## #Northants Together

# Keeping you updated

22<sup>nd</sup> June 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.

With non-essential shops re-opening last week, there has been a continued focus on returning to a new normal in a way that supports local residents to stay safe and reduce the risk of the virus spreading. You can read more about the measures being taken including a first look at our social distancing signs.

## The New Normal Stay home when you can

This helps to reduce the spread of COVID-19



**#NorthantsTogether** 



Updates from colleagues including:





























## IN ACTION: OUR LATEST ACTIVITY

## New COVID-19 shop signage showcases partnership working

Here's a sneak peak at the floor stickers and posters that will be used around the county to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

The Government recently announced an Active Travel Emergency Fund for county councils and this - coupled with the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund received by districts and boroughs - has led to the creation of a Safer Public Spaces Task Force.

The Task Force has been launched with the aim to co-ordinate activity across the county for the benefit of our communities. It consists of a number of work streams to identify measures that are in line with the funding to support retailers, local employers and schools by creating safe methods of travel and safe public spaces. This will be part of the effort to get people safely back to work and enjoying our high streets again.



Business owners will have the opportunity to choose from a wide range of designs to fit their needs and demonstrates a united countywide approach to all the work we have been doing.

Designed by Chris Wykes, Communications Manager at East Northamptonshire Council, the assets will be printed in the coming weeks and sent to partnering organisations to help distribute to businesses across Northamptonshire.



The rainbow has become an iconic symbol of the pandemic response, so this has also been incorporated into the designs, in order for the signage to be recognisable and friendly while relaying a clear message. The colours used are also being considered for visually impaired residents and the new branding will provide us with the necessary means to help keep our high streets and shops safe as we move into a new normal.

Keep an eye out for the signage in the coming weeks!



## Video message reminds patients their GP is still here for them

"Things might feel a little different – but we're still here for you." That's the message to the people of Northamptonshire from county GP Dr Joanne Watt in a new video explaining the different ways you can now access your local GP practice during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because of social distancing and the need to reduce the spread of coronavirus infection, physical visits to your GP practice are much less common at the moment.

But thanks to video technology, telephone appointments and online consultations, there are plenty of different ways to access GP services from the comfort of home.

Dr Watt says: "GP surgeries have been there throughout the pandemic, available for our patients and doing our best to look after people despite the circumstances being quite difficult.

"Patients have learnt to contact us in a variety of different ways and GP surgeries have adapted rapidly to make sure there's a whole selection of different ways that our patients can get in touch with us.

"Quite a lot choose to contact us by telephone, a lot of GP surgeries are now using online forms and there are also video consultations where a patient needs to be seen but not examined physically.

"To keep patients safe and to keep staff safe we will only see you where a physical examination is necessary. With everything else we will try and sort things out without necessarily bringing you down to the GP surgery.



"We appreciate that people are worried about coming to GP surgeries and going to hospitals, but we would like to reassure people that standards of cleanliness have always been very high and we are particularly vigilant on that at the moment.

"So things are different – but we are still here and we will do our best to help you. It just feels a bit different to the way it used to feel."

To watch the video click <u>here</u>.

NHS

#### **Accessing your GP surgery**

Northamptonshire GP **Dr Joanne Watt** explains the different ways you can use GP services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

## IN ACTION PARKING ENFORCEMENT

## Parking enforcement reintroduced



Parking enforcement in Northampton was reintroduced from Monday 15th June to support shops and businesses as they reopen following the COVID-19 lockdown.

From this date Northamptonshire County Council started enforcing onstreet pay and display parking. This means motorists must purchase a pay and display ticket before leaving their vehicle parked and all maximum stay and no return time limits associated with pay and display bays will apply.

A full list of the changes is on the county council's website.

Northampton Borough Council will also be reintroducing parking charges in its car parks from 29 June.

Free parking will continue to be given to the NHS, health and social care workers and NHS COVID-19 volunteers in line with the government's free parking concessions. A Government Parking Pass or a pre-agreed parking permit must be clearly on display in the vehicle.



**#Northants Together** 

Northamptonshire County Council cabinet member for environment and place Councillor Jason Smithers said "We temporarily suspended on street pay and display charging at the start of the pandemic, but as the county begins to reopen we need to ensure that effective parking enforcement is in place to support this, allowing shoppers to park near their destination and bring people back into town centres.

"Free parking will continue to be given to the NHS, health and social care workers and NHS COVID-19 volunteers in line with the government's free parking concessions. The current residents' permit parking arrangements will also continue until the end of the month when they are due for review."

All pay and display machines will, where possible, have social distancing markings in place around the machines. While a regular cleaning regime will be in place, customers are advised to cover their fingers to press buttons and wash/sanitise their hands as soon as possible after using the machine.

The government has issued guidance on safe travel which includes a checklist of planning a journey and what to take.

## IN ACTION NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE

## It's not just offensive - it's an offence





Northamptonshire Police is encouraging people to be mindful of what they post online as comments directed at someone because of their disability, religion, race, sexual orientation or transgender identity can not only be deemed as offensive, but the person posting them could also be committing a crime.

A hate crime is when someone commits a crime against you because of your disability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other perceived difference.

It doesn't always include physical violence. Someone using offensive language towards you or harassing you because of who you are, or who they think you are, is also a crime.

The same goes for someone posting abusive or offensive messages about you online. More here.



## BEING YOU IS NOT A CRIME. TARGETING YOU IS.

Abuse because of who you are, whether physical or verbal is a criminal offence.

Report hate crime on 101 or www.report-it.org.uk
In an emergency call 999





#### Promoting a safe return to school

As more youngsters return to school across the county, Northamptonshire Police have been using social media to remind students, parents and carers to stay alert and stay safe on their daily journeys.



It's the turn of Year 10 and Year 12 students to return to school from tomorrow, which means there maybe more young people walking, crossing and cycling on our roads. Please #StayAlert and take extra care on the school run or your daily commute. #NorthantsTogether



#### Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership

# WELLBEING FESTIVAL 29 June to 3 July 2020

We are delighted to invite staff from Northamptonshire public and health sector organisations to a week of online wellbeing activity!

We are working in exceptional and different times so it's important to look after our health and wellbeing. Our virtual festival will help you do just that! Join in for an exciting week, packed with keynote speakers and taster activity sessions outlined on the right.

It's online and free so why not join in? Look forward to seeing you there! Visit the website below to find out when and how to join in the week.

WWW.WELLBEINGFESTIVAL.LIVE

Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership (NHCP) is a partnership of our county's health and care organisations. We're not a new organisation but a new way of working together towards a positive lifetime of health, wellbeing and care in our community. Find out more:

www.northamptonshirehcp.co.uk

# LOOKING AFTER YOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING IS IMPORTANT TO US

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- **CLUBBERCISE**
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- **W** YOGA
- PILATES
- MINDFULNESS
- ART THERAPY
- CRAFTING SESSION
- ABC RELAXATION
- ACTION FOR HAPPINESS
- BAKING FOR WELLBEING
- RUNNING FOR HEALTH
- PERSONAL STORIES
- B LOOKING AFTER YOUR BACK
- BALLROOM DANCING
- LATIN DANCING
- BARRE

   ADULT BALLET
- PT/CIRCUITS
- SLEEP THERAPY
- MENOPAUSE





## **Emergency shopping and hot** meal delivery services to remain

Age UK Northamptonshire is set to keep its shopping and hot meals delivery services due to increasing demand across Northamptonshire.

Originally set up as temporary, emergency services in response to lockdown, the charity has decided to keep both services as permanent offerings for older people across Northamptonshire.

The charity closed the doors to its day centres in March. Clients who had been attending the day centres and benefitting from social contact, hot meals, haircuts and baths, were no longer able to access that support.

Older people, especially those with health conditions, were advised to self-isolate which meant getting access to essential grocery shopping, medication and hot meals became extremely difficult.

In response to this, the charity quickly set up emergency deliveries, so far providing 2,754 meals, 1,627 loads of shopping, collecting 201 prescriptions and providing transport 14 times to appointments.

Chris Duff, Age UK

Northamptonshire's Chief Executive, said: "We were well-placed to offer these emergency services to our clients and are pleased to be able to offer the support on an ongoing basis. Responding to the needs of older people in the county is at the heart of what we do, so adapting our services in order to make the biggest difference, is absolutely necessary."



Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and clients are grateful Age UK Northamptonshire has been able to provide a much-needed lifeline. Given the growth in demand and the likelihood that even after lockdown is lifted, older people will need to remain cautious, the charity has implemented ways to make the services sustainable.

Older people are now able to order a two-course, freshly prepared meal which is delivered to their door at a charge of £6 per meal and a shopping delivery is charged at £5.

To find out more information about Age UK Northamptonshire's services, visit:

www.ageuk.org.uk/northampton **shire** or call **01604 611200**.



## Northampton Pride celebrations go virtual

Northampton's LGBTQ and Allies Forum, Northampton Pride Committee and Grosvenor Shopping Northampton are encouraging artists, performers, community groups and individuals to get involved in a socially distanced celebration of the LGBTQ community on Saturday, 18 July.

Following the cancellation of Pride parade and associated events set to take place in the town centre due to the coronavirus outbreak,
Northampton Pride Committee and partners will bring the community together through a Virtual Pride Festival and a motivational campaign across town.

LGBTQ individuals in Northampton are invited to share their stories as part of a motivational, art installation campaign that will take place across town for the month of July. They can get involved by submitting a 200-word story or a video to

forums@northampton.gov.uk by Wednesday, 24 June. The submission could cover areas such as coming out, living and being part of Northampton LGBTQ community and what Pride means to them.

Artists, musicians, DJs, community groups and activists are invited to submit videos for the Virtual Pride Festival that will be streamed on Northampton Borough Council's Facebook page and YouTube channel on Saturday, 18 July.





Video submissions for the virtual festival should be sent to forums@northampton.gov.uk by Sunday, 28 June and could include musical performances, dance performances, spoken word and poetry, artwork and topical talks. Grosvenor Shopping Centre will be awarding a prize of £250 in vouchers to the winning video submission, to spend in one of the centre stores. The winner will be announced on Saturday, 18 July.

Councillor Anna King, Cabinet member for community engagement and safety, said: "Northampton Pride is about the people, for the people. Even though we won't be marching through the streets of Northampton this year, this won't stop us all coming together to support our communities and celebrate diversity from our homes."



### Scams awareness fortnight

Over a third of British adults have been the target of a scam since lockdown began, new research by Citizens Advice reveals.

Polling conducted on behalf of the charity also showed that certain groups were at an increased risk of being contacted by a scammer, often those who could least afford it:

- Of those with a disability or long term illness, 45% said they had been targeted
- Half (50%) of those at an increased risk of coronavirus or shielding had been contacted
- Over half (54%) of those who have lost personal income due to the virus have also been contacted

The charity has seen calls from members of the public concerned about bogus testing kits, vaccinations and government refunds. It's reported a 19% rise in people coming to its website for scam advice. Citizens Advice web pages relating to scams saw an average of 49,000 page views a month since lockdown began in March, compared to an average of 41,000 page views in the three months prior.

From this research, the majority of people (64%) say they are worried someone they know will fall foul of a con. And most people (90%) reported they felt wary of scammers taking advantage of the situation.





Citizens Advice and the Consumer Protection Partnership have launched their annual Scams Awareness campaign to encourage people to share and report about their experiences and look out for others. Citizens Advice is urging anyone who thinks they may have been targeted by or has seen an online scam to report it to its Scams Action service, either online or on **0808 250 5050**.

For in-person, mail and telephone scams, concerned consumers can report issues to the Citizens Advice consumer service on **0808 223 1133** or **0808 223 1144** for Welsh language speakers. Citizens Advice will give advice on what to do next and report the scam to Trading Standards.



## Share your experiences of health and care services during COVID-19

People from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) are being urged to share their experiences of health and social care during COVID-19 to help services learn and improve.

Healthwatch Northamptonshire is the independent champion for health and social care in the county, representing all residents of Northamptonshire.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic they have been working to gather the views and experiences of people at this time when there have been a number of temporary changes to health and care services.

Public Health England <u>published a</u> <u>report</u> which showed the disproportionate effect COVID-19 has had on people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. Its findings show that coronavirus has both replicated existing health inequalities and, in some cases, increased them.

In response to the findings, Healthwatch is asking people to share their experiences of health and care services during the pandemic so we can better understand how structural inequalities affect these services.

As Healthwatch Northamptonshire CEO, Kate Holt says: "In our work to help communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic we need to make sure that everyone's voice is heard and that lessons are learned.

"If you have had an experience of health and care support, whether good or bad, please complete our survey and have your say".



The report highlighted the significant, detrimental impact that COVID-19 has had on people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in the UK:

- Death rates from COVID-19 were highest amongst people of Black and Asian ethnic groups.
- People of Bangladeshi ethnicity have twice the risk of death as White British people.
- Black men were found to be three times more likely to die from COVID-19

Healthwatch is gathering people's personal experiences of care during the pandemic to help services better understand and share the reasons behind these figures with local and national stakeholders.

You can tell them your experience of care during the COVID-19 pandemic by completing the COVID-19 survey online <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.



## University science lecturer volunteers time to help during the pandemic

A University of Northampton academic is juggling daily lecturing duties and his own research with volunteering to support local hospital colleagues tackling the pandemic.

David Young is a Lecturer in Molecular Bioscience, but has also giving his spare time for free to support testing of COVID-19 samples at Northampton General Hospital (NGH).



He is at NGH alongside a team that includes UON Doctoral Researcher Charlotte Brookes, Augustus Lusack (Head of Pathology – NGH) and Zoe Gidden from the University of Edinburgh.

David explains why he signed up to help the hospital: "For me – like any scientist – the whole point of being 'in science' is to use your knowledge, expertise and skills to help people.

"I cannot see a better use of my free time than aiding in the identification of critically ill patients in need of vital treatment."

"I'm closely connected to the hospital through my PhD and have exceptionally good relations with Augustus and many other staff members at NGH and the work they do is inspiring me to help as much as I can."



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE....



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Face coverings needed

The NHS in Northamptonshire is looking for people to make face coverings for use at the county's hospitals and GP surgeries to save the surgical masks for the clinicians.

Any help would be appreciated.

For more information you can email: nccq.logisticsandppe.covid19@nhs.net

Any complete can be posted or dropped off at the following address:

Francis Crick House FAO Logistics and PPE 6 Summerhouse Road Moulton Park Industrial Estate Northampton NN3 6BF











# WE YOUR FEEDBACK

## YOU SAID...

"I just thought I'd share a thank you card we received today, referencing two drivers and the office team. Her words sum up everything the community team has been doing during COVID-19 and how much it has helped people.

"Huge thanks to my team for their hard work, willingness to adapt and for working so well together, during these past few months."

Sally Jones
Community Transport Manager
Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire

I just want to say "Thank you". the wonderful work you are doing as volunteers during this very difficult time, without you help with my shopping, I would really struggle, so my grateful thanks to you. Also please pass on my Dincere thanks to the lovely ladies who phone we every week you my shopping list, they are so thind and always cheerful on the phone, and this is such a help while people like we are in total isolation, it is lovely to heer a cheery voice and this gods jos you both, alrodays come to the Das Dith & smile! you are all a great team and it makes (ovid 19 a little easier to cope with, so my tranks to you all Take case and keep sest.

## IN THE NEWS...

Local media coverage has continued to focus on the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Northamptonshire, while there has also been a focus on the discharge of patients from hospitals to care homes. A cross section of local coverage from the past week is shown below.

#### MEDIA THIS WEEK

- <u>'I had to beat Covid-19 to get back to my daughter': Northampton</u> mum speaks out after two-month ordeal
- <u>Coronavirus deaths registered in Kettering and Corby go up as</u> numbers fall everywhere else in Northants
- Stagecoach explains why drivers do not need to wear face masks as the company faces criticism across Northants
- <u>Internal investigation into why hospital discharged Covid patients</u> to Desborough care home
- Northampton Saints stars share a special message with children and loved ones of NHS heroes
- More than 600 Covid-19 victims are now known to have died in Northamptonshire's hospitals and care homes
- Parking charges to be reintroduced in Northampton's multi-storey car parks by the end of the month
- A wife's anger as patients arrive at her husband's care home testing positive for Covid-19
- The stark contrast the shadow of Covid casts over different parts of the Anglia region
- Coronavirus test and trace services get £3m boost in Northamptonshire
- "When can I see my daughter again?" Council won't tell mother whose 13-year-old caught Covid-19 at a Northampton children's home when she can see her again
- Northampton grandad beats Covid-19 after nearly two weeks on a ventilator
- No deaths recorded at Northamptonshire hospitals in past 24 hours
- Dad who beat coronavirus after record 65 DAYS on ventilator finally leaves hospital
- Children's home sees 16 staff and children test positive
- Northampton hotels for homeless scheme extended
- County council will resume on-street pay-and-display charges in Northampton town centre this Monday
- Why you'll need a face covering as much as a ticket to travel on Northampton's trains from Monday

### **ON TWITTER**

#### **10 JUNE TO 17 JUNE**

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)

874

#### Total Impressions

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

5.99m

#### **Total Reach**

(Total number of people who have seen the hashtag)

334,013

## **Engagement Rate**

(Percentage of people who interacted with posts)

87.17%



## **#Northants Together**





Never give out personal or bank details over the telepho

Don't open texts or answer calls from unrecognisable numbers. Consider a call blocking device to filter out unwanted calls

17 7

## 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

Questions about this newsletter?

Contact us at nccg.urgentresponsecomms@nhs.net

#### NHS

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus





## II.AND FINALLY

## Thanking key workers' families

Local key workers – and the families who support them – have been thanked in special messages.



George Furbank (Saints and England), Alex Mitchell (Saints and England) and David Ribbans (Saints) took the time to record a video message, which has been shared amongst NHFT and their families, as well as on social media.

The players said: "We hope you're all keeping well. Thank you for being a hero; for being patient, understanding, and supporting your loved ones as they care for us all. We can't wait to see you guys again soon."

Click here to watch the video.

Meanwhile, Northampton General Hospital has sent over 2,000 personalised letters and activity booklets to children and family members of its staff.

In the letter, Chief Executive Dr Sonia Swart thanks the children for being part of the NGH family: "I am lucky enough to work with lots of amazing people every day who help our patients get better... I want you to know that everyone here thinks you are very special. That's because you are lucky enough to have your own NGH hero: someone who loves you very much."

**Share your stories using** 

