



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 28 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

Budget:

A comprehensive briefing of the budget prepared by the LGA is attached. The Leader's reaction to the budget can be [viewed here](#).

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.

Adult Social Care:

Disability Confident

The Skills and Employment Team (SET) in Adult Social Care have recently revised their web-page content, specifically aimed at employers gaining information about the Disability Confident scheme and promoting the benefits of an inclusive and diverse workforce. Please promote with all employers the link that can be found [here](#).

Survey of Adult Carers

The Survey of Adult Carers in England (SACE) is carried out nationally on a biennial basis for NHS Digital, to find out more about whether the services received by carers are helping them in their caring role and their life outside of caring, and also their perception of services provided to the cared for person. The format and content of the survey is set by NHS Digital and all local authorities in England with responsibility for providing adult social care services are required to take part. The survey is being run by Intelligence & Analytics (I&A) on behalf of Adult Social Services.

Questionnaires have been posted to more than 1000 carers randomly selected from LAS records of all carers aged 18 and over who either received "support direct to carer" or "no direct support to carer" last year, irrespective of whether their cared-for person received respite care. We want people to complete the questionnaire themselves if they can, to be sure that the responses reflect their own views and experiences. If any of your local constituents contact you about this, please encourage them to complete this, and if they need help then to ask a friend or relative to assist if needed. All answers will be treated as confidential. If you would like any further information about the Survey of Adult Carers in England 2021-22, please contact Intelligence & Analytics (I&A) at I&a@norfolk.gov.uk

Public Health:

Testing

This week marked the Norfolk DATS (District Asymptomatic Testing Site) Service having observed 25,000 tests.

Since the middle of January 2021, the Norfolk DATS service has provided over 1,450 testing sessions in over 125 different sites across the County including in community centres, homeless hostels, supported accommodation schemes, parish halls, buses, vans, car dealerships, cafes, businesses, festivals, car parks, town

halls, County Hall, theatres, church annexes, leisure centres, restaurants, shopping centres, promenades, football clubs...to name but a few!

DATS team members have helped to break chains of transmission, informing people of their COVID-19 status. Whilst tens of thousands of Norfolk citizens were on lockdown, and council and business employees were working from home, DATS team members were leaving their house every day, going to one of our sites and providing a testing service to key workers, essential services and those that had to leave the house.

Outbreak Management:

The Outbreak Management Centre went live with the enhanced version of the Norfolk Outbreak Management System in a seamless implementation across multiple teams and partners. The team responsible has been shortlisted for the LGC awards in November.

This enhancement transforms our support to settings and citizens by providing a fuller picture of outbreaks and transmission, allowing us to respond earlier and minimise impact to health, settings and the economy. The enhancement also drives significant efficiency across teams, stabilising processes and reducing manual tasks.

Alongside the benefits to Norfolk citizens, the changes align with strategic aims of developing resilient services, driving out inefficiency, being innovative and deploying new technologies, and principles of joining up our work so that similar activities and services are easily accessible, making the best use of digital technology to ensure value for money and using evidence and data to target our work where it can make the most difference.

Economy

Insight Apprentice

We're pleased to advise that we formally launched our new Insight Apprentice project at the Business to Business event at the Norfolk Showground on Thursday 14 October.

The project is part-funded by the European Social Fund and aims to support Norfolk's businesses, with less than 250 employees, to realise the full benefits of apprenticeships. It runs until October 2023.

Insight Apprentice offers each participating organisation a dedicated Business Development Officer who will provide a tailored package of support to help employers feel confident that they have recruited the right person, onto the right apprenticeship scheme, at the right time.

It's a collaborative project with Norfolk County Council (as the lead organisation) and key partners including the College of West Anglia, East Coast College, Steadfast Training, Poultec, City College Norwich and the Norfolk Chambers of Commerce.

It focuses on the following sectors and priorities:

- Advanced engineering and manufacturing
- Agri-tech
- Clean energy
- Digital and ICT
- Voluntary and social economy;
- and any business diversifying, growing or needing to retrain/recruit staff as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Insight Apprentice is geared up to support small and medium-sized enterprises who have never recruited apprentices before; are looking to re-engage with apprenticeships; or have had a previous experience with apprenticeships that didn't work out.

For further information, please:

email: insightapprentice@norfolk.gov.uk or

Visit our website: [Insight Apprentice \(apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org\)](http://Insight Apprentice (apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org)) or

Call us on 0344 800 8024