



## Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 10 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](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) as trusted sources of information to the public. It is really 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

#### Reminder: Women's health call for evidence

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is seeking views on women's health to inform the development of the [government's Women's Health Strategy](#).

Anyone aged 16 or over can submit their comments before the deadline of 11:45pm on 13 June. The easiest way to take part is to complete the [survey online](#).

Over 100,000 women, organisations, clinicians and carers have responded to the call for evidence already, sharing their experiences of the health and care system. Women from Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, those living in the Midlands and East of England and women between 16 and 18 years old and those over-50 are being urged to respond to the call for evidence.

#### 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries. BCE has produced a partner pack and members of the public can respond to the consultation which closes on 2 August.

Proposals: <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>

Pack: <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2023-Review-Partner-Pack.pdf>

Guide and consultation: <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/guide-to-the-2023-review-of-parliamentary-constituencies/>

<https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

#### Emergency Alerts

The government is launching [a new Emergency Alerts system](#) this summer, which will warn people on their mobile phone or tablet if there's a danger to life nearby, such as severe flooding, fires, public health emergencies or a terror attack and will include advice about how to stay safe.

Partners are encouraged to raise awareness of the initiative through their communication channels ahead of the national launch.

## Covid-19

### £3.69m Covid funding targeted on vulnerable people

Vulnerable people in Norfolk have received targeted Government support during the Covid pandemic, thanks to the county council.

The authority has spent all of the £3.69 million Covid grant it has received from the Government so far, to support vulnerable families and individuals, primarily with food and utility bills.

Government figures show that Norfolk County Council's administration costs were just 1.8 per cent, compared to a national average of 3.66 per cent.

## Updates from partners

### LGA new councillors' welcome event

The Local Government Association (LGA), is hosting a series of welcome events for newly elected councillors.

The events are an opportunity for new councillors to explore what their role means, learn about challenges facing councils and meet colleagues from other councils. The session will cover a range of national and regional issues of interest, along with an opportunity to meet experienced councillors and hear more about the LGA's support.

Confirmed speakers:

- Cllr Sarah Rouse, Leader, Malvern Hills District Council
- Cllr James Jamieson, Chairman, Local Government Association
- Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, Local Government Association

The events are free and delegates can choose to attend a session to suit their availability. The sessions will complement councils' own induction programmes.

Sign-up:

[11 June 2:00 – 3:30pm](#)

[22 June 10:00 – 11:30am](#)

[28 June 5:30 – 7:00pm](#)

More information on LGA events:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/events>

## Communities

### Norfolk County Council joins forces with British Library to roll-out small business support to three more Norfolk libraries and turbocharge the local economy

The British Library has announced a major expansion of its highly successful network of library-based Business & IP Centres (BIPCs) to over 100 regional and local libraries across England, including in Norfolk.

Following last year's pledge of £13 million in Treasury funding towards the expansion, BIPC Norfolk - managed by Norfolk Library & Information Service - has been allocated a share to equip Cromer, Wroxham and Wymondham libraries with Business & IP Centre spaces, resources and services. This expansion builds on the proven support already available through BIPC Norfolk in the Norfolk & Norwich Millennium Library and BIPC Locals in Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Thetford libraries. In addition to the Treasury's investment, this growth is made possible by Business Development Funding awarded through Norfolk County Council's Economic Development service.

The BIPC network has a notably strong track record of supporting people from all walks of life to start, protect and grow a successful business. In just three years it has:

- Supported the creation of over 12,000 new businesses
- Led to the creation of over 7,800 new jobs

- Generated an extra £78 million GVA to the UK economy
- Created businesses twice as likely to succeed beyond three years

Business & IP Centres can open up the path to entrepreneurship for anyone with a business idea, regardless of their background. Consistently, over half of those who use a BIPC to set up a business are women and a third are from under-represented ethnic backgrounds. More than triple the national averages for business ownership in the UK, this diverse user base speaks to the accessibility and community-based ethos of this library-based support.

While each Centre, including BIPC Norfolk, is equipped with a core set of resources, such as up-to-date market research and business databases, provided by the British Library, they are brought to life by a tailored and highly individual programme of events, workshops and one-to-ones, delivered in collaboration with local business leaders, role model entrepreneurs and community partners.

At present, libraries across Norfolk are operating in a Covid-safe environment so some BIPC services are limited. You can currently book study space and access a wide range of free online subscriptions providing up-to-date business information including market research, grants and company reports. It is hoped that browsing business publications will be permitted as lockdown eases further.

[Find out more about the Business & IP Centre Norfolk and the range of services it offers both in branch and online.](#)

## Education and settings

### Schools

For the week 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 prior to the half term break all schools were open to all children all of the week and attendance was again above the national average. Overall attendance was 94.3% in primary schools (national average 94%) and 86% in secondary schools (national average 82%).

### Post 16's

There has been a further small increase in numbers of young people progressing into education, employment or training since last report. 748 young people now registered as not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Successful delivery of virtual 'Week in the World of Construction' between 24 -2 8th May 2021, targeted at young people from aged 15-19 years and involving employers from CiTB, Morgan Sindall; Eyre Electrical, Grocock and Murfitt, Longwater Construction.

Summer 21 Transition Challenge launched for Year 11s in all Norfolk schools to promote huge range of careers, enrichment, health and learning activities to support transition over the summer.

### Early Years

We have had an increase in the number of settings open from 667 to 673 settings with 14,652 children attending.

## Social care

### **Eighty three day service users in Norfolk are already benefitting from Alcove Video Carephones to help them stay connected with their support workers, friends and loved ones**

The current pilot scheme in Norfolk is aiming to provide 200 devices to users and is asking those who could benefit to come forward for referral.

The pilot is funded by the Norfolk and Waveney Sustainable Transformation Partnership and is being rolled-out together with technology company, Alcove and change consultancy Rethink Partners.

In the first three months of the pilot, running to mid-May, 83 referrals were made to Alcove for the devices.

Residents who receive an Alcove Video Carephone will not only be able to join in on activities virtually, but will also have greater contact with their friends and family through video calls, preventing loneliness and isolation.

Users are being supported to set up the Alcove Video Carephones and their friends and family members can also be added during set-up. The devices have an embedded SIM Card and users do not need WIFI to use the device.

If you know someone who would benefit from a device, especially those who cannot access their usual activities or is isolated and is not able to access mainstream technology, please email [alcoverreferrals@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:alcoverreferrals@norfolk.gov.uk) and we will assess their suitability.

[Find out more about the pilot scheme.](#)

[More information on Day Services.](#)

## Transport

### Next steps agreed for Norwich western link

The full county council has voted to endorse this morning's cabinet decision to proceed with next steps for the Norwich western link road.

A main contractor will now be appointed and a business case submitted to the Department for Transport.

[See further details on the cabinet report.](#)

## Business and economy

### Norfolk employers urged to pledge support for young people's careers

A call has gone out this week for employers to back a new £800,000 project set to bring a welcome boost for young people taking their first steps on the career ladder.

Launching this week, the Youth Pledge for Employers is a European Social Fund (ESF) funded project that aims to develop opportunities for young people to engage in work-based experiences with a wide range of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Employers can get involved with the Youth Pledge at a range of different levels, from something as simple as pledging to provide an hour's talk or a site visit, right the way through to offering an apprenticeship or a job.

To get the Youth Pledge project underway, the team are looking for businesses interested in hosting work inspiration events, such as giving a talk, or hosting a virtual tour of a workplace for young people in their local area.

To find out more and make a Youth Pledge, businesses are urged to visit: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/youthpledge](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/youthpledge)

Norfolk County Council is working in partnership with Suffolk County Council and The Mason Trust, with support from New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership on the two-year project.