

County Council Report

December 2022

Scarlet fever and Group A strep

Notifications and GP consultations of scarlet fever in England are higher than normal for this point in the season.

Notifications of invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS) disease are following a similar trend and are slightly higher than expected for this time of year. The relatively higher rates of iGAS in children are noted and may reflect increases in respiratory viruses.

Given the potential for severe presentations in children, it remains important that scarlet fever cases are treated promptly with antibiotics to limit further spread and reduce risk of potential complications in cases and their close contacts.

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Public Health - Avian flu

Please share this information with anybody you know that keeps poultry and encourage them to register with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) poultry register.

The latest Norfolk outbreak was confirmed on 28 November.

Government information regarding the latest situation on Avian Influenza, and the Prevention Zone requirements, can be found [here](#).

Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds were introduced to all areas of England from 7 November. Further information [here](#).

If you have 50 or more birds, you are legally required to register but you can choose to register voluntarily if you have less than that. By doing so you will be kept informed on the latest bird flu information so you can take action to reduce the risk to your birds, which in turn reduces the risk to all UK poultry. It's quick and easy to register. [Poultry \(including game birds\): registration rules and forms - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/poultry-including-game-birds-registration-rules-and-forms)

Advice for the public

The public are advised to keep to designated footpaths, not to feed wild birds, and keep dogs on leads. Don't touch sick or dead birds, their feathers, or their droppings. If you see a dead bird, please report it to Defra's helpline on 03459 335577. Sick birds should be reported to the RSPCA (0300 1234 999) who may be able to help.

County Deal devolution agreement: an historic day for Norfolk

The County Council and the Government have agreed, in principle, to transfer funding and powers to boost jobs, regeneration, housing and transport to Norfolk.

Known as a County Deal, it includes a guaranteed £20 million per year investment fund for the next 30 years. It would also include control of the £10m budget for adult education, £7m for brownfield development, which could see sites in Norwich, Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn developed, plus £5.9m for housing, regeneration, and development.

Finalising a Deal would mean that, from 2024 onwards, we can do more to:

- Target funding and resources to Norfolk's own growth and infrastructure priorities
- Attract and retain new and key businesses and sectors
- Invest in the skills we know we need
- Unlock housing and employment sites
- Raise our profile nationally, enabling our voice to be heard by Government and help shape future policies

As part of the deal, Norfolk County Council would have a Council Leader who is directly elected by the public, with the first election in May 2024.

We're interested in what you think. In line with Government guidance, we will stage a formal public consultation, in 2023. You can find out more about the deal and next steps

www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/corporate/county-deal

Please contact countydeal@norfolk.gov.uk if you have any questions or wish to register for updates.

Norfolk Waste Partnership - Waste Services

In 2021/22 Norfolk's recycling rate increased by 2.1% to 44.2% and fly-tipping incidents were down by 4.5% to 10,761 reported incidents.

In the last two years the amount of leftover waste increased by 8.8% to 219,215 tonnes, driven by the effects of Covid-19 on householder behaviours, and this year levels are reducing towards those seen before the pandemic.

Much of the good work to reduce waste, increase recycling and fight the scourge of fly-tipping is delivered together with the District, City, and Borough Council's working as the Norfolk Waste Partnership.

The Partnership's most recent annual report provides valuable insights on where things go, what is in people's bins and what national policy changes are coming our way, as well as showcasing varied initiatives across the county.

Funding secured for a Community hub in Kings Lynn

Funding to build a multi-use community hub in the middle of King's Lynn has been secured by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) and Norfolk County Council (NCC). The Hub will create a place where residents can access a range of public services they value, alongside information and advice they trust, with library and learning at their heart.

The business case was approved in November by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities (DLUHC) which secured the £7.4 million Town Deal Funding. The Business case was highlighted as being a best practice example that clearly demonstrated the need in the town.

This is a significant project for the town, with funding for the project predominantly coming from the Towns Fund and brings a brand-new library and associated facilities, alongside a range of NCC services and programming from Adult Learning and partners which will be tailored to the needs of King's Lynn residents. This is a fantastic opportunity support the development of the Town Centre, which we know is the heart of the community for many, whilst also creating a brand new and improved community offer.

A tender will shortly be issued to provide the construction of the building, and the next stage of the design will start in spring next year. We are keen to involve the public throughout the process and will be carrying out a consultation to co-design the programmes and services that will be based at the hub, as well as help to shape the designs and branding as they develop. The hub is due to open in September 2025.

This range of services will provide a core environment of well-being, skills development, learning and information.

The current library in King's Lynn will stay open until the opening of the hub in 2025.

Funding secured for Bus Service Improvement Plan

As I believe you are aware, NCC was successful in obtaining £49.55m government funding from the Bus Back Better (BBB) initiative. This was based on our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) submitted last autumn. We were only one of 31 authorities to receive funding nationally and the only successful Council in East of England.

Highlights in the Plan for King's Lynn and West Norfolk include:

- West Norfolk: A149 Castle Rising to Knight's Hill and QEH - Investigation into low-cost options to provide bus priority along this corridor, to assist with summer peak traffic flows
- King's Lynn: Hardwick Roundabout to Southgates - Inbound bus lane - links to sustainable travel plans as part of the LUF bid
- King's Lynn: Portland Street and Bus Station Access - Junction changes to prioritise buses

- West Norfolk: A149 Lamsey Lane Junction - Contribution to works to reconfigure junction to provide easier access onto A149 for buses
- King's Lynn: Queen Elizabeth Hospital exit - Reconfigure junction to provide priority for bus movements
- West Norfolk: A149 Norfolk Lavender Junction - Reconfigure junction to provide priority for bus movements
- West Norfolk: A148/A149 Knight's Hill junction reconfiguration - Reconfigure junction to provide priority for bus movements, with a section of bus lane on the A148
- West Norfolk: Hunstanton Travel Hub - Improved travel hub, installation of real-time passenger information, new bus shelters, cycling facilities