

An update from the Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership



A message from our Independent Chair, Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt

I'd like to start this month's briefing by once more saying a huge thank you to everyone who works across the public and voluntary sectors in Norfolk and Waveney for their continued dedication. Over the past month, we have seen teams from different organisations continue to work closely together to deliver our ongoing vaccination programme, while our councils and voluntary partners have been finding innovative ways to support our communities. The past 18 months have been challenging for all of us, but these staff have been fantastic and I know that local people really appreciate everything that they are doing on their behalf.

Earlier this summer, our newly-formed system-wide communications and engagement group held its inaugural meeting. This group brings communications and engagement colleagues from all health and care organisations together for the first time, including key representatives from the Norfolk and Waveney VCSE Assembly. It also involves the business sector, represented via the Norfolk and Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, as well as Norfolk and Suffolk Police and Fire and Rescue Services. The formation of this group is a really important step for Norfolk and Waveney as it will ensure we can work even more closely together to align our messages, campaigns and engagement opportunities in the future.

This group will also oversee the development of a Norfolk and Waveney-wide 'citizens panel' which will continually grow and expand to include patient and public voices which are representative of all of our local communities. The intention is that the panel will include people of all backgrounds and with varied interests so that all of our organisations can approach them for help with specific engagement projects. We will bring you more information on this exciting project as it progresses.

I hope you enjoy reading this month's bulletin. With best wishes and continued thanks for everything you and your organisation are doing.

Patricia

Latest COVID-19 news

Figures released on Thursday (26 August) show that 93% of people aged 18 and above in Norfolk and Waveney have now had one COVID-19 vaccine, while 84% have had both doses. Health leaders are continuing to urge everyone who is eligible – and particularly those aged 16 and 17 – to get the jab to protect themselves and those around them.

People aged 16 and 17 became eligible for the jab on 11 August, and are being urged to get one dose of the Pfizer vaccine before schools and colleges return in September. Thursday's figures showed that nearly 10,700 people aged under 18 have already received one dose, with those who have not yet been vaccinated being urged to visit a walk-in centre as soon as they can to get protected.

Melanie Craig, Chief Executive of NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group, said: “We are really pleased with these latest vaccination figures, which again place Norfolk and Waveney as among the best performing in the country for delivery of this huge vaccination programme.

“In addition, it is fantastic news that so many young people have already taken up the opportunity to protect themselves, their family and friends by having the jab. They have missed out on so much in the past year – having the vaccine is the best way of getting back to doing the things they love.”

Anyone who has not yet had their jab can drop into one of the many walk-in clinics which are taking place across Norfolk and Waveney. A full list of walk-in centres and opening times is available [here](#).

Alternatively, people can wait to be contacted by the NHS to book an appointment, or use the [National Booking Service](#), which is currently open to anyone aged 18 or over and to people within three months of their 18th birthday.

Anyone who has already had the virus you should still have the vaccine, as it is the best way to stop themselves from becoming ill again in the future.

System Oversight Framework ratings announced

The new System Oversight Framework (SOF) ratings were announced by NHS England/Improvement and have placed Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System in segment four. This means we will now join the new national Recovery Support Programme, which was previously known as special measures.

This was due to a combination of factors, including the system’s financial deficit and the fact that two provider Trusts are currently in special measures. At the same time, the system in Norfolk and Waveney – like many others across the country – is also experiencing pressures on its urgent care and mental health services.

We are committed to improving our financial position and urgent care performance, as well as moving at pace with our plans to support two of our providers to leave special measures. We welcome the additional support we will receive to address these ongoing challenges and embed lasting solutions.

A clear plan which will support the ICS to exit SOF 4 as soon as practically possible will be finalised in due course.

Rethink Mental Illness (Rethink) appointed as co-production partner

Rethink Mental Illness (Rethink) has been appointed as adult mental health transformation co-production provider partner to Norfolk and Waveney and will begin work in September.

Rethink will draw on its experience of successfully facilitating and embedding co-production in the transformation of adult mental health services in Somerset, Cheshire and Wirral, Sheffield, Coventry and Warwickshire and North West London. Its aims is to ensure that people with lived experience and their carers are kept at the heart of transformation projects while also representing the views of the wider community.

Rethink plans to recruit two Community Co-production Officers who will work alongside the existing Community Transformation Experts by Experience Reference Group to co-develop and co-deliver a community engagement plan.

New NSFT Chief Executive takes up his post

Stuart Richardson has now taken up the post of Chief Executive at Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT), with effect from 1 September.

Marie Gabriel, NSFT Chair, said: "I want to thank interim CEO Dr Adam Morris for his leadership since beginning of May. His support has meant we have had the time to complete the CEO appointment process while remaining focused on continuing to improve services.

"We are ready to take the next steps to make even more improvements with our system partners, the people who work in NSFT and service users and their carers."



A learning disability nurse by background, Stuart (pictured) joined NSFT as Chief Operating Officer in 2018. He said: "Over the last three years, I have learned a lot from the people and partners who care so much about good mental health services in these two counties.

"This opportunity to lead the Trust means so much to me, and I am very much looking forward to starting."

'Help us, to help you' and get checked with any worrying symptoms

Local people are being urged to get themselves checked if they have any worrying symptoms as part of the next phase of the national "Cancer – help us, help you" campaign.

The initiative launched in late August and encourages anyone who has discomfort or loose stools or diarrhoea for three weeks or more, or has seen blood in their pee - even just once, to contact their GP practice. This is because ongoing tummy troubles could be a sign of bowel, ovarian or pancreatic cancer, while blood in pee could be a sign of a bladder or kidney cancer.

The campaign is being spearheaded by NHS England and NHS Improvement, with support from Public Health England.

Find out more [here](#).

Sporting initiative to tackle social isolation

Some of the most vulnerable or socially isolated residents living in Breckland are to be given a prescription for a season's worth of local football as part of a partnership between the district council, football club and health professionals.

Dereham Town FC is donating 50 free season tickets to potentially isolated or lonely people to help them form new friendships and socialise. It is part of Breckland Council's Inspiring Communities programme, which sees a team of Social Prescriber Link Workers work within local GP surgeries to support lonely people and open doors to local support networks and opportunities which will help break the cycle of isolation in the community.

For more information, click [here](#).

At the same time, North Walsham Town Football Club has trained all 40 of its volunteer staff as mental health champions so that they can recognise and support children and young people with their mental health. Councillors from North Norfolk District Council and representatives from Healthier North Walsham also attended the training, which was delivered by charity Ormiston Families and Active Norfolk.

Read more [here](#).

Making it easier for pregnant and breastfeeding women to get the COVID-19 jab

Pregnant and breastfeeding women and their partners are now able to access COVID-19 vaccinations at an ante-natal clinic.

Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust and Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are working together to provide the drop-in sessions, which also give women the chance to the experts if they have any questions about the vaccine.

You can find out more [here](#).

Two dedicated COVID-19 question and answer sessions are also due to take place, following feedback from women who are pregnant and new mums who are breastfeeding. The first of these sessions takes place on [Thursday 2 September at 8pm, hosted by Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#) and the second on [Thursday 9 September 2021 at 6pm, hosted by NHS Norfolk and Waveney CCG](#), including health and care professionals from the community. Both of these sessions will be recorded and shared on social media. They will also be translated into a number of different languages.

Support for local businesses

Businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk are being encouraged to take advantage of a new capital grant opportunity as part of an initiative designed to grow the region's rural economy.

DRIVE, which stands for "Delivering Rural Investment for Vital Employment", wants to hear from small and medium-sized enterprises who could benefit from a grant of up to £30,000.

More information is available [here](#).

At the same time, Norfolk County Council has expanded its Employer Training Incentive Programme to help smaller businesses recover from the pandemic by upskilling their staff with the help of a grant.

For more information about the scheme, click [here](#).