

County Councillor report December 21

Covid updates

As a county we are almost exactly a 100 cases per 100,000 ahead of the England average. The North Yorkshire rate is one of the highest in the North East region. Over the last couple of days we have seen the rise plateau out and we hope that it has reached its peak in this phase but we will have to wait and see what happens in the days ahead. The table below sets out the detail across the County.

Area Name	Population	New cases over last 7 days (all data)*	7-day rate per 100,000
Selby	90620	427	588.2
Ryedale	55380	260	585.0
Hambleton	91594	459	571.0
Richmondshire	53730	278	565.8
North Yorkshire	618054	2682	530.2
Harrogate	160831	663	526.6
Scarborough	108757	394	506.6
England	56286961	207229	430.4
Craven	57142	201	341.3

Figures as of 25/11/21

One positive is that we have seen quite a marked fall in the number of people with covid in hospital over the last few weeks. There are now 140 beds in the hospitals which serve North Yorkshire, these will include people from within the county and outside. There still remains to be 17 people in intensive care beds. If we go back a small number of weeks the number of people in hospital was over 200, so the fall is significant and very welcome. Having said all of that there has still been a further 9 covid 19 related deaths in the last week. The increased mixing of people around the Christmas period still remains a real risk and it would be desirable to see the covid numbers come down well before then and also to maximise the take up of the booster jab.

If you are age 40 or over, and your second Covid-19 jab was more than five months ago, you can now book your Covid-19 booster vaccine. Booking in advance will ensure you get your booster jab as quickly as possible as you will be offered appointment dates from 182 days (6 months) from the date of your second dose. Bookings can be made at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-booster-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/>

[Make Care Matter Campaign](#)

People of all ages and all backgrounds work as care professionals in North Yorkshire - so we want people to come and join the team and make a difference to people's lives.

Across the county North Yorkshire has 20,000 people working in the care sector, from the 13,000 care and support workers in 500 organisations providing services in residential care and people's homes through to social workers, project managers and administrators.

On any given day there are at least 1,000 jobs available across the county.

Never has the need for people to work in care been so great.

Although it is one of the most challenging times for the care sector, it is also the best of times to step into a care job because of the many opportunities in a wide variety of roles and great career progression. There is something for everyone.

All sorts of people have made this life-changing step from builders and retail workers to accountants, young graduates, parents wanting flexible but rewarding work, actors and drummers and everything in-between. But we need many more.

This is why North Yorkshire is joining the national campaign launched this month to encourage people to step into the profession. We are asking people to come and join us in this great work.

Because it is far more than just a job. It's about building relationships and helping people achieve often simple, daily tasks which they are no longer able to complete by themselves. It's about supporting people, often with fascinating life stories, to live well and with dignity.

And no two days are the same.

So if you know of any friends or family looking for part-time or full-time work, who are looking for a change into a worthwhile career, jobs in the care sector provide flexible working hours.

Care roles can also provide great experience, pay and flexibility for students looking to earn some money around their studies.

Care roles also offer opportunities for staff in other jobs wishing to work additional hours.

People do not need to have experience – anybody with empathy, who enjoys solving problems for people and getting things done to help people lead as fulfilling lives as possible – they will thrive in this role.

It is a really inclusive option; our care staff are as diverse as the people of North Yorkshire

A job in the care sector also offers stability and great career progression. Many who start on the frontline with no previous qualifications go on to become team leaders, and can move into management and professional roles such as social workers, occupational therapists, nurses and public health consultants.

- Take Rachel Bowes, our assistant director for care and support who started out as a front-line care worker, working weekend shifts while an A-level student at college and then in a gap year while she decided between nursing and teaching.

She found work in the care sector so rewarding that she abandoned those ideas and stayed on, undertaking a wide range of front line and management roles while studying for an Open University degree in social care.

She said: "I have memories which go right back to my days as a new care assistant that I will always cherish. I have met and had the privilege of getting to know people who have left their mark and shaped my approach to work and the way I live my life.

"I feel really grateful to have had that opportunity. I feel really lucky to be in this current role, but nothing beats the satisfaction when someone is unwell or uncomfortable, being able to do something which makes them feel better.

- Take Flavia Nyambira who has worked for the last four years in the North Dales as a care and support worker. She helps people who have come out of hospital or experienced a physical or mental difficulty, to get back on their own feet in their own home.

She came into the care profession after 11 years working in the British Army as a postal and courier service operator in Germany. When Flavia was posted back to Catterick with her soldier husband and their three children she started to look for work that she could fit around her family.

Flavia was taken on under our apprenticeship scheme and is currently working to complete her NVQ level 3, which will give her the qualification to become a team leader. "Being a care professional is something I am so proud of" she said. "Every day in the job is different and at the end of every day I always feel I have made a difference,"

- Take Michael Westlund, an actor who fits his job helping to care for people with learning difficulties around his acting roles.

Michael has worked alongside stars in films like Star Wars and TV shows like All Creatures Great and Small, Downton Abbey and Peaky Blinders but when not acting he works at Milestone House, Scarborough which caters for people with learning difficulties who are on short breaks.

He took up the caring role at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and has stayed with it. "I get a lot of satisfaction out of it," he said. "I do pretty much everything, personal care, taking people out around the village, and organising activities."

- Take Sharon Moss who came into the care profession after experiencing the effect of Alzheimer's on her grandfather, the legendary Middlesbrough and England footballer George Hardwick.

Destined for a career in horse racing after working in a stables in Malton she nevertheless returned home to Scarborough and took up a job in domiciliary care and set about learning more about the illness which had ravaged her grandfather's life.

Sharon's professional interest in dementia led to training courses and opened up a series of opportunities which eventually led to her managing a home - Benkhill Lodge at Bedale - a leap which would have been difficult to imagine in the early stages of her career.

Sharon believes more young people should be made aware of how fulfilling and exciting a career in care can be, that doors frequently open to new opportunities in the sector

"As soon as I started working in adult social care, I knew it was the career for me. I have a respect for the elderly and want to sit down and talk to them. I absolutely love coming to work every day."

Her experience of working for North Yorkshire, she said, is that there is always support and encouragement and training for those who want new challenges and to progress their careers and develop further.

Avian Influenza – update for poultry and bird keepers

There have been five confirmed cases of Avian Influenza in North Yorkshire, and many more across Great Britain.

On 3 November an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was declared across England requiring enhanced biosecurity for birds.

Earlier this week a localised AIPZ was declared, covering parts of Hambleton, Richmondshire and Harrogate, requiring birds to be housed. DEFRA have now announced that from 29 November another similar order will be made requiring the housing of all birds across GB.

There are strict rules in the zones surrounding the confirmed cases. If you keep poultry or other captive birds, please see the latest information, zones and their rules and guidance here: Avian influenza (bird flu) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). There is also an interactive map so you can see the rules applicable to you. APHA Interactive Disease Map (arcgis.com).

If you have any queries, please contact the Trading Standards animal health team at tsanimal.health@northyorks.gov.uk.

Regulations on using mobile phones while driving to be tightened

The Police will soon be able to prosecute motorists who use their mobile phones under any circumstances while driving. The new regulations will mean that it will also be illegal for a hand-held device to be used at traffic lights or in a traffic jam. Anyone caught using a hand-held device while driving will face a £200 fixed penalty notice and six points on their licence. Drivers will still be able to continue using a device 'hands-free' while driving, such as a sat-nav, if it is secured in a cradle. However, you must always take responsibility for your driving and can be charged with an offence if the police find you not to be in proper control of your vehicle.

Household Support Fund

The Department for Work and Pensions will be giving NYCC £3.5m as part of their Household Support Fund programme so we can make sure people who may be feeling the financial pressures of paying their bills over winter get additional help.

We're working with a number of partners to get this money to those who need it most. Earlier this week we started sending letters to around 8,000 residents who meet the eligibility criteria of getting means-tested help to pay their council tax bill and have a child under the age of 19 living at home to let them know how to claim their e-vouchers.

Funding will also be distributed among other schemes in the county, which can be accessed by residents who may struggle to afford basic necessities.

Find out more at www.northyorks.gov.uk/householdsupportfund