

#Northants Together

Keeping you updated

11th May 2020

Welcome to the Northants Together Partnership Update for colleagues working across the LRF and the wider community. This newsletter aims to keep you informed about how we are working together to support local people across Northamptonshire.

Inside you will find lots of updates on things we have been working on together to support our Northamptonshire communities. There are great examples of how colleagues across our council services have been working together, both out and about in our communities and on coordinated projects to deliver the things our community needs.

One of our focuses has been on urging local people not to ignore the signs of potential cancer as there has been a drop in local referrals to secondary care. Local GPs have supported us to get messages out to the public and have undertaken media interviews.

More funding has been allocated to



support care providers needing financial support during COVID-19, which will enable them to continue caring for some of our most vulnerable residents. And finally read about the difference being made to the lives of rough sleepers.



Updates from colleagues including:



Kettering
Borough Council





IN ACTION: OUR LATEST ACTIVITY

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“Don’t put it off – get it checked”

Northamptonshire doctors urge people not to ignore signs of potential cancer as local referral numbers fall

In the four weeks to 19 April 2020, 970 people in the county were referred to hospital for cancer investigation by their GPs. This was down from 2,258 referrals in the previous four weeks and a 58% drop from 2,298 during the equivalent period in 2019.

Although many NHS services are operating in new ways to help stop the spread of coronavirus, people with symptoms of cancer are still able to quickly access the help they need.

Dr Azhar Ali, GP Clinical Lead at Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) said:

“Understandably, many people will have concerns about coronavirus and some might feel like they don’t want to be a burden on our healthcare system during this period of national emergency – but we want to reassure people that the NHS in Northamptonshire is still very much here for all those who need it.



“Anyone who is worried they might have cancer should contact their GP without delay, because the longer they leave it, the higher the risk the cancer will spread and make treatment much more complicated. So don’t put it off – get it checked.”

In many cases, the symptoms will not be related to cancer and will be caused by other, non-cancerous health conditions. In the event of a cancer diagnosis, clinicians will discuss with their patients the benefits of starting cancer treatment against the increased risks from contracting coronavirus, based on their individual circumstances.

For further information please visit www.nhs.uk/cancer



VIDEO: “You need to get in touch”

In this short video, Dr Ali explains why it’s still important for people to contact their GP if they are worried about potential cancer symptoms during the coronavirus pandemic.

youtu.be/yuAFBgSv3a8

Financial support issued to care providers

Almost £200,000 is being issued to care providers needing financial support in Northamptonshire due to COVID-19.

Payments totaling £112,000 were issued last week, with a further £80,000 of payments being processed for other providers.

This is in addition to the planned annual fee rises that were included in this year's budget and which will be backdated to the start of April this year. The fee increase will be twice what it was last year and letters confirming the details of this will be issued this week, several months earlier than usual.

Councillor Ian Morris said: "We know that this is a particularly challenging time for care providers, unfortunately by their very nature are a high risk given that the elderly and those with underlying health conditions are most at risk from this virus.

"We have been regularly contacting care homes to check they are coping okay, and where any short-term issues have been picked up we have responded rapidly, in some cases providing support such as PPE equipment within just half an hour of being contacted.

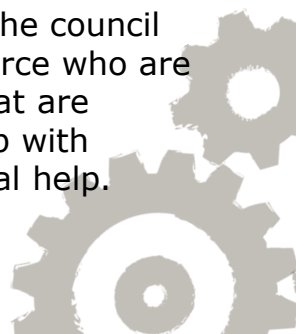
"Above all, our focus remains the welfare of staff and residents and we want to assure them and the families of all care home residents that we continue to do everything we can to protect them at this challenging time."



The county council established a Provider Support Hub in early March, providing advice and guidance to care providers and taking requests for PPE. This is also supported by CCG staff. This is open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week. Providers can contact the hub directly via NASSCOVIDC@nass.uk.net and 01604 361311.

All symptomatic and confirmed incidences of COVID-19 across the care sector are being monitored and recorded, and action is being taken to support providers with infection control and ensuring appropriate PPE is available to them, helping to keep both staff and customers safe.

Working with the CCG, the council now has a mobile taskforce who are attending any homes that are struggling and need help with training, advice or clinical help.



Additional funding provides support for NFRS

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service has been awarded £660,000 funding from the Home Office to support additional costs during the pandemic.



The funding will be used to help cover costs for items like personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitising products to allow firefighters to safely carry out their roles and ICT equipment to allow staff to work remotely and from home.

Every fire service in the country has been given additional funding through this stream however Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Stephen Mold, had already written to the Fire Minister, highlighting the unique financial circumstances of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, which transferred to the governance of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner with no financial reserve.

For more information click [here](#).

Virtual tour of Corby Fire Station

Community Safety Officer Jo Gouldson led a 'show and tell' tour at Corby Fire Station. The presentation, aimed at primary school children gave a chance to find out more about some of the kit and life saving tools used by Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Multi-agency team effort to accommodate rough sleepers

In response to the national COVID-19 lockdown, 90 men and women who were known to be homeless or sleeping rough in Northampton are currently being housed, fed and supported in two hotels.

This has only been possible due to the strong and effective partnership relationships between Northampton Borough Council, Northampton Hope Centre, the Northampton Association for the Accommodation of the Single Homeless (NAASH) and a wide range of other local services and organisations.

Members of the Single Homelessness Forum, including Churches Together in Northampton, are talking regularly with one another about the action required to ensure that everyone who is homeless is not only protected from COVID-19 but also receives the help they need to move on successfully into settled housing.

Everyone who is placed in the hotels receives three meals a day, toiletries, fresh clothing, a fortnightly laundry service and access to a joined-up

treatment and support service that helps guests to address their drug and alcohol use and receive help with any physical or mental health issues.

Revd Sue Faulkner, the Chair of the Single Homelessness Forum, said: "This COVID-19 public health emergency, and our response to it, has shown us that rough sleeping isn't inevitable and that, if we all work together, we can break this vicious circle, keep people safe and prevent rough sleepers from returning to the street.

"Organisations such as NAASH have a proven track record of successfully supporting tenants and working well with private landlords to ensure that housing is well managed and tenancy conditions are complied with. The private rented sector has an important role to play in our plans to move everyone on from the hotels and we are hoping that up to 40 people will be rehoused in the private sector during the next 7 weeks."



Leaders come together to clap for carers

Leaders from health, police, fire and the military joined together in unity last week to pay tribute and thank all those working to support our communities during this pandemic, including those in the NHS, social care, carers, keyworkers and volunteers.

The socially-distanced meeting at Mereway Fire station was instigated by the Joint Operations Team (JOT) for Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS).

Members of JOT, along with their military colleagues have played a significant part in supporting the system response to COVID-19, working with a range of different cells within the Strategic Co-ordination Centre and with the Community Resilience team.

Toby Sanders, chair of the SCG and CEO of NHS Northamptonshire CCG said: "It was good to have the opportunity to meet with colleagues from the military and from the police and fire service.



"We wanted to show our unity and thanks to everyone for pulling together so brilliantly to support our communities in Northamptonshire.

"An enormous amount of work and collective effort went into mobilising and preparing for the first phase of this pandemic, for which we are hugely grateful.

"As we move into the second phase there is further significant work to be done – and we will continue to work just as collaboratively with our partners and services to do the very best for local people. Thank you to everyone who is helping us to achieve this."





SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

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Smokers encouraged to quit for Covid

Public Health Northamptonshire is encouraging smokers to #QuitforCovid, not only to protect themselves but to reduce demand on NHS services.

The #QuitforCovid campaign, www.todayistheday.co.uk encourages people to join the conversation, share their own stories about quitting and hear from other people about how they are getting on with their quit attempts.

The Northamptonshire Stop Smoking Service is encouraging smokers across the county to take part in the campaign, and use the lockdown period as an opportunity to significantly improve their health and whilst also protecting the NHS.

Lucy Wightman, Director of Public Health, Northamptonshire, said: "Our Stop Smoking Service offers a range of products and specialist support on quitting smoking. People who quit with the support of a service such as this are four more times likely to succeed than those who go it alone and the benefits of quitting start to take hold immediately."

For some smokers the thought of giving up smoking during such a stressful time may seem particularly daunting. A common misconception about smoking is that it relieves stress and anxiety, whereas in fact the opposite is true.

Nicotine patches or an electronic cigarette will satisfy cravings, and are available for free from the Northamptonshire Stop Smoking Service for people taking part in the 12 week quit programme. The service is now offering telephone support Monday to Friday.

There is a "Twitter Quit Clinic" from 7.30pm to 8.30pm every day which quitters can join at www.twitter.com/quitforcovid using the hashtag #QuitforCovid.

To take part in #QuitforCovid, please send your name, address, DOB, and contact number to smokefree@northamptonshire.gov.uk

#QUITFORCOVID

TODAY IS THE DAY

Libraries open even when they're closed

Northamptonshire County Council library staff are busy ensuring that customers can still access a host of resources from home even when libraries are closed.

Reading is one way of alleviating stress, and is a healthy escape from the current situation, so NCC was keen to ensure as many local people as possible could access library services if they want to.

The Council's Library Plus service is available online 24 hours a day and anyone who isn't already a library member can register online for free. Once registered members will have free access to online library services for all ages, including e-books and e-audio, both fiction for escapism and entertainment and also non-fiction, including short language courses for those looking to learn a new skill. There are also thousands of magazines and newspapers from all around the world.

But that's not all the council has to offer, as they've also made available a family history service for budding genealogists, who can now access the service from home.

Help is also at hand if people are rediscovering reading, or are not sure where to start with choosing from the thousands of e books available.

And the council is currently planning to extend the offer to include home delivery of books and audio books to those customers who cannot use the online service and may be isolated at home.

For families looking for ways to entertain youngsters, library staff are using the [YouTube channel](#) to record popular Rhymetime sessions for younger members of the family to join in with. There are also plenty of inspirational craft ideas and activities to entertain youngsters on individual library Facebook pages.

Visit the council website for details www.northamptonshire.gov.uk



Incredible community effort sees leaflets distributed to every household

Our volunteer workforce is supporting the delivery of over 300,000 leaflets to every household, ensuring all residents know how to ask for help if they require it.

Redeployed staff, individuals, MPs, community groups, voluntary groups and a call for action from the British Red Cross Reserves, are all playing their part in spreading the message in their communities.

One example of how staff are working differently to support the coronavirus response is at Northamptonshire Sport.

A number of staff who would ordinarily be supporting sport clubs and running competitions and courses, have been redeployed to support the coronavirus response.

Leader of Northamptonshire County Council, Matt Golby, said: "I continue to be amazed by the response of our

volunteer networks across the county. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this work.

"You are all doing a fantastic job and keeping those most at risk in our county safe and well, thank you."

The Northamptonshire County Council **coronavirus helpline** is still open should you, or someone you know, find yourself in need. Please call **0300 126 1000** (option 5) between 9am-5pm and help will be arranged.



Thank you volunteers for the incredible work
you are all doing in Northamptonshire's
neighbourhoods.



Report signs of child abuse

Police and partners are urging people to report signs of child abuse and neglect during the Covid lockdown and are calling on local communities and key workers to be alert to any children they see who they think may be at risk.

Safeguarding professionals are concerned some children and young people are more vulnerable while isolating in their homes and that abuse and neglect may go unseen. This is more important than ever as abuse is often seen or reported through schools and social or sports clubs but with these being temporarily closed, there is a need for even greater vigilance.

Chief Inspector Dave Lawson, the head of Child Protection at Northamptonshire Police, said: "We all have a duty to look out for abuse and neglect but with the country in lockdown, some groups of workers are

in a position to look out for children as they go about their work – these include key workers like frontline medical staff, pharmacists, teachers, supermarket workers and delivery drivers."

Councillor Fiona Baker, Cabinet Member for Children, families and education, said: "Safeguarding children in Northamptonshire is vital during these uncertain and worrying times which is why we are calling on the community to be vigilant, curious and proactive in trying to identify hidden harm as early as possible."

Signs of abuse or neglect may include the following:

- Aggressive or repeated shouting
- Hearing hitting or things being broken
- Children crying for long periods of time
- Very young children left alone or are outdoors by themselves
- Children looking dirty or not changing their clothes
- Children being withdrawn or anxious

These signs don't necessarily mean that a child is being abused - there could be other things happening in their life which are affecting their behaviour, but by reporting them, professionals can quickly assess the situation.

Report concerns to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0300 126 1000. Call police on 101 or if you have any concerns a child is in immediate danger, call 999.



A SPOTLIGHT ON...

Our nurses

"Help us 'Shine a Light' for our brilliant nurses tomorrow"

Tuesday 12th May is International Nurses Day. The work of nurses has been well documented during the pandemic. Many of us have had a very real connection with nurses recently and people want to be able to do something to show our gratitude and support.

International Nurses Day gives us this opportunity. The NHS will be asking people to *Shine a Light* for our brilliant nurses at 8pm tomorrow to show their thanks and to participate in IND2020 celebration.



Credit: British Library

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SHARE YOUR VIEWS...

Healthwatch Northamptonshire asks local people to share their views of health and social care

Healthwatch Northamptonshire is encouraging people to continue to provide feedback on local health and social care services during the COVID-19 pandemic by taking part in a new survey.

David N Jones, Healthwatch Northamptonshire Chair, said: "Health and care services are experiencing immense challenges at this time, and we all value the hard work and commitment of the people who look after us.

"In this difficult time, it is all the more important that people's experiences are still heard. With so much about how health and care is delivered changing, and having to adapt quickly, it is especially important that things that are not working well, and those that are, are highlighted to help services deliver the quality of care they want to."

The new survey asks people to share how they have found accessing health and care at this time, including what they think of the new ways of contacting GP practices, whether they have had any treatments delayed or cancelled and whether they have seen changes in home visiting services from social care workers or community nurses.



Share your experience of health and social care services during the COVID-19 pandemic so we can help services better help you

Take our short survey

bit.ly/HWNcovid

healthwatch
Northamptonshire

The graphic features three stylized virus icons in yellow, blue, and pink, arranged vertically on the right side. The text is centered on the left.

The survey also asks how much of an impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on people's mental wellbeing and whether they have been able to get help with this.

The survey can be accessed online at www.healthwatchnorthamptonshire.co.uk/covid19survey

For more information contact Healthwatch by emailing enquiries@healthwatchnorthamptonshire.co.uk or calling **0300 002 0010**

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE....



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Sarah from the South Northants strand of Daventry Volunteers responded to a local resident in need, when she delivered some much-needed food shopping. Since their first encounter, they have become friends and keep in regular contact with each other.

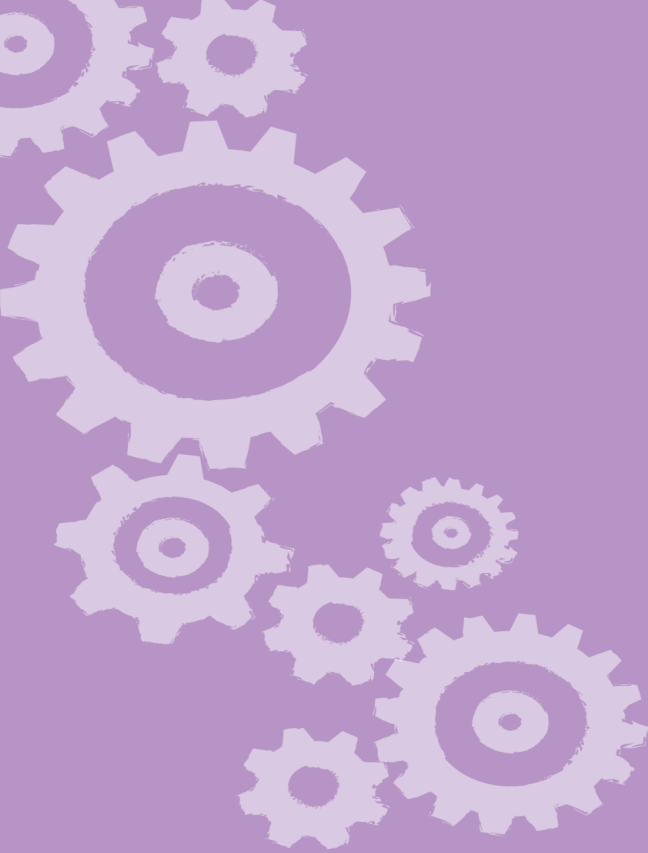


When Abington Park Joggers got the call from Northamptonshire Sport to ask if the group could help deliver leaflets in and around the Abington and Northampton town centre areas, they immediately got to work. So far they've delivered to 3,000 addresses in total.

Kieren Westbury, a member of the SNC Healthy Communities team, has been supporting the district's response to the current pandemic. Following an urgent request for help at South Northants Council Community Hub, Kieren was tasked to support a resident in need by collecting important prescriptions and delivering vital medicines.



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**WE  YOUR
FEEDBACK**

**#Northants
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YOU SAID...

“To all the wonderful people involved, united we all stand at a time like this, and it is heart-warming to see the strength and resilience of all organisations and residents that is emerging in our time of need.

“I thank you and everyone that is working behind the scenes to help with information and support to keep the wheels turning at this unprecedented time. You are all valued and special troopers. ”



“Your volunteer went above and beyond because due to the initial spate of panic buying, she could get hardly anything on Dad’s list, but rather than be defeated, she left some items from her own cupboard. It’s these acts of kindness and unselfishness that will be remembered long after this crisis has abated.”

“We just wanted to thank you for calling on my father and offering to shop for him while he’s in isolation. My sister and I live some distance away and even though we are in constant touch via phone it’s frustrating not being able to do more for him from such a distance. Your intervention has been an absolute life saver.”

“Thanks for being there from day one. Since I became homeless you have been a god send with little self-care bags and clothes and the food.

I will forever be grateful. I’ve never been shown so much kindness in my life by everyone. Wonderful people.”

IN THE NEWS...

Our 'Help us help you' campaign reminding patients that the NHS is still there for their physical and mental health needs has generated plenty of attention from local and regional media.

As part of the campaign launch, Dr Jo Watt, local GP and Clinical Chair, Northamptonshire CCG was interviewed by BBC Look East. The story was the lead item on the evening news on Monday 1st May.



The local press also covered the news that there had been a 58% drop in GP referrals for potential cancer – highlighting the importance of people continuing to seek help if they are concerned. The 'Help us help you' campaign will continue over the coming weeks with different topics of focus.

MEDIA THIS WEEK

- [John returns home to 'love of his life' in Kingsthorpe after beating Covid-19 aged 97](#)
- [Kettering key worker's false-negative Covid-19 test raises concerns](#)
- [Fears over child welfare as Northamptonshire referrals plummet](#)
- [Hospitals in the Anglia region report 54 more patients dying with coronavirus](#)
- [What's it like to have a baby in lockdown? One Northampton mum reveals her experience](#)
- [Can bounce-back loans vitalise Northampton's high street after lockdown ends?](#)
- [The growing fear amongst GPs that cases of cancer, heart problems and other life-threatening conditions are going undiagnosed](#)
- [Another grim milestone passed for number of Covid-19 victims in Northamptonshire](#)
- [Northamptonshire County Council predicting massive £27m coronavirus blackhole](#)
- [Total of Covid-19 victims in Northamptonshire is now more than 300](#)
- ['Selfish minority' still breaching lockdown restrictions...now nearly 200 fines given out across Northamptonshire](#)
- [Big question Northamptonshire's kids are asking: 'I'm missing my friends, when can I go back to school?'](#)
- ['I'm proud and nervous to be on the frontline': Northampton student nurse Hannah on her hospital call-up](#)
- [Police helping Northamptonshire youngsters with their enquiries during latest live Facebook Q&A](#)

ON TWITTER

29 APRIL TO 6 MAY

Please note these statistics refer to Twitter only. This campaign has also been shared across Facebook / Instagram and YouTube too.

Total Mentions
(of the hashtag across Twitter including retweets and replies)
1,529

Total Reach
(Total number of people who have seen the hashtag)
275,022

Total Impressions
(Total number of times the hashtag appeared on a user's screen)
8.25m

Engagement Rate
(Percentage of people who interacted with posts)
84.27%

Age UK Northants @AgeUKNorthants · May 1
It's another one of our lovely clients birthday today. We couldn't let it pass without paying him a visit with a card and some gifts 🎂. Happy Birthday! #NorthantsTogether



1 retweet 4 replies 18 likes

EastNorthantsCouncil @ENCouncil · May 5
We're only a couple of days into our Spread the Sunshine campaign and have already received some wonderful artwork - see if you can spot yours! 🌞

If you haven't got involved yet, please follow the link: ow.ly/vjvo50zwdbA

#NorthantsTogether



2 retweets 2 replies 5 likes

#Northants Together



Northants Police #StayHomeSaveLives @NorthantsPolice · 17h
Coronavirus-related scams are on the rise. Here's where you can get the latest information on how to protect yourself: actionfraud.police.uk/covid19 #coronavirusfrauds #NorthantsTogether



UniofNorthamptonNews @UniofNorthantsNews · 21h
Our lecturer Adam Gregory has been entertaining #LongBuckby residents every Thursday evening - listen to his interview with @BernieKeith100 via the link (starts 19m): bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/r0... #NorthantsTogether



BBC Northampton and 8 others

1 retweet 5 replies 12 likes

Northamptonshire CC #StayHomeSaveLives @myco... · May 4
In Daventry one of our volunteers was on hand to help a distressed resident, Mari, whose husband is currently a patient at @NGHhstrust recovering from COVID-19. He was in urgent need of some clothes & toiletries for the hospital stay, and Mari is currently unable to leave home.



1 retweet 4 replies

Northamptonshire CC #StayHomeSaveLives @myco... · May 4
Sam, one of the fantastic volunteers with the Daventry Volunteer Centre who are supporting our Community Resilience Service, stepped up straight away, collecting the items from Mari and dropping them off at the hospital for her husband within a few hours.

1 retweet 1 like

Northamptonshire CC #StayHomeSaveLives @myco... · May 4
Mari said: "Sam was so polite and a real credit to the volunteer service, my husband and I are thrilled at how he was able to help so quickly and make everything so easy at such a difficult time. I can't thank him enough." #NorthantsTogether #StayHomeSaveLives #COVID19 #OneTeam

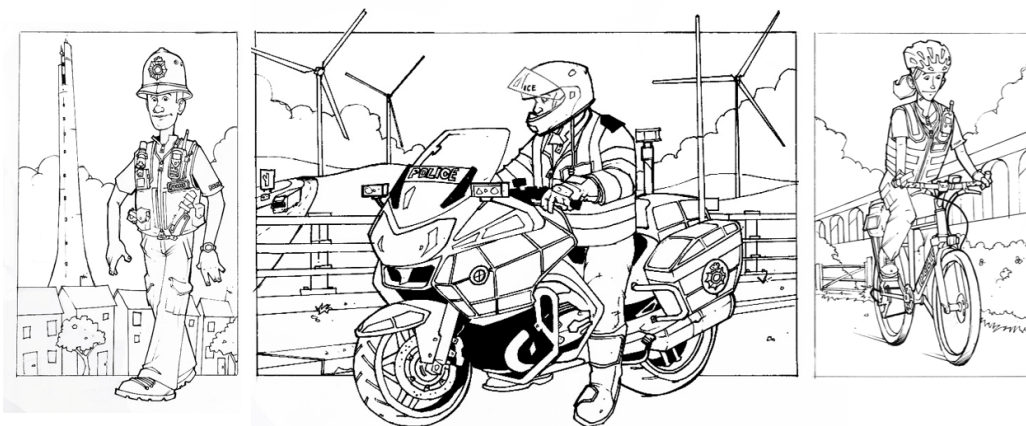
1 retweet 1 like

#Northants Together

KIDS' ZONE

Calling young artists!

If you are aged 16 or under, Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Services (NFRS) are inviting you to send in some artwork, a drawing or painting, showing a firefighter. They might be in action, in a fire engine, hosing down a fire, standing outside a fire station – have a think about how you would like to show them and send in your artwork to NFRS. Some of the best pieces of artwork will be shared on NFRS' social media channels or printed and used to decorate some of its stations. For more activities to keep young minds busy, please visit the new area of the NFRS [website](#).



To show our support to parents and children across the county, and as a thank you for continuing to stay at home and save lives, Northamptonshire Police has shared a number of pictures to help keep children entertained at this difficult time.

One officer has hand-drawn three pictures to help keep children entertained – all that is missing is some colour and a little artistic magic. The pictures are available to download on the Northamptonshire Police website. Once they are coloured in, children can hang them in the windows of homes to support those working to keeping you safe. More [here](#).

PHONE NUMBERS AND WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

Corby Voluntary Community Service (CVCS)

Email: accesscorby@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile - **07758 383186**

Daventry Volunteer Centre (DVC) -

www.daventryvolunteers.org.uk

Tel: **01327 300614** or Mob: **07793 011491**

Kettering Voluntary Network (KVN)

Mobile: **07912480537**

sean.silver@groundwork.org.uk

Nene Valley Community Action (NVCA) (covering Wellingborough) - www.nvca.org.uk

Telephone: **01933 313526** or email: info@nvca.org.uk

South Northants Volunteer Bureau (snvb) -

www.snvb.org.uk

Telephone: **01327 358264** or email info@snvb.org.uk

Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (VIN)

Telephone: **01604 637522** or email:

Info@voluntaryimpact.org.uk

Useful links

UK government

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

NHS

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Questions about this newsletter?

Contact us at

nccg.urgentresponsecomms@nhs.uk

#Northants Together



**...AND
FINALLY**

**#Northants
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PharmaBike rides to the rescue

A team of motorcyclist volunteers have been helping a Northampton pharmacy to clear its prescription deliveries faster than they imagined.



Dave Ashton, the pharmacy manager, was only expecting one rider to show up but when he saw two he was delighted.

He said: "Thank you so much. We are a very high-turnover pharmacy with great regular drivers but during unprecedented times like these, volunteers make all the difference. Between our two regular drivers and all the volunteers, we delivered medicines to 272 addresses in two days."

Using services such as PharmaBike and the Fire Service is now a priority for pharmacies as they try to cut down on those queuing individually for prescriptions. Reducing these numbers will cut waiting times and, vitally, help reduce the gathering of groups of people.

Share your stories using **#Northants**
Together

