's equestrian bronze statue at Butten Island.

The exhibition will be open from 10am-5pm Monday to Friday from 4 July until 29 September at The Archive Centre, Martineau Lane, NR1 2DQ.