



Norfolk County Council

Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 1 December 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.

Service updates: The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#).

Public Health - Avian flu update

Please share this information with anybody you know that keeps poultry and encourage them to register with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) poultry register.

Further cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed in Norfolk. The latest Norfolk outbreak was confirmed on 28 November. Details [here](#).

Government information regarding the latest situation on Avian Influenza, and the Prevention Zone requirements, can be found [here](#).

Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds were introduced to all areas of England from 7 November. The order extended the mandatory housing measures already in force in Norfolk to the whole of England following an increase in the national risk of bird flu in wild birds to very high. Further information [here](#).

If you have 50 or more birds, you are legally required to register but you can choose to register voluntarily if you have less than that. By doing so you will be kept informed on the latest bird flu information so you can take action to reduce the risk to your birds, which in turn reduces the risk to all UK poultry. It's quick and easy to register [here](#).

Advice for the public

The UK Health Security Agency says that avian influenza is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the general public's health is very low. The Food Standards Agency says that avian influenza poses a very low food safety risk, and that properly cooked poultry and poultry products, such as eggs, are safe to eat.

The public are advised to keep to designated footpaths, not to feed wild birds, and keep dogs on leads. Don't touch sick or dead birds, their feathers, or their droppings. If you see a dead bird, please report it to Defra's helpline on 03459 335577. Sick birds should be reported to the RSPCA (0300 1234 999) who may be able to help.

Government support for households to reduce energy bills

The Government has announced new measures set to help hundreds of thousands better insulate their homes and reduce consumption while saving families hundreds of pounds each year.

A new ECO+ scheme will extend support to those who do not currently benefit from any other government support to upgrade their homes. Joining the existing £6.6 billion 'Help to Heat' energy schemes this new £1 billion funding will ensure more households benefit from new home insulation and with that, lower bills.

A new £18 million public information campaign will also offer technical tips and advice for people to cut their energy use, while also keeping warm this winter.

The Government intends to lay necessary legislation for the scheme to launch in spring 2023 and run until March 2026. The government also plans to work with energy suppliers to explore the potential for some earlier delivery in 2023.

Further information about the announcement [here](#)

Energy saving advice available from the government's Help for Households site [here](#)

Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System (ICS)

NHS organisations across Norfolk are calling all parents and carers of preschool children to get them vaccinated against flu.

Children who are aged 2 and 3 years old (age on 31 August before flu vaccinations start in the autumn) will be given the free vaccination at their general practice.

Children and young people who are eligible and at school will be offered the vaccination in a school setting, with further opportunities to get the vaccine at alternative venues for anyone who miss the opportunity to get vaccinated at school.

Further information about the flu vaccine for children [here](#)

Talk to your GP, practice nurse, your child's school nurse or your health visitor if you have further questions.

Community-based services to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations closer to people's homes

Following a successful campaign to protect local people from Covid-19 over the last two years, temporary large-scale vaccination centres in Norfolk will close between 15 – 31 December 2022 after completion of the autumn booster programme. This is in line with the timing of the national autumn booster programme.

The vaccination programme will continue to operate from alternate locations so that those eligible for a vaccination will be able to receive these via pharmacies and other local services closer to their home, including outreach programmes which provides vaccinations in community locations, care homes and for the housebound.

If you haven't had your autumn booster yet, there is still time to get vaccinated, either by walking into one of the large centres before they close or booking via the National Booking Service at one of their other locations.

Further details [here](#)

Healthwatch Norfolk: survey about NHS health check experiences

Healthwatch Norfolk is working with Norfolk County Council to understand more about people's experiences and uptake of NHS Health Checks in Norfolk.

Whether you have had multiple NHS Health Checks or have never had one before, the team wants to hear your views to help Norfolk County Council get a greater understanding of whether the public are having the checks and their experiences.

The survey should take around 10 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and will be fed back to the county council.

The responses will also be used by Healthwatch Norfolk to make recommendations as part of a project report.

Complete the short survey by clicking [here](#)

Further information about NHS health checks [here](#)

Children's Services

Give the gift of reading to Norfolk's children in care this Christmas

Giving a child in care the gift of a book at Christmas is the focus of Norfolk's 16th Giving Tree Appeal.

The appeal, which is an initiative by Norfolk County Council's Children's Services and Waterstones, resulted in more than 1,000 books being gifted to children and young people last Christmas.

The Giving Tree is hosted in the Norwich Castle Street branch of Waterstone's book shop every year. It is decorated with hundreds of tags which each represent a child and the book they would like to receive for Christmas.

There are requests for books from hundreds of Norfolk children and young people currently living in foster care or children's residential homes. Some will have asked for a particular book or story they love by a particular author whilst others may have requested a certain genre or type of book they enjoy.

The Giving Tree Appeal is open until Saturday 10 December. To participate:

- Visit the store in Castle Street in person, select a tag from the Giving Tree and buy the book at the till.
- Email norwich@waterstones.com with Giving Tree Appeal in the subject line, request a full list of the books which have been wished for by children, choose one, and follow the instructions on how to purchase the book online.

The books are collected and delivered by Children's Services staff so they reach children in time for Christmas. The team is already preparing deliveries so is encouraging people who wish to participate in the appeal to buy a book as soon as possible.

Norfolk Record Office

History begins at home – tackling loneliness

History Begins at Home is all about helping you connect with family and friends through conversations about the past. Chatting with the people you know and love gives a great sense of well-being.

Norfolk Record Office runs the History Begins at Home project in Norfolk. They have recently announced the first themes for 2023 to encourage people to have conversations about the past.

The themes are:

- January, having a conversation with somebody about the 1960s.
- February, reminiscing about love.
- March chatting about team spirit, which could be anything that involved people working towards a common goal.

The project began in 2020 to encourage intergenerational conversations and improve wellbeing by reducing loneliness. The initial idea was to inspire phone calls during lockdown, and the project has grown and now produces monthly conversation-starting question sheets which provide the perfect excuse to talk about the past.

These question sheets have been used by many organisations, such as libraries, schools, and youth organisations to encourage learning about the past, and promoting healthy conversation about topics which might normally not be discussed.

People can join in with the project by follow History Begins at Home on Twitter ([@BeginsHistory](#)) and Facebook ([@historybeginsathome](#)).

You can find the conversation-starting question sheets for each month, as well as the entire back-catalogue [here](#).

Thousands more trees and hedges to be planted in Norfolk this winter.

As the nation celebrates National Tree Week (26 November – 4 December 2022) which marks the start of the tree planting season, Norfolk County Council is preparing to plant more than 75,000 young trees and hedges across the county in the months ahead as part of the 1 Million Trees for Norfolk project.

Following the pandemic the project is picking up pace rapidly, and early in 2023 the Council's Hedge Restoration Fund will be planting 55,000 hedge and tree plants on six County Farms owned by Norfolk County Council. The project is funded by a grant from The Tree Council.

The Council has also recently been awarded £148,225 as part of the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund. This will be spent on investing in new staff to accelerate the progress of the 1 Million Trees project.

Norfolk residents can now be part of the 1 Million Trees for Norfolk journey with a new planting progress map which plots all trees and hedges planted by parish as part of the scheme since November 2019.

Anyone in Norfolk can add their planting to this map by filling in the 'Tell us where you've planted' survey form. This will help the Council monitor where there are the highest

opportunities for planting in the future, as well as giving communities and parishes the opportunity to celebrate their collective efforts. The data will be updated monthly.

Find out more about the 1 million trees for Norfolk project [here](#).

Norfolk apprenticeships rise for 4th quarter this year

More and more people are electing to take up an apprenticeship in Norfolk. The results for 2021/22 have seen an increase in the number of people who start an apprenticeship.

Across England, new apprenticeship starts were up by 8.6% compared with 2020/21, whilst in Norfolk new starts were up by 17.7%, demonstrating the impact of work which organisations in Norfolk are doing in helping to buck the wider trend.

One of the areas with the largest increase compared with the same period last year was in Information and Communication Technology apprenticeships, which saw a 90% increase of people taking up an apprenticeship compared to 2020/21.

Apprenticeships Norfolk, a free and impartial service run by Norfolk County Council, offers a wide range of support for both apprentices and companies looking to take on an apprentice, including information and guidance, as well as financial support.

Further information about Apprenticeships Norfolk [here](#)

PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICES:

Appeal from the Norfolk Coroner's Service for help tracing next-of-kin

The Norfolk Coroner's Service is trying to trace the next of kin of Brenda BURKE, aged 81, Tonbridge, Kent.

Despite carrying out extensive enquiries, no next-of-kin have been identified by the Coroner's Office.

It is thought Brenda Burke may have a daughter named Susan, and possibly a brother in the Dartford area.

Anyone with information relating to Brenda Burke should contact the Coroner's Office in Norwich on 01603 774773.

Appeal from the Norfolk Coroner's Service for help tracing next-of-kin

The Norfolk Coroners Service is trying to trace the next of kin of John Leslie FRANKS, aged 82, died on 28/11/2022.

Despite carrying out extensive enquiries, no next-of-kin have been identified by the Coroner's Office.

It is thought by a neighbour that John Leslie Franks has 2 relatives, 1 of which is likely to be dead and the other lives in Paris but no information for either relative.

Anyone with information relating to John Leslie Franks should contact the Coroner's Office in Norwich on 01603 774773.