

**Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates**

**Updated 16 February 2023**

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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases) and [Norfolk Insights](https://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/coronavirus/).

Everyone has a key role in promoting [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://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](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus/) 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](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/service-disruptions).

**Government news**

**Norfolk to benefit from new Family Hubs and Start for Life funding**

The government has announced that Norfolk County Council will be one of 75 local authorities receiving some of their new Family Hubs and Start for Life funding.

Norfolk will receive approximately £6m to further develop prevention and early help services for families with children and young people up to the age of 19 (25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities).

This is not about introducing a new service or opening new buildings but to allow the county to further develop support for families. Using a whole family approach, the Family Hubs network will give families a single access point to support services that are integrated across health (physical and mental health) and social care as well as voluntary and community organisations and education.

Whilst there will be at least seven physical Family Hub sites in existing community buildings, which families will be able to walk into, services will be delivered largely on an outreach basis. The Family Hub approach will bring together a wide range of services so that families can access support in the spaces and places that they live and visit, such as libraries and community buildings.

The Family Hubs network will provide simple access to ‘Start for Life’ services, providing the best support for babies in the first 1,001 critical days from conception to the age of two, setting them up to maximise their potential for lifelong emotional and physical wellbeing.

Further information about the government announcement [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-families-to-benefit-from-local-support-in-rollout-of-family-hubs).

**UK Space Agency awards funding aimed at boosting space sector**

**New Anglia LEP (NALEP) selected as one of 18 UK projects to be awarded funding**

NALEP will be given £163,000 to support the development of a Norfolk and Suffolk space cluster.

A Space Cluster development manager for Norfolk and Suffolk will be appointed to establish the cluster and attract inward investment.

The government says that Space Cluster Managers will work with local government, businesses, and academia to coordinate space activity and encourage collaboration and inward investment.

NALEP has already invested in space tech businesses such as Gravitilab on Scottow Enterprise Park in Norfolk.

Further information about the governance announcement and the 18 selected projects [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/levelling-up-boost-for-uk-space-sector-with-new-growth-funding).

**Government Air Quality Grant funding to Norfolk County Council**

**Norfolk County Council has been successful in securing £171,545 from the Government’s annual Air Quality Grant.**

The money will be used to create an e-cargo bike library, helping local businesses in Norfolk to cut operating costs while lowering their emissions.

An e-cargo bike is basically an electric bike with a large storage area. Rather than having a trailer attached to the back of the bike, e-cargos include a built-in storage unit at the front of the bike.

The Air Quality Grant run by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) helps councils develop and implement measures to benefit schools, businesses and communities and reduce the impact of air pollution on people’s health.

A procurement process will now begin to identify a provider for the Norfolk e-cargo bike loan scheme and it is hoped they will arrive in Norwich by August 2023.

The pilot scheme is being funded for two years and will allow the council to accurately quantify the impact on air quality by replacing van journeys, as the e-cargo bikes will provide mapping and journey data. This data will provide us with evidence which can be used for estimating the air quality impacts of future interventions across the county.

Further information about the government announcement [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/107-million-in-funding-for-local-authorities-to-improve-air-quality).

**Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System (ICS)**

The Wellness on Wheels - WOW bus – has been traveling across Norfolk and Waveney to support those who need extra help with their health and care.

Services that are currently offered on the bus will vary between vaccinations, screening along with health and financial advice.

The WOW bus is supported by partner organisations across the ICS, including NHS Norfolk and Waveney, Norfolk County Council, the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector and others.

Please let others know about the WOW bus and if you see the WOW bus, you are welcome to hop onboard.

The upcoming stops are as follows:

* 16 February – The Community Hub, Carbrooke, 13, Buckingham close, Watton, Thetford IP25 6WL 10am-3pm
* 20 February – Holt Youth Project, Old Station Way, HOLT, NR25 6DH
* 24 February and 10 March – Lowestoft – Station Square

**County Deal for Norfolk Update**

A series of Community Drop-in events around Norfolk have been organised for people to find out more and have their say about the County Deal.

We are encouraging as much feedback as possible so it would be appreciated if you could share these details with your constituents.

Below are the dates, venues and times for the County Deal Community Drop-in events:

* 16 February: Great Yarmouth Library, **Great Yarmouth**, 10am-noon and 4-6pm
* 17 February: Vancouver, town centre, **King’s Lynn**, 10am-2pm and 3.30-5.30pm
* 20 February: Dereham Library, **Dereham** 10am-noon and 4-6pm
* 21 February: Swaffham Library, **Swaffham** 10.30am-12.30pm and 4-6pm
* 21 February: The Forum, **Norwich** 10am-noon and 4-6pm
* 27 February: Thetford Carnegie, **Thetford** 10am-noon and 3.30-5.30pm
* 27 February: Watton Library, **Watton** 10am-noon and 4-6pm
* 28 February: Cromer Library, **Cromer** 11am-1pm and 4-6pm
* 1 March: Attleborough Library, **Attleborough** 10am-noon and 4-6pm
* 1 March: Hunstanton Town Hall, **Hunstanton** 10am-noon and 4- 6pm
* 2 March: Fakenham Community Centre, **Fakenham** 10am-noon and 4-6pm
* 6 March: The Forum, **Norwich** 10am-noon and 4-6pm
* 8 March: North Walsham Library, **North Walsham** 11am-1pm and 4-6pm
* 8 March: Downham Market Library, **Downham Market** 10am-noon and 4-6pm
* 9 March: Acle Library, **Acle** 10.30am-12.30pm and 4-6pm
* 10 March: Diss Library, **Diss** 10am-noon and 4-6pm
* 10 March: Wroxham Library, **Wroxham** 10.30am-12.30pm and 4-6pm
* 10 March: Sprowston Library, **Sprowston** 10am-noon and 4-6pm

More details about the County Deal for Norfolk and a link to the consultation [here](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/corporate/county-deal).