



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 21 October 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

UK Secures Free Trade Deal with New Zealand:

[A comprehensive trade agreement with New Zealand](#) will cut red tape for businesses, end tariffs on UK exports and create new opportunities for tech and services companies, while making it easier for UK professionals to live and work in New Zealand.

The ground-breaking deal was agreed over a video call yesterday between Prime Minister Boris Johnson and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern after 16 months of talks by Department for International Trade negotiators.

UK-New Zealand trade was worth £2.3 billion last year and is set to grow under the deal. The deal will remove barriers to trade and deepen access for the UK's advanced tech and services companies, while making it easier for smaller businesses to break into the New Zealand market.

Net-Zero Strategy Launched:

Greg Hands MP announced the [Government's "Net-Zero" strategy in Parliament](#) on Tuesday, while confirming nearly [£4bn of funding for the Heat and Buildings Strategy](#).

The Net-Zero strategy is hoped to support up to 440,000 green jobs and includes investment in electric vehicles and charging points, alongside measures to increase renewable, hydrogen, and nuclear forms of energy.

Foreign Investment:

[At least 30,000 new jobs are expected to be created](#) around the UK due to £9.7 billion of new foreign investment due to be announced by the Prime Minister at the Global Investment Summit today (Tuesday 19 October 2021).

The package of 18 deals will support growth in vital sectors such as wind and hydrogen energy, sustainable homes and carbon capture and storage, cementing the UK's climate leadership for COP26 and beyond.

COVID-19

Booster jabs:

A reminder that Covid booster jabs are now available to book if there's been six months since your last dose AND you are:

- An adult aged 50+
- Living in a residential care home for older adults
- A frontline health or social care worker, including in residential and nursing homes for older adults
- Aged 16-49 with underlying health conditions that put you at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (as set out [here](#))
- An adult carer aged 16+
- An adult household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed

People can make an appointment for a booster via the National Booking Service if you're eligible: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> or call 119 for free between 7am-11pm seven days a week.

Booster jabs are being offered in line with national and Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation guidance.

[Some NHS walk-in sites have departed from Government advice and are now offering booster jabs](#) on a walk-in basis to try and increase uptake. Patients 50 and over are encouraged to get their third vaccine doses at walk-in centres set up by local NHS clinical commissioning groups, even if they have not yet received an invitation to do so.

Information for Councillors:

Prevent Programme

Following the tragic and fatal attack on Sir David Amess MP, the Home Office have produced a fact sheet regarding Prevent and Channel updates. The factsheet contains the following information:

- Description of the Prevent programme
- What is a Prevent referral and how to make one
- What is Channel including the kind of support offered through Channel
- Key national statistics and facts

The document is a publicly accessible document and should be shared further - [FACTSHEET: Prevent and Channel - 2021 - Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Further resources are also available.

[Let's Talk About It \(link here\)](#) - a website initiative designed to provide practical help and guidance to the public in order to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

This site will provide the following information:

- Spotting the signs of someone who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in extremism or terrorism
- Accessing support available including who to talk too
- Staying Safe online to protect those vulnerable to negative influencers and online groomers

[Act Early \(link here\)](#) - a website aimed at family and friends to encourage them to share concerns that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation. Research shows that family and friends are best placed to spot the signs that someone might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

This site will provide the following information:

- Increasing awareness of where to go for further information and support
- Increasing awareness of the signs of radicalisation
- Increasing understanding of, and confidence in, the referral process
- Encouraging referrals from concerned family and friends at an early stage
- Highlighting the police safeguarding role in Prevent

Economy

Chances Project

Chances, a £4.9m Norfolk County Council project, co-funded by the European Social Fund, is reaching out to people in Norfolk who have recently lost their jobs or are long-term unemployed who may face barriers to finding work. It aims to help them get back into employment through new opportunities for support and training.

Launched in April 2021, the project has already supported nearly 300 participants on their journey to find employment.

The Norfolk County Council-led Chances for Work and Chances Healthy Living projects are being run by partners Voluntary Norfolk, Citizens Advice Norfolk, Citizens Advice Diss, Thetford and District, and Future Projects. There are local advocates based in each of the seven Norfolk district areas, who work to provide personalised one-to-one support.

Depending on the needs of the individual, the support could include help to identify skills gaps and finding suitable training and qualifications, support to access services to boost health and wellbeing, or finding ways to overcome barriers such as transport or accessing childcare. Support for those with physical or learning disabilities could also include providing help to access services, or assistance from a mental health specialist or disability support specialist who will be working closely with the Chances team.

The project which officially started in April 2021 will run until September 2023.

Individuals who are keen to find out more are welcome to contact the project team directly – for contact details and further information see www.norfolk.gov.uk/chances

Support for Norfolk Entrepreneurs

The Business & IP Centre Norfolk, managed by Norfolk County Council's Library and Information Service, is offering a free six-week online programme that will take budding business owners on a journey from 'Bedroom to Business'.

Over the past 18 months, many people have had to find alternative sources of income, including considering setting up their own business. This programme will help aspiring business owners develop their idea and provide the tools needed to get started.

Bedroom to Business is being delivered by MENTA Business Support and consists of six two-hour workshops with a chance for questions and one-to-one coaching sessions after each workshop.

Starting on Friday 5 November, the six workshops will run weekly and cover topics including: pros and cons of being self-employed; identifying any additional skills needed; developing a business plan; business funding; registering your business.

Workshops will be limited to a maximum of 10 people to allow participants to get the most out of the sessions. If anyone is unable to attend this programme, Bedroom to Business will run again starting in January.

Participants will need to live, work or study in Norfolk or close to a Norfolk library to be eligible for this programme.

For more information and to register, visit [Bedroom to Business](#) or www.bipc Norfolk.eventbrite.com.

Environment

Strategic Flooding Alliance

The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA) has formally adopted an overall Strategy, designed to enable county wide responses to flooding across all agencies involved.

The Strategy, which lays out the NSFA's vision, objectives, approach and structure, is a major milestone in the development of the Alliance, which was founded earlier this year to bring together all agencies and partners involved in planning for and responding to flooding in Norfolk.

The Strategy's formal adoption comes on the day of the NSFA's first joint exercise, Exercise TEMPESTAS, which examined in depth how the NSFA's members will work together in the face of a major flooding incident, from the initial Met Office Flood Warning through to the Recovery phase. The exercise allowed Alliance Members to assess their readiness for flooding and to identify any weaknesses to be addressed or opportunities that could be taken to ensure all members are ready to work closely in the event of flooding this winter.

The Alliance's Strategy is also accompanied by an Action Plan that identifies what steps the NSFA and its members are taking to address the risk of flooding. This includes work on individual sites across Norfolk, looking at working out costed solutions to address flood risk on each site and identify potential funding for each one: this work is already underway on an initial selection of sixteen flood sites in Norfolk, with a second tranche of sites being considered.

The adoption of the strategy comes a month after Norfolk County Council's Cabinet agreed the allocation of a £1.5m flood reserve fund, including funding for several aspects of the NSFA's work.

As autumn sets in, the single phone number set up by the NSFA to give Norfolk residents one point of contact to report flooding is expected to see increased use. The number is available for anyone wishing to report flooding anywhere in the county: they can simply call 0344 800 8013.

Other Information

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service:

Unique fire art on show:

This weekend the service opens its Ashes to Art display at the old Bethel Street fire station, now Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form, in Norwich. The event is being officially opened by NCC Chairman Councillor Penny Carpenter and Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships Councillor Margaret Dewsbury.

Everyone is welcome to come and have a look at the 80+ former fire helmets which have been turned into unique works of art. They will be on display throughout half term and then will be auctioned off to raise vital funds for The Fire Fighters Charity and Break.

Volunteers from our service and the charities will be staffing the event, and we will also have some operational fire crews present during some of the days, incident permitting, to give fire safety advice and support.

Their fundraising page is here, which will feature all the helmets from next week
<https://www.uk.givergy.com/ashestoart>

The exhibition will be open as follows:

Saturday 23 October noon- 4pm

Sunday 24 October 10am to 4pm

Monday 25 October 9am to 4pm

Tuesday 26 October 9am to 4pm

Wednesday 27 October 9am to 4pm

Thursday 28 October 9am to 7pm

Friday 29 October 9am to 4pm

The service would appreciate any help you can give to spread the word so they can welcome lots of visitors from across Norfolk. It's ideal for people of all ages and would make a great family half-term trip!

Fire prevention advice:

We have been pushing fire safety messages relating to the flammability of Halloween costumes and the sale of fireworks over recent days. You can read more about this, and our public safety advice, here:

[Don't let Halloween turn into a nightmare - warns Fire Service and Trading Standards - Norfolk County Council](#)

Encouraging residents to attend organised fireworks displays helps to reduce the risk of burns injuries and other firework related accidents in our county.