#Northants Together

Keeping you updated

1st 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.

In this week's edition, find out about the mobile testing units which have been in place across different locations over the past week. There is also a fantastic video showing the work of the military at these facilities and how the sites operate.



This week is National Volunteers week. Thousands of Northamptonshire residents have played their role throughout this pandemic, whether supporting a loved one or volunteering for an organisation. We thank you all.



Updates from colleagues including:





























IN ACTION: OUR LATEST ACTIVITY

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More COVID-19 tests take place through mobile testing units

Mobile COVID-19 testing units have been in place at new locations in Northamptonshire over the last week

The facilities have helped hundreds more people in our county with COVID-19 symptoms to access tests closer to where they live.

The military-led mobile testing units (MTUs) were in Daventry and Wellingborough over the weekend and in Corby throughout the spring bank holiday weekend. These followed previous deployments in Northampton, Corby and Silverstone a few weeks earlier.

Mobile units are only in a location for a few days, and testing is by appointment only. Bookings can be made online at

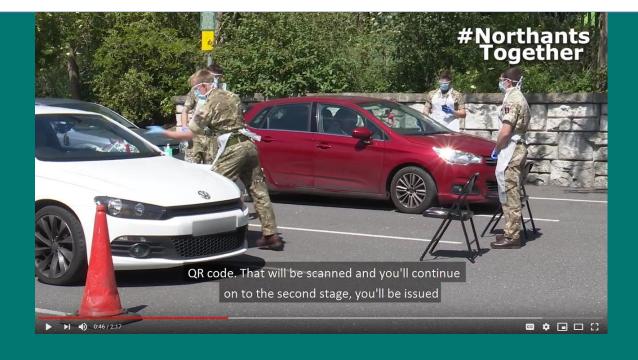
www.gov.uk/guidance/coronaviruscovid-19-getting-tested. The MTUs have an integrated one-way system that allows people with an appointment to attend for either walk-in or drive-through testing.

Eligibility criteria for tests have been extended to include anyone with COVID-19 symptoms – a new, continuous cough; high temperature; or a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste. Essential workers are given priority.

Any further deployments of MTUs in Northamptonshire will be announced as they are agreed.

To give people an idea of what to expect at these temporary testing sites, the Northamptonshire COVID-19 Strategic Coordination Centre has produced a new video going behind the scenes of an MTU in the county.

You can watch the video by clicking <u>here</u>.



County schools prepare to welcome back more pupils

Northamptonshire County Council consults schools on reopening from 1st June

Cllr Fiona Baker, cabinet member for children's services at Northamptonshire County Council, said: "Since lockdown began, schools in Northamptonshire have been going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that education is still accessible for local children.

"The government has asked schools to prepare to begin to open for more children from 1st June. At Northamptonshire County Council, we believe that it is important for children to resume their education so they can learn and interact with their peers. However, this needs to be done in a way that minimises the risks to pupils, staff and parents as much as possible.

"We are asking schools to carry out an initial comprehensive risk assessment so that leaders can evaluate potential solutions on how they can safely and effectively accommodate eligible pupils. We want schools, in the first instance, to take a phased approach to how many pupils they take back and from when.

"Schools have different numbers of vulnerable and key worker children, different numbers of staff who will not be able to attend school in person because they or a family member are in a vulnerable category and therefore shielding, and different abilities to implement social distancing.

"We can expect therefore, that there will not be one county-wide model for the initial phased reopening of schools. However, Northamptonshire County Council will support schools to work towards gradually increasing pupil numbers.

"I would like to reassure our residents that the most important factor for us is the safety and wellbeing of our children, teaching and support staff, and the wider community including parents, grandparents and carers.

"Schools have been open throughout the past two months, providing education for vulnerable children and key workers' children. This has been a phenomenal task and we thank everyone involved.

"An average of 93% of Northamptonshire schools have remained open or made alternative arrangements for children of key workers."

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Top tips to follow when using recycling centres and storing waste

Public urged to use recycling centres for essential waste until demand subsides

Councillor Jason Smithers, county council cabinet member for highways and place, made the following observations after the first week of the county's recycling centres reopening:

"We successfully reopened the recycling centres last week without the need for an appointment system, and 17,000 vehicles used the service. However this week demand has increased further so we are reminding everyone to keep being mindful and avoid unnecessary trips.

"We reopened the recycling centres with as close to a normal service as possible. However, this includes having social distancing rules in place to protect customers and staff, and this means a reduction in the overall amount of vehicles and waste the recycling centres can deal with during the day.

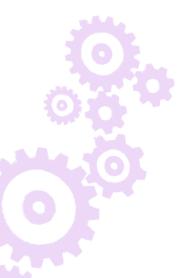
"Therefore we are asking people to think really carefully whether it is necessary to bring their waste to the recycling centres whilst there is such high demand for this service.

"If your waste can be temporarily stored, then please try and keep it at home and don't go to a recycling centre for a few weeks, when we expect the recycling centres to be quieter.

"And if you decide you need to take a trip to a recycling centre, please don't arrive before the gates open as this causes a backlog that continues throughout the day."

Northamptonshire CC #StayAlert ② @mycountycouncil · May 26
Our recycling centres continue to be very busy, with over 17k vehicles last week. This half term, please consider if your visit to the recycling centre is necessary. With measures in place to maintain social distancing, please be prepared for long queues. bit.ly/3cQlQQF











COVID-19 scam advice

Trading Standards are offering advice and support to safeguard people against COVID-19 related scams

More people are using platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp and other social networking sites to access information and stay in contact with loved ones. Unfortunately scammers will take advantage of the unusual situation our society is facing and it can be

difficult to know who to trust.

Here are just some of the scams Trading Standards are aware of, but please note that criminals come in all shapes and sizes and can contact you at the door, by phone, post or online:

- Virus testing kits.
- Vaccines or miracle cures there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from COVID-19 such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home decontamination services.

Tips to avoid being scammed:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Only purchase goods and services from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests.
- Only criminals will try to rush or panic you. If in doubt, speak to someone you trust.

- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID.
- · Be suspicious of requests for money up front.
- If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine.
- Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if vou are unsure.

If you think you've been scammed, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 and if you need advice, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133. If you are in immediate danger, contact the police on 999.

To learn more about different types of scams and how to protect yourself and others, visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk and complete the free online training.

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

- Virus testing kits
 Vaccines or miracle cures there is currently no vaccine or cure.
 Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial

STOP. Be aware of people offering or selling: CHALLENGE. Question communications and encourage others to do the same.

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
 Chly purchase goods and services from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
 Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to rejec refuse or ignore any requests. Chy criminals will to to rush or panic you. If in doubt, speak to someone you trust.



If you think you have been scammed, contact your bank first.
r advice on scams, call the citizens Advice Consumer Helpline
0808 223 11 33.
To report a scam, call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

NATIONAL TRADING

To learn more about different types of scams, visit: www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk





Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

Firefighters make more than 1,000 medication deliveries to 'at risk' individuals

More than 1,000 deliveries of essential medication have now been delivered by firefighters to some of the most vulnerable people across the county.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) was asked to support the community resilience partnership response to the pandemic by aiding in pharmacy deliveries to those who are 'shielding' and need to stay at home as they are particularly at risk from COVID-19.

Having medication deliveries brought to their door, direct from dispensing GP practices and pharmacies, helps protect these people from needing to venture out because of necessity. More here.









Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

Fire Service urges residents not to burn waste, after spate of bonfire call-outs

Firefighters are urging people not to have bonfires at home, after receiving a series of call-outs to waste being burnt.

Last weekend, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service dealt with seven calls linked to bonfires or other fires in the open.

These calls involved either 'out of control' bonfires or were simply calls from people worried about controlled burns and the potential for toxic smoke.

The attached picture was taken at an 'out of control' bonfire in Hardingstone attended by Mereway firefighters. The resident had attempted to burn some fencing panels but the scale of the fire escalated to the point that the fire service assisted in extinguishing the blaze. More here.









Northamptonshire Police

Officers continue to tackle speeding on county's roads

Police officers tackling speeding on Northamptonshire's roads are asking motorists – "is it worth it?"

As part of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) speed enforcement operation, officers were out in force from Monday, May 25, to make sure anyone speeding is caught and brought to justice.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown, despite the significantly reduced number of vehicles on the roads, Northamptonshire Police's Safer Roads Team were detecting similar levels of offending to that of normal traffic conditions as many people were using the empty roads as a race track.

In some cases, vehicles were travelling at more than double the speed limit.

More here.





Message from Chief Constable Nick Adderley - NPCC Lead for Motorcycling

As the National Police Chief's Council lead for Motorcycling and BikeSafe, I thought this would be a timely reminder to explain certain restrictions that exist between England and the rest of the UK.

I would want to make the point that as a keen motorcyclist myself, the temptation to start mass ride outs and social events on the motorcycling scene is huge, however the threat still posed by COVID-19 must be respected and understood to ensure that we all comply with the guidance and regulations issued by the devolved administrations.

The lives of our families, friends and all who enjoy the UK as a place to live, work or visit are still in the balance. More here.



Northamptonshire Police

Additional funding available for domestic abuse and sexual violence services

Organisations working with victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence in Northamptonshire are to benefit from extra Government funding to support them through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is making up to £252,000 available to organisations in Northamptonshire, subject to approving bids that must be made through the office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

The additional funding – announced on May 20 – is intended to enable organisations to continue their work to support some of the most vulnerable people in society, enabling existing services to continue and creating additional capacity so that more people can be helped.

The MoJ has made available £63,000 for sexual violence services and a further £63,000 for organisations providing domestic abuse services.

More here.



A "thank you" to our Community Resilience Team from a couple receiving help.

We have has a call from a gentleman on behalf of himself and his wife. They phoned the coronavirus helpline Thursday afternoon because his wife has started chemotherapy and desperately needed the chemo tablets collecting from the hospital as soon as possible, to start taking on Friday morning. Their daughter lives abroad, and they have no local support to help them during this time. They are both classed as extremely vulnerable and shielding.

The gentleman phoned on Friday morning to thank us for the service he received. By 6.00pm on Thursday evening, the Red Cross delivered the tablets which was a huge relief. He said he received wonderful service from Chelsea at the call centre, who was kind and reassuring. With the support of Fran the team leader, who communicated the urgency of the medication with the community resilience team, the lady can begin her treatment.



Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Calling all budding artists: Celebrate your healthcare heroes with NHS art competition

Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) has launched an art competition for all ages.

Winners will be selected from three categories, and a selection of submissions displayed at a prominent NHFT site.

The trust has been hugely impressed by the art you and your households have been producing during the lockdown.

From superheroes to rainbows; poems; sketches; chalks; watercolours and arty photos, Northamptonshire residents have found lots of artistic ways of showing their appreciation for health heroes, key workers, and each other in the community during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

NHFT hopes to commemorate the ongoing community spirit during this time by collecting and sharing your artwork on our NHS website, social media and in a future display at one of the trust's main sites.

The winning entries will also be rewarded with something sweet, and a congratulatory certificate from NHFT Chief Executive, Angela Hillery.

Entrants should feel free to submit a piece they've already worked on, or with half term upon us why not use the competition as an opportunity to get the art supplies out and create something new?

Anyone is welcome to enter. The categories are:

- Under 11s
- 11-18 year olds
- Adults

Send a picture of the artwork alongside the entrant's name and category to commsteam@nhft.nhs.uk with the subject 'Art competition'.

Deadline Monday 8th June 2020



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Northampton Saints say "thank you" to key workers

A message from our friends at Northamptonshire Saints for the children of NHS workers, teachers and other key workers. Click on the image to play the video.



"We know things are very different at the moment, and you're not able to see your friends or do things you enjoy, like come to the Rugby."

"There are countless people in our county doing a fantastic job, like the supermarket workers, the people delivering post, the volunteers, policemen and fire departments, just to name a few."

O:00 / 0:55

#NorthantsTogether in numbers

An overview of key statistics from multiple agencies across Northamptonshire as part of our COVID-19 response so far...



93%

Of schools open or providing for children



3,091

Children attending school



Letters sent and delivered to loved ones at NGH



Letters sent from the CEO to children of KGH staff



Visits to NCC coronavirus webpages



Library e-read and audio website hits



4,909

Calls made to the Community Resilience helpline



Shoplifting is half that during the same period in April 2019



GP practices fully utilising video consultations



1,168 Urgent food deliveries made



999 calls down by 9%



Volunteers offering help



Patients seeking mental health support seen by NHFT



325,000

COVID-19 information leaflets distributed to every household



Medication deliveries made to shielding patients by the Fire service

£106.515.00

Awarded in business grants countywide



-504

Businesses supported by business grants



10,934

University of Northampton students being taught online



416

Fire service home safety visits for the most high risk residents 6,861

NHS staff swabbed for COVID-19 at Northampton and Kettering General Hospitals



Schools and families registered with Northamptonshire Sport School Games



Homeless people receiving shelter



MAKING A DIFFERENCE....









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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

237 Northamptonshire County Council staff members have been re-deployed due to COVID-19. We meet Audrey and James.



Audrey says: "It may sound a little strange but I am enjoying making phone calls to people who at this time need a little extra care and support.

"It is giving me a sense of purpose and is nice to belong to a team working alongside new colleagues. We are sharing skills and supporting each other as we learn how to do this new job in the best way, as well as listening to both sad and happy phone calls.

"At the end of the day I go home feeling proud that the community is working together to ensure everyone is being looked after and not on their own." Most of Audrey's working life has involved supporting families. She joined Northamptonshire County Council in September 2016 as an Early Years Worker in the Children's Centre Services.

Audrey has always found her work enjoyable and fulfilling and her new role, delivering play and learn sessions in different libraries, often meant getting very messy doing crafts with the families – great fun!

She joined the Strong Start Team last September, also based in the libraries, and worked with the health visiting and infant feeding teams across Northamptonshire to support families with babies. But, at the end of March, with COVID-19 spreading rapidly, she found herself in a very different role.

Audrey was redeployed to the county's Community Resilience Hub as part of the outreach team, phoning vulnerable people in the county to make sure they are ok and aware of the services available to them.

#Northants Together

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



James is part of the county's library team based at Towcester. Until the COVID-19 outbreak, his days normally involved running children's events, assisting the general public with access to the internet, processing bus pass and blue badge applications and occasionally loaning out a book or two!

Now James has joined other members of the Libraries and Information Service in the Community Resilience Hub's outreach team, tasked with calling vulnerable people and making sure that they get the support that they need.



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James says: "This role has enabled me to see the brilliant work so many people are doing and the community pulling together to help each other. Any time we call a person, it's good to know that we were able to help.

"Spreading the word about the local COVID-19 support line and informing people how to get support from the government has shown me that during times of great struggle, there are so many good people who are willing to help. The human spirit is hard to crush."

IN THE NEWS...

Public Health England, Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire CCG coordinated media handling and responses for the media, with PHE taking a lead.

MEDIA THIS WEEK

- Coronavirus mobile testing unit heads to Northamptonshire
- Corby Mind ready to lend an ear with emotional support during lockdown with free helpline
- Northamptonshire budding artists urged to take part in NHS competition to celebrate healthcare heroes
- Firefighters have made more than 1,000 medication deliveries to 'at risk' individuals in Northamptonshire
- Northants charity launches campaign to help older people stay healthy and hydrated during pandemic and hot weather
- NGH opens three new community maternity hubs
- Rothwell Road becomes Rainbow Road with KGH 'thank you'
- Northampton's NHS heroes get a special 'thank you' every time they go to work
- Northampton museum needs you to collect lockdown memories for digital exhibition
- <u>Covid-19 death-rate may be slowing but we're far from out of the woods</u> yet, warns Northampton hospital boss
- Car boot in Northants planned for this week moved back after police urge organisers not to go ahead
- Coronavirus death toll in the Anglia region reaches 5,000
- <u>Covid-19 claims its 500th victim among Northamptonshire's hospital patients and care home residents</u>
- Temporary closure of Irchester Country Park for 'safety reasons'
- <u>Teaching union warns over-subscribed schools in Northampton could struggle to reopen safely</u>
- A&E patients seen quicker in March at Northampton General Hospital
- More than 1,000 in Northamptonshire seek NHS 111 dental help since practices shut
- Concerns over reopening overcrowded primary schools
- Northamptonshire's education authority backs June 1 school re-open plan
- <u>Kettering school won't open on June 1 because of lack of Government guidance</u>
- Health officials inspect Corby Tayto factory and 'validate' Covid-19 response
- A further 34 coronavirus patients die in hospitals in the Anglia region
- Northampton residents reminded that play areas are still closed despite some outdoor facilities reopening
- Four more Covid-19 victims takes total to 476 in Northamptonshire's hospitals and care homes

ON TWITTER

13 MAY TO 22 MAY

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

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Total Mentions

(of the hashtag across Twitter including retweets and replies)

1,164

Total Reach

(Total number of people who have seen the hashtag)

37,065

Total Impressions

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

9.21m

Engagement Rate

(Percentage of people who interacted with posts)

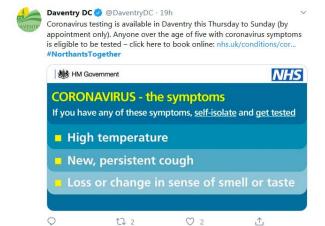
85.68%











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

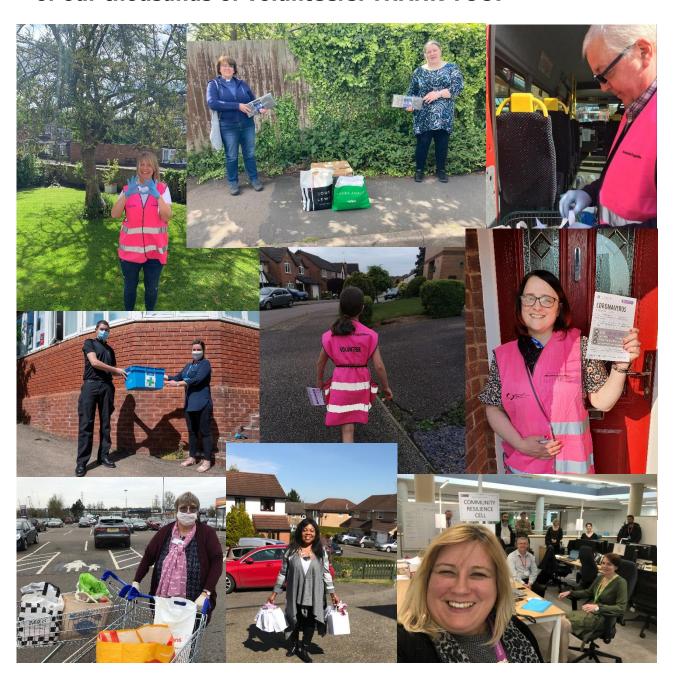




FINALLY

Thank you to our amazing Volunteers

This week is National Volunteering week, here are a few of our thousands of volunteers. THANK YOU!



Click here to see a thank you message from Jo Maddams (Bottom right) who runs the Countywide Community Resilience Hub.

Northants

Together

Share your stories using