

Notice of a public meeting of

City of York Outbreak Management Advisory Board

To: Councillors Aspden (Chair), Runciman (Vice-Chair) and Kilbane
Ian Floyd - Chief Operating Officer, CYC
Sharon Stoltz - Statutory Director of Health for the City of York, CYC
Siân Balsom - Manager, Healthwatch York
Lucy Brown - Director of Communications, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
James Farrar - Local Enterprise Partnership
Ian Humphreys - Managing Director, First Manchester and York
Professor Charlie Jeffery - Vice Chancellor and President, University of York
Phil Mettam - Track and Trace Lead for Humber, Coast and Vale, NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Simon Padfield - Consultant in Health Protection, Public Health England
Mike Padgham - Chair, Independent
Stephanie Porter - Acting Director of Primary Care and Population Health, NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group
Alison Semmence - Chief Executive, York CVS
Dr Sally Tyrer - General Practitioner, North Yorkshire Local Medical Committee
Lisa Winward – Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police

Date: Wednesday, 26 January 2022

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Remote Meeting

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 November 2021** (Pages 1 - 8)
3. **Current Covid-19 Situation in York**
Presentation on the day.
4. **Mental Health and the Economy** (Pages 9 - 14)
5. **Vaccination and Winter Planning Programmes** (Pages 15 - 20)
Including:
 - Vaccine Take Up & Boosters & Flu Vaccine
 - Access to Vaccines and Addressing Vaccine Inequality
6. **System Pressures**
Verbal updates from partners.
7. **Communications Update** (Pages 21 - 36)
8. **Update from Sub Group: Universities and Higher Education establishments** (Pages 37 - 38)
9. **Items for Next Agenda**
10. **Dates of Future Meetings**
11. **Any Other Business**

For more information about any of the following please contact Democratic Services at democratic.services@york.gov.uk

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim (Polish)
własnym języku.

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

☎ (01904) 551550

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	City of York Outbreak Management Advisory Board
Date	24 November 2021
Present	<p>Councillors Aspden (Chair), Runciman (Vice-Chair) and Kilbane</p> <p>Sharon Stoltz - Director of Public Health, CYC</p> <p>Simon Dennis - Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer, Office of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner</p> <p>James Farrar - Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>Ian Humphreys - Managing Director, First Manchester and York</p> <p>John Pattinson - Independent Care Group (substitute for Mike Padgham)</p> <p>Stephanie Porter - Director of Primary Care, NHS Vale of York CCG</p> <p>Alison Semmence - Chief Executive, York CVS</p> <p>Ian Wiggins – University of York (Substitute for Charlie Jeffery)</p> <p>Lisa Winward – Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police</p>
Apologies	<p>Ian Floyd - Chief Operating Officer, CYC</p> <p>Anne Coyle – Interim Director of Children's Services, CYC</p> <p>Siân Balsom – Manager - Healthwatch York</p> <p>Lucy Brown - Director of Communications, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Prof. Charlie Jeffery - Vice-Chancellor and President, University of York</p> <p>Phil Mettam - Track and Trace Lead for Humber, Coast and Vale, NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>Dr Simon Padfield - Consultant in Health Protection, Public Health England</p> <p>Mike Padgham - Independent Care Group</p> <p>Dr Sally Tyrer – General Practitioner, North Yorkshire Local Medical Committee</p>

In Attendance Eddie Coates-Madden – Senior
Communications Manager, CYC
Fiona Phillips – Assistant Director of Public
Health, CYC
Professor Mike Holmes – Partner, Haxby
Group (York/Hull/Scarborough)

42. Declarations of Interest

The Board had no interests to declare.

43. Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 September 2021

The Board discussed an action arising from the last meeting, around gaining clarity on the covid advice for school aged children. This was confirmed to have been completed and could now be closed.

The Board then discussed a further action arising from the last meeting, which was around the presentation of the behavioural insight report at a future meeting. The action had arisen after the vaccine uptake was found to be lower in the 18-29 cohort. Fiona Phillips, Assistant Director of Public Health reported that she had reviewed the University of York's data and found that the general population of university age had a 30% lower vaccine uptake compared to the university population. This was attributed to the work the university had carried out to prompt students and provide drop-in vaccination clinics.

The Board signed off the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting held on 29thSeptember 2021.

44. Presentation: Current Situation in York

Fiona Phillips provided a presentation on the current Covid-19 situation in York. Fiona reported that the validated rate, as at the date of the meeting, was 445.9. This was higher than both the regional and national averages, which amounted to around 1,000 cases per week. The hospital seemed to be managing with increased admissions but there were still 45 people with covid in general beds and another two in the intensive care unit. Fiona reported that the half-term period has seen a drop in cases, but cases had since started to rise again. The demographics with the highest rates were in the 5-9, 10-14 and

40-45 cohorts and all had been attributed to the levels of household transmission. The data showed that infection rates had moved down into the lower ages, with primary school rates overtaking secondary school rates. Fiona added that it was too early to see if the vaccination programme had had an impact on the 10-15 cohort.

Fiona reported that accessibility to testing had increased through increased home testing. The council run test sites continued to operate and provide assisted tests. The test sites' footfall had decreased but this was being offset by home testing. Outreach work had also been planned for the coming months to deliver tests and provide information in the community.

Fiona reported that 90% of all positive cases had been successfully contacted and traced with the local team. Fewer than 5% of cases required home visits because the engagement rate had increased by using a recognisable local number.

The Chair asked for more details on how contact tracing services were being wound down on a national level. Fiona explained that the national contact tracing service had been streamlined, with contacts of cases no longer receiving calls but texts/emails instead. The national service had also cut its call handlers from 9,000 to 5,500. Fiona reported that she was yet to receive any information around additional funds for the contacting tracing service to run into 2022. Sharon Stoltz, Director of Public Health noted the risk of uncertainties of funding beyond December but, since the staff and contracts currently in place could be jeopardised, funding had been allotted from the covid containment grant to allow the service to run until March 2022.

The Board noted the update.

45. Vaccination and Winter Planning Programmes

Stephanie Porter, Director of Primary Care for the NHS Vale of York CCG, provided a presentation around vaccinations and the Winter Planning Programmes. Stephanie reported that she was working with local pharmacies to help deliver the vaccination programme. As new cohorts continued to become eligible for vaccination the total vaccination rates dropped slightly.

Stephanie said that a vaccination rate of 75% of first and second doses for those who are eligible had been achieved. York care homes, which serviced the most vulnerable cohort, had achieved a vaccination rate of 97% for first and second dose and 84% have both doses with their booster as well. 90% of care home staff had also received their first and second doses of the vaccine.

Stephanie reported that she was continuing to work with residents in wards with low vaccine uptake to address any inequalities. She was also undertaking a data quality review to ensure data was correct in GP records. The national system could sometimes have interface issues with other systems.

Professor Mike Holmes, Partner at Haxby Medical Group, informed the Board that the Askham Bar site had delivered over 45,000 booster vaccinations. Around 9,000 vaccinations had been delivered each week with the aim to eventually achieve half a million. Professor Holmes reported that extra clinics were being run at the university, with a particular focus on international students. As the younger cohorts were now also included in the vaccination programme, the Childhood Immunisation and Vaccination Team were working with Nimbuscare to deliver vaccinations to school aged children. Over 9,000 had been delivered so far. It was aimed to finish the school vaccination programme by the end of November.

Sharon Stoltz asked for more information to help residents understand the difference between the third dose of the vaccine and the booster dose. Queries around how to book the vaccine had also been received from residents, as they were unsure whether they would be contacted by their GP or would have to use the national booking system. Professor Mike Holmes explained how the three dose accelerated course was used to ensure anti-body levels, as the immune system was suppressed in some of the clinically vulnerable. He reported that the booster vaccine was used because the body's immunity response would wane after around six months. Professor Holmes also reported that residents could access testing through booking on either the national or local service.

The Chair suggested that Vaccinations and Winter Planning be a standing item for this meeting going forward. This would enable the Board to keep up to date with the waiting times, capacity of venues and availability of vaccines.

Action: Mike Holmes, Stephanie Porter and Anita Dobson to provide a joint report as a part of the standing item; Vaccinations and Winter Planning.

46. Update on the Economy and Building Back Fairer

James Farrar, Local Enterprise Partnership representative, reported that he was working closely with the York Council to support the community and develop a plan for growth across York and North Yorkshire. James informed the Board that the economy looked to be bouncing back from being reduced by around 8.5% due to covid.

The recent increase in unemployment was expected to be offset by the high number of vacancies currently available. Furlough could affect unemployment rates as well, since the scheme was coming to an end soon. Most of the store vacancies had followed the closure of many of the national chains. James noted that a period of restructuring would need to take place to rectify this. The reduced footfall in the city centre had been attributed to a lot of people continuing to work from home.

Sharon Stoltz asked whether the significant increase of residents experiencing mental health issues and accessing services had been addressed. James Farrar reported that a mental health toolkit had been launched to help businesses to protect and support their workforce.

A number of the programmes from the EU funding scheme would instead have to be funded through the shared prosperity fund. Although, it was yet to be decided which programmes would remain in place. James reported that some of the historic programmes had been tweaked to ensure they continued to work through the pandemic and beyond. Sharon Stoltz suggested that a piece of work be commissioned which focused on mental health and work. A report on this could then come back to the Board. James was happy to take the lead on this and work with Sharon to link it back across to the actions arising from the mental health summit held in March 2020.

Action: James Farrar to bring a report back to the Board around Mental Health and work.

The Board noted the update.

47. Communications Update

Eddie Coates-Madden, Senior Communications Manager at City of York Council, gave a presentation on the key messages and four phases of the Outbreak Communications Plan. Eddie reported that local media attention had decreased recently but the council continue to provide press releases, with 30 out of the recent 80 being covid related.

Email updates, newsletters and social media campaigns had continued throughout the pandemic. The recent Facebook Live Q&A Session had been on financial wellbeing, due to the recent rise in unemployment and the furlough scheme coming to an end. The national and York Council assets had been used and shared with residents to help them distinguish between the common cold and covid.

The Board noted the update.

48. Update from Sub-Group: Universities and Higher Education Establishments

Ian Wiggins from the University of York reported that the case rates had remained low amongst the student population on the University of York Campus. He attributed this to the testing and vaccination programme, along with students adhering to mask usage when appropriate. There had been no evidence of transmission in the teaching and learning environment but a number of staff cases had been found, these being mostly due to household transmission from school aged children.

Ian reported that around 75% of students engaged with testing at least once a week. Not many reported their negative LFT results but this was also seen nationally. The University of York's covid response was so effective that the Department of Education had asked them to share their learning with other higher education institutions. All students (especially those from countries with lower covid responses) would be encouraged to engage with testing before and after their arrival.

The Board noted the update.

49. Items for Next Agenda

The Chair confirmed that there were four standing items for all future agendas:

- Current Situation in York
- Communications and engagement
- Updates from Sub-Group/ Task and Finish Groups
- Vaccinations and Winter Planning

The Board agreed to add the following to the Forward Plan:

- Terms of Reference Review
- Vaccine Inequalities
- Mental Health Report

50. Dates of Future Meetings

The agreed dates of future meetings were as follows:

- 26 January 2022
- 23 March 2022
- 25 May 2022

51. Any Other Business

The Board had no other business to discuss.

Cllr K Aspden, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.31 pm and finished at 7.01 pm].

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York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership

York Covid Outbreak Management Board

26 January 2022

Mental Health and the Economy

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This paper provides an overview of activity to support people to become and remain economically active in the face of mental health challenges, alongside activity to ensure businesses can access the tools necessary to support their workforce towards resilience and better mental health.

2.0 Background

2.1 In 2017, the government requested Stephenson and Farmer carry out an independent review into how employers can better support all individuals currently in employment including those with mental ill health or poor well-being to remain in and thrive through work. The [Thriving at Work](#) report was published in October 2017 and informed the LEPs commissioning of mental health support programmes for people and businesses and the inclusion of health and wellbeing in its current strategic priorities.

3.0 Data and Evidence

3.1 In their report, Stephenson and Farmer noted the following:

- around 15% of people currently in work have symptoms of existing mental health conditions.
- 300,000 people with a long-term mental health problem lose their jobs each year and at a much higher rate than those with physical health conditions.
- There is a large annual cost to employers of between £33 billion and £42 billion (with over half of the cost coming from presenteeism – when individuals are less productive due to poor mental health in work) with additional costs from sickness absence and staff turnover.
- The cost of poor mental health to Government is between £24 billion and £27 billion. This includes costs in providing benefits, falls in tax revenue and costs to the NHS.
- The cost of poor mental health to the economy as a whole is more than both of those together from lost output, at between £74 billion and £99 billion per year.

3.2 Data from both UCL and the Mental Health Foundation demonstrate that people with pre-existing mental health conditions going into the pandemic were more likely to experience worsening wellbeing over 2020-2021 than those with good mental health at the beginning of the pandemic. In turn this elevates the risks of long term sickness and presentism in the workforce.

¹ [REPORTS | COVID Social Study](#)

¹ [Coronavirus: The divergence of mental health experiences during the pandemic | Mental Health Foundation](#)

- 3.3 The LEP commissioned [York and North Yorkshire Labour Market Analysis](#) shows that amongst people in employment who have a health or disability problem, depression and bad nerves (poor mental health) is the most widespread condition.
- 3.4 Evidence also shows that mental health is a key reason why young people aged 16-24 are out of work. Out of 30,000 16-24yr olds on sickness related benefits in York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (2018 ONS), 45% report poor mental health as the key reason.

Mental health and work data produced by [OHID](#) shows that young professionals have emerged as the most vulnerable demographic in the workplace. They are twice as likely to suffer from depression compared to other age groups in the workforce, and more susceptible to leaveism and financial concerns.

- 3.5 The gap in the employment rate for those in contact with secondary mental health services (e.g. hospitals, community mental health teams etc) and the overall employment rate in York and North Yorkshire is 59.3%. Whilst this is higher in Yorkshire and Humber and England at 63% and 67.2% respectively, this is still a significant gap. Incidentally, the gap is wider for males (64.4%) than females (55.3%) [OHID](#).
- 3.6 The Covid pandemic had a significant impact on the nation's mental health particularly over periods of 'lockdown'. Evidence shows mental health challenges have not returned to pre-pandemic levels where one in six or 15% of the adult working population reported symptoms of an existing common mental health condition. Data also suggest some sectors of our society have been more adversely affected than others and this may require a renewed approach to mental health support in the future to ensure support is effectively targeted.
- 3.7 According to the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities [Covid-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Surveillance report](#) the proportion of adults aged 18 and over reporting a clinically significant level of psychological distress increased from 20.8% in 2019 to 29.5% in April 2020, then falling back to 21.3% by September 2020.
- 3.8 The report indicates that young adults and women have been more likely to report larger fluctuations in self-reported mental health and wellbeing than older adults and men. Although this may be due to a greater reluctance by men to identify and access support.
- 3.9 Unemployed adults and adults with lower incomes have reported higher levels of psychological distress, anxiety, depression and loneliness during the pandemic than adults with higher incomes. Loss of income and employment has been associated with worsening mental health during the pandemic. On average, any connection to a job or income (even if reduced compared to before the pandemic) has been better for mental health and wellbeing than none.

3.10 Key Messages

Mental health was a significant economic and health challenge before the Covid Pandemic. The pandemic has made things worse and there is a need to:

1. Support those individuals furthest from the job market to a position where they are able to actively seek employment
2. Provide appropriate training to individuals to support their employment potential
3. Provide tools and support for individuals in work to prevent sickness absence
4. Support businesses to become more inclusive employers and provide managers with the skills they need to support staff to avoid unnecessary sickness absence, presenteeism and job losses.

4.0 LEP Strategic Priorities

4.1 The LEP has a clear vision: To work together for a Greener, Fairer, Stronger Economy where:

- natural capital is protected and prioritised, aiding job creation and accelerating the transformation to a carbon negative economy
- **opportunity is inclusive, with quality of life raised for all people and communities**
- the economy is more resilient, able to adapt to challenges and harness growth potential

4.2 The LEP [Skills Strategy](#) has three clear ambitions that encompass the mental health of our workforce, those out of work and supportive workplaces

- People can thrive in good workplaces,
- Local organisations support good growth and thriving healthy communities
- The economically excluded and isolated are empowered to succeed through quality support.

5.0 LEP Commissioned Activity

5.1 Following the publication of the Thriving at Work report, the LEP commissioned activity informed by the report's recommendations. The LEP built a programme of support, using its European Social Fund allocation, for both individuals and businesses, tailored to local need, and based on progressive learning.

5.2 Activity for businesses and their workforce.

- *The Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit*
(Value £20k)
A [toolkit](#) for businesses including the self-employed housed on the Growth Hub website to safeguard workplace wellbeing. It includes information about mental health problems, business owners legal responsibilities, managing your own mental health and what to do if you are worried about a staff member.

- *Thriving at Work*
(Value £900k to support 55 SMEs become inclusive employers, 350 employees to 'thrive' in the workplace and 319 people with diversity training).

This project has a particular focus on supporting inclusive workplaces that can unlock the potential of staff who are neurodiverse, disabled or experience mental health challenges. It includes package of inclusive support, aimed at helping businesses realise the benefits of creating an inclusive workplace, diversity training and personalised 1-2-1 in-work coaching and mentoring for people who self-identify as being neurodiverse, disabled or experiencing mental health challenges. This project was commissioned following feedback and learnings from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit and the Action Towards Inclusion Programme outlined below. More information available [here](#)

[Lisa's Story](#) – Thriving at Work

Lisa, employed, had suffered with poor mental health since 2008. Despite numerous interventions and therapies, she had experienced long episodes of absence from work. During the most recent absence, her line manager suggested the Thriving at Work programme. Lisa said *“I have had many dark days through depression and my anxiety has at times been so debilitating. Ricky has given me the tools to control my emotions and not let my mental health control me but learn to live with it....”*

- *The Growth Hub Webinar Programme* – an initiative started by the LEP during the covid pandemic to support businesses with a bite-sized online resource. [Webinars](#) have included topics such as Resilient Leadership, Maintaining Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing in Difficult Times, Building Resilience and Supporting Team Wellbeing, Returning to Work and Leading through Change and Adversity. On average each webinar was accessed by 20 viewers either live or on-demand. The resource will stay on the Growth Hub website for businesses to access in the future.
- *The Beacon Project* – This project will be completed in 2022. Utilising existing BEIS funding for Growth Hub Activity, the YNY Growth Hub will support the development and integration of resources (national and localised) to support employers with issues relating to mental and physical health in the workplace. An example of the resource, first developed by Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly LEP is available [here](#)

5.3 Activity for those not in work

- *Action Towards Inclusion*
(Value £11.5m supporting 3,100 people)
This project is delivered through a partnership of skilled keyworkers and intervention partners who work for organisations in the voluntary and community sector. It offers support to those who are the furthest from the labour market due to barriers such as mental health issues, debt and lacking qualifications. Already ATI has supported over 2000 participants and enabled over 1000 of them into jobs, training or job

seeking. A short video showcasing the support available through one of the ATI partners for mental health, **St Nicks**, is available [here](#). Internal monitoring is showing the significant impact the project is having on wellbeing. All participants complete the Warwick and Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) at the entry and exit point of the project. To date; 1313 participants have completed both entry and exit forms.

- 53% report low wellbeing at entry – reduced to 17% at exit
 - 39% report moderate wellbeing at entry – increased to 56% at time of exit
 - 8% report high wellbeing at entry – increased to 27% on exit.
- **Community Grants**
(Value £2.7m, 174 grants awarded, 3061 people supported to date)
Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 fund dynamic, community based support projects that move unemployed or economically inactive people who are over 18 closer to employment, volunteering or further education. Since 2016, 174 projects have been funded across York, North Yorkshire and East Riding supporting more than 3000 people into better outcomes. **Claro Enterprise** is one project funded by community grants who have been working with partners Veterans' Woodcraft to deliver basic skills courses and support individuals with mental health issues toward recovery and employment. A short video about the project is available [here](#)

6.0 Future Opportunities and Risks

6.1 There are a number of initiatives and programmes delivering mental health support and information across our region. The ones of note are listed below:

- MIND – Local Mind services supported over 425,000 people across England and Wales this year. Their services include talking therapies, crisis helplines, drop-in centres, employment and training schemes, counselling and befriending.
- [IAPT](#) service, funded through NHS, accept self-referrals as well as GP referrals and support people both in and out of work.
- FSB offer a [Wellbeing Hub](#) which provides information to its small business members on mental health
- [NYCC Workplace Wellbeing Award](#) encourages organisations to support their workforce to adopt healthier lifestyles including a focus on mental health.
- The [Good Business Charter](#) is backed by the City of York Council and has been adopted as part of its wider plans for its economic strategy. The Charter promotes responsible behaviour through ten key components, one of which is employee well-being. In recognising that the physical and mental well-being of people really matters, this component can be used to promote and support mental wellbeing in the workplace.

- City of York Health & Wellbeing Board published a [Mental Health Strategy 2018-23](#) and have a mental health sub-group which is focusing on all aspects of mental health.

6.2 The LEP has recently approached its partners and stakeholders with a view to building an investment pipeline for skills projects. Out of 75 projects put forward, a suitable proportion support the mental health of those currently out-of-work, those in work as well as support for employers to safeguard the mental health of their workforces.

6.3 The LEP proposes a co-ordinated approach to future investment in mental health support, provision and information across York and North Yorkshire to ensure a comprehensive offer to individuals and businesses and prevent duplication of effort and funding. The Beacon Project, in providing a framework and platform for Growth Hubs to develop their own dedicated webpages to support SMEs to manage health in the workplace, offers an opportunity for collaboration between the LEP, CYC and NYCC Public Health to develop localised resources to support both businesses and individuals on mental health in work workplace.

6.4 A clear risk moving forward is the lack of clarity on future funding. The majority of the projects outlined in section 5 above are funded through European Social Funds due to end in 2023. The government is yet to launch its UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus and the expectation now is that there will be an inevitable gap in funding between ESF and UKSPF. Not only will this affect recipients of current support, but partnerships built up over the lifetime of ESF risk disintegration or at least depletion of capacity and capability before the next pot of funding is secured. This has the potential to have significant delivery implications moving forward.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 Using the Beacon project referenced 5.2 a joint working approach is adopted to ensure future funding for mental health and the economy programmes is co-ordinated, aligned and uses lessons learned.

9.0 Additional Information

9.1 Appendices – none

9.2 Background Documents – None

9.3 Contact –

Name/Title:	<i>Jude Knight and Tracy Watts</i>
Contact:	Jude.knight@ynylep.com Tracy.Watts@ynylep.com



Report prepared 14 January 2022

Outbreak Management Advisory Committee

Covid-19 Vaccination Programme Update

The Local Vaccination Service (LVS) sites continue to deliver covid vaccinations in line with NHS England and JCVI priority groups. At present these include:

- National prioritisation of Booster vaccinations for all eligible cohorts, with a focus on care homes and housebound patients
- Immunosuppressed patients requiring a 3rd primary dose as part of their course of vaccinations - and now immunosuppressed patient Booster vaccinations (4th doses) at an interval of 3 months post their 3rd primary dose
- Supporting the universal offer to 12-15 year olds
- We maintain an evergreen offer for patients coming forward for a first dose vaccination, and endeavour to accommodate these as opportunistic 'walk-ins' without the need to book an appointment

Current providers are:

- National Vaccination Centre run by Nimbuscare at Askham Bar, York

Plus the following CCG-commissioned Local Vaccination Services:

- Askham Bar LVS, York
- Haxby Health Centre LVS
- Tadcaster Health Centre LVS
- Selby Leisure Centre LVS
- Pickering Medical Centre LVS
- Galtres Centre LVS, Easingwold

There are also a number of smaller Community Pharmacy-led sites across York which are working in partnership with LVS's to provide more local access to vaccinations in areas of low uptake.

The above Providers offer services from their main sites, plus regular pop-up clinics (according to supply/demand) to provide more convenient and local access for hard to reach or vaccine hesitant groups across the area.

COVID Vaccination Programme Numbers - Summary

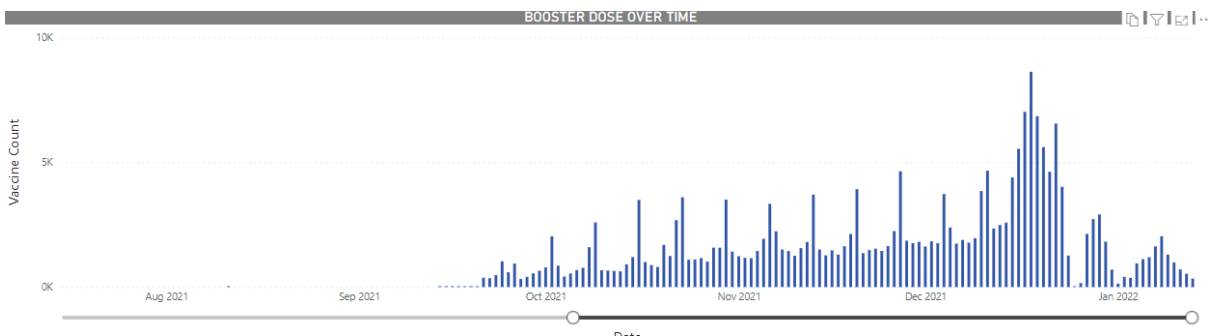
At 13th January 2022, Vale of York CCG has **352,771** eligible individuals for covid vaccinations (from the national IMS Reporting Tool). This number changes frequently as more JCVI cohorts become eligible (e.g. 12–15 year olds), and as guidance changes re. the required time needed between the various doses. Progress re. the first (partially vaccinated), second (fully vaccinated) and booster programmes is as follows:

352,771 <small>INDIVIDUALS WITHIN PRIORITY GROUPS</small>	73,435 <small>INDIV. YET TO HAVE A VACC.</small> 20.82% <small>INDIV. YET TO HAVE A VACC. %</small>	16,280 <small>PARTIALLY VACCINATED</small> 4.61% <small>PARTIALLY VACCINATED %</small>	263,056 <small>INDIV. FULLY VACCINATED</small> 74.57% <small>INDIV. FULLY VACCINATED %</small>	216,644 <small>FULLY VACCINATED + BOOSTER</small> 85.94% <small>FULLY VACCINATED + BOOSTER %</small>
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At the beginning of December 2021, NHS England/Improvement asked GP Practices to prioritise the Booster programme in the run up to the Christmas holiday period and maximise the uptake of Booster vaccinations for the population who were eligible.

Our timeline analysis shows a significant increase in Booster vaccination uptake from mid-December, with demand dropping off on December 24th. On 18th December, the Vale of York population received 8,634 Booster doses – this is a significant increase on the daily vaccination rate over any other part of the programme to date. The CCG is extremely grateful to all staff who worked up to and over the holiday period across all of the vaccination sites.

We continue to work with local partners to promote/publicise access to vaccinations and deliver accessible services across the CCG area.



Vale of York CCG Booster doses by date during December are as follows:

Date	Booster Dose
12/12/2021 12:00:00 AM	2,348
12/13/2021 12:00:00 AM	2,485
12/14/2021 12:00:00 AM	2,583
12/15/2021 12:00:00 AM	4,395
12/16/2021 12:00:00 AM	5,546
12/17/2021 12:00:00 AM	7,028
12/18/2021 12:00:00 AM	8,634
12/19/2021 12:00:00 AM	6,852
12/20/2021 12:00:00 AM	5,615
12/21/2021 12:00:00 AM	4,621
12/22/2021 12:00:00 AM	6,556
12/23/2021 12:00:00 AM	4,020
12/24/2021 12:00:00 AM	1,262
12/25/2021 12:00:00 AM	4
12/26/2021 12:00:00 AM	156
12/27/2021 12:00:00 AM	2,131
12/28/2021 12:00:00 AM	2,726
12/29/2021 12:00:00 AM	2,909
12/30/2021 12:00:00 AM	1,818
12/31/2021 12:00:00 AM	697

Care Home Vaccinations

The CCG is progressing well with care home vaccinations.

As at 14th January 2022 we have residents vaccinated in the following numbers:

98% first dose, 97% second dose, 92% booster

Where it makes operational sense and is clinically appropriate, and consent is in place, vaccination services have co-administered the flu vaccination.

Staff covid vaccination rates are:

99% first dose, 99% second dose and 63% booster (excluding those who have a Medical Exemption from these figures).

The programme is affected by any infection outbreaks at a home, and we have seen sites request vaccination sessions be postponed. Providers continue to risk assess the decision to go into a home to vaccinate in these circumstances.

Vaccine Supply

At present the vaccine available is predominately Pfizer and Moderna – and the 15 minute observation period for these vaccines has now been waived (although patients are recommended to not drive for 15 minutes). Askham Bar has a small supply of Astra Zeneca vaccine reserved for patients with allergic reactions to Pfizer – and a referral process has been established to enable the CCG population to access this if clinically required.

In the lead up to the Christmas holiday period, in support of the national Booster programme, NHS England/Improvement delivered a significant increase in supplies of both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines across the country. In that context, vaccine supplies have been more than adequate over recent weeks, but the post-Christmas drop in demand for Boosters presents a risk of vaccine wastage, as there is unused stock across the region that expires around 20th January. The CCG, vaccination sites, NHS England/Improvement and local stakeholders are working to offer and publicise vaccination clinics over the next week in an effort to reduce any wastage to a minimum.

Lower Uptake Cohorts

We know that our Vale population has older residents, who became eligible earlier and take up was high overall. For both our Vale and City residents we see excellent take up rates until we start to see levels fall off in the under 50s.

We work with practices and the contract tracers at City of York Council periodically to review at an individual level who hasn't taken up the vaccination offer and adapt our approaches.

The following table shows the vaccination uptake at ward-level across the City of York (partially vaccinated = 1st dose, fully vaccinated = 1st + 2nd dose):

Ward Name	Individuals	Eligible Booster	Invited First Dose	Invited Booster	Individuals yet to have a Vaccination	Partially Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated + Booster
Acomb	9,089	6,512	87.14%	58.10%	19.97%	5.37%	74.66%	83.57%
Bishopthorpe	4,251	3,255	89.27%	62.81%	15.08%	5.76%	79.16%	91.92%
Clifton	9,827	6,218	89.21%	50.53%	27.72%	5.75%	66.53%	78.16%
Copmanthorpe	4,135	3,199	87.55%	62.10%	15.57%	4.72%	79.71%	89.65%
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	11,618	8,668	88.67%	60.23%	18.39%	4.42%	77.19%	87.07%
Fishergate	10,323	5,773	90.53%	42.57%	35.74%	2.77%	61.49%	81.76%
Fulford & Heslington	4,118	2,834	87.01%	53.81%	22.66%	4.95%	72.39%	88.32%
Guildhall	16,027	9,260	91.48%	44.30%	33.97%	3.06%	62.97%	75.99%
Haxby & Wigginton	11,903	9,456	86.89%	64.55%	13.52%	4.65%	81.83%	92.10%
Heworth	13,075	8,749	87.95%	53.38%	24.28%	5.33%	70.39%	79.97%
Heworth Without	4,044	3,221	89.54%	63.65%	13.90%	3.76%	82.34%	91.12%
Holgate	11,964	8,578	88.57%	55.79%	21.19%	4.32%	74.49%	81.74%
Hull Road	16,888	9,123	91.16%	39.89%	37.90%	3.16%	58.94%	78.01%
Huntington & New Earswick	12,482	9,373	88.03%	62.80%	17.26%	4.72%	78.02%	86.14%
Micklegate	12,998	9,008	89.30%	51.90%	23.82%	4.02%	72.16%	85.28%
Total	207,565	142,734	88.61%	54.51%	23.30%	4.56%	72.14%	84.19%

The wards with lowest uptake continue to be Clifton, Fishergate, Guildhall and Hull Road – although these numbers do seem to be slowly improving.

Experience to date has provided evidence that only when external factors are engaged do we see an increase in uptake, e.g. promotion of a 'covid passport' without which freedoms might be curtailed. We continue to change up our advertising and engage different methods, but the slowdown is embedded.

We are still seeing some first dose take up, but it is small numbers.

We continue to run a variety of advertising/awareness campaign across a number of platforms.

Influenza Vaccine Programme

The annual flu vaccination programme continues in both General Practice and pharmacies. There remain supply issues when all allocations are used and there is a delay in replenishments.

Current flu vaccination uptake figures across eligible cohorts (from the IMS Reporting Tool at 13th January 2022) are as follows:

[Back to report](#) | ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS BY COHORT (INDIVIDUALS MAY APPEAR IN MULTIPLE COHORTS)

Cohort Name	Count of Individuals	Vaccinated	Invited	% Invited/Individuals	% Vaccinated/Individuals
0 to 15 at risk	1,508	954	591	39.19%	63.26%
16 to 17 at risk	450	196	391	86.89%	43.56%
18 to 64 at risk	1,345	810	992	73.75%	60.22%
18-49 at risk	13,931	7,533	10,632	76.32%	54.07%
2-3 year olds	6,398	3,973	4,794	74.93%	62.10%
50 - 64 year olds	73,601	43,202	53,734	73.01%	58.70%
50-64 at risk	15,479	11,436	9,787	63.23%	73.88%
65 + at risk	34,944	30,532	8,621	24.67%	87.37%
65 + not at risk	40,814	33,666	12,828	31.43%	82.49%
NHS and social care Worker	8,563	5,917	2,228	26.02%	69.10%
Other - 0 to 17	179	179	0	0.00%	100.00%
Other - 18 to 49	7,391	7,391	0	0.00%	100.00%
Other - 50 to 64 before 1st Dec	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Pregnant women	1,473	939	101	6.86%	63.75%
School age children reception to year 7	44,799	24,248	20,536	45.84%	54.13%

Stephanie Porter

Interim Director for Primary Care and Population Health

Shaun Macey

Acting Assistant Director of Primary Care

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CITY OF
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YORK OUTBREAK CONTROL

Communications update

January 2021



The four phases of outbreak management communications

Phase 1

- Prevent - Provide updates about the current situation to prevent outbreaks

Phase 2

- Respond – Share information in responses to an alert following increased cases and/or change in restrictions

Phase 3

- Manage the outbreak

Phase 4

- Safely recover



Working together to improve and make a difference

A phased approach

Phases		Approach (including aims)	Timing
1	Regular updates of current situation to try and prevent outbreaks	<p>Amplify in phase 2</p> <p>Share accurate and timely updates: Share key public health messages and updates about the current situation in York, quickly addressing inaccuracies and providing the most up to date information and tools to support behaviour change.</p> <p>Build advocacy: Work closely with partners to ensure consistent messaging across the city. Share public health actions taken by city partners and public health and show how behaviour changes are supported by partners.</p>	15 June 2020: Reopening
2	Alert following spike in cases and/or change in restrictions	<p>Build confidence in the steps taken and what people need to do : Share what the city is doing to protect residents and what they need to do to keep others safe and places open. Use case and vaccination data to update residents and businesses on the current position. Demonstrate partnership approach being taken.</p> <p>Build engagement through conversation: Share messages and updates with residents. Engage audiences to find out how they are feeling and what they need to help the city recover and adapt their behaviours. Work closely with our partners to share insight and ideas.</p>	<p>2 December 2020: Tier 2</p> <p>30 December 2020: Tier 3</p>
3	Manage outbreak	<p>Deliver a regular drumbeat of accurate information: Initiate incident communications toolkit, assign roles and establish the rhythm of the incident, with regular and targeted communications and ongoing social media and website updates.</p> <p>Signpost support: Update CYC website and signpost support through all channels, responding to social media and providing information for partners to distribute through their channels</p> <p>Promote unity and community cooperation: Put people first, share stories of the personal impact of covid (MyCovidStory) and of people coming together and showing the very best of themselves and their experience of covid (York Kind)</p> <p>Target information: Provide residents with targeted information about changes, signpost relevant support services, coordinate information through targeted networks for partners to distribute to their channels</p>	<p>23 March 2020: Lockdown</p> <p>2 November 2020: Lockdown</p> <p>5 January 2021: Lockdown</p> <p>8 March 2021: step 1a</p> <p>29 March 2021: step 1b</p>
4	Safely recover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach as per phase 1 and 2 	<p>12 April 2021: step 2</p> <p>17 May 2021: step 3</p> <p>19 July 2021: step 4</p>

Communications roadmap



	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
Restrictions	Step 3	Step 3 Step 4	Self isol		Monitor and respond to govt guidance Plan B Omicron, vaccinations and boosters			
Regular updates / e-newsletters	1x weekly;				Reduced frequency			
Direct publications, Our City	Quarterly							
Facebook live – ask the leaders	Monthly – link to restrictions/changes							
York-specific campaigns -Signage, social, web, PR throughout, partner use	Let's be York				Protect, respect, be kind		Behaviour change	
Right place, right care – winter pressures	Supporting NHS led campaigns							
18-34 year old residents	PR, social, partner packs							
Testing	Direct, web, social, signage							
Vaccinations	Support rollout and potential autumn boosters/school vaccination service. Social, PR, Web, Signage							
#FeelRealYork	Social media, posters, partner toolkit around men's mental week.							
Return to education	Support education settings				Prepare for return of pupils			
#Whatsmynextstep	PR, social, partner toolkit shared on building in more activity around the home, plus case study.							

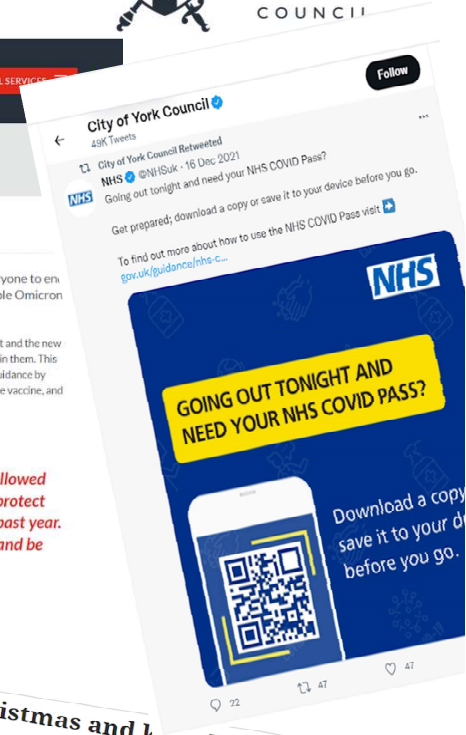
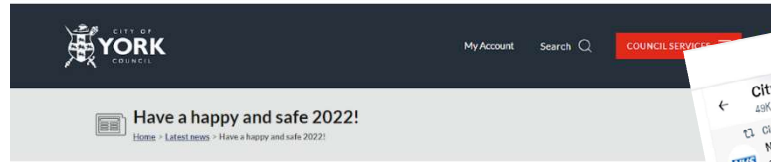
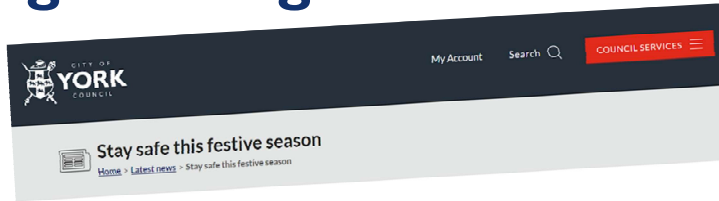


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Update of communications work since November 24th 2021



Plan B and Omicron – Rules, behaviour and gatherings



Published Thursday, 18 November 2021

City of York Council's Public Health leaders have committed to provide hundreds of free face coverings for distribution in retail spaces.

This is taking place as thousands of visitors and shoppers are expected in York city centre in the run up to the festive season.

Published Monday, 27 December 2021

York public health leaders and North Yorkshire Police are asking everyone to enjoy 2021 safely especially because of the spread of the highly transmissible Omicron variant of COVID-19.

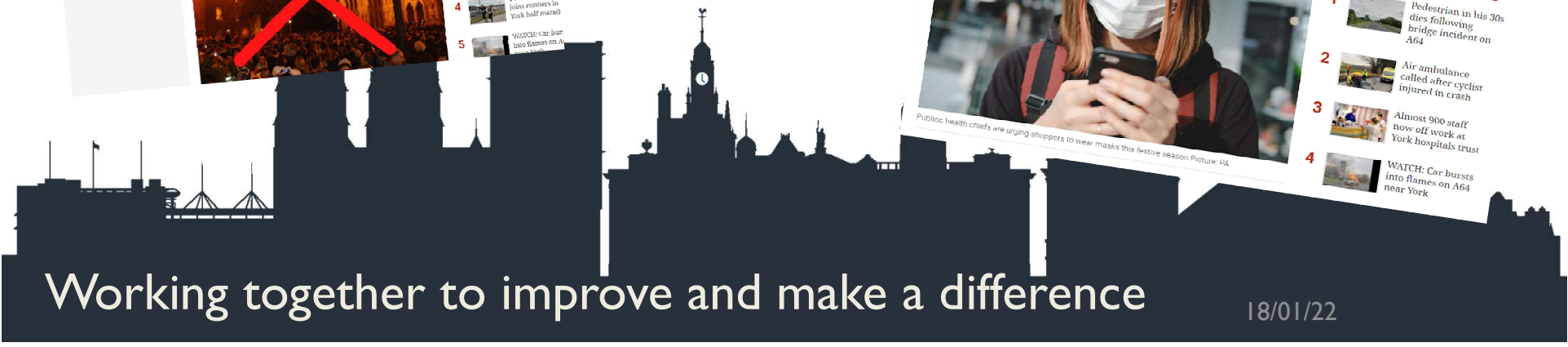
York public health leaders and North Yorkshire Police advise seeing the old year out and the new year in, in ways which protect loved ones, our communities and all those who work in them. This includes enjoying New Year's Eve safely in smaller groups, and following national guidance by wearing masks in crowded indoor and outdoor spaces, to have had both doses of the vaccine, and if they can their booster and flu jab.

Cllr Keith Aspden, Leader of City of York Council, said:

I want to send my thanks to everyone who has followed Public Health's advice and done their utmost to protect our loved ones and essential services during the past year. Please continue to do so, and to protect, respect and be kind to all.



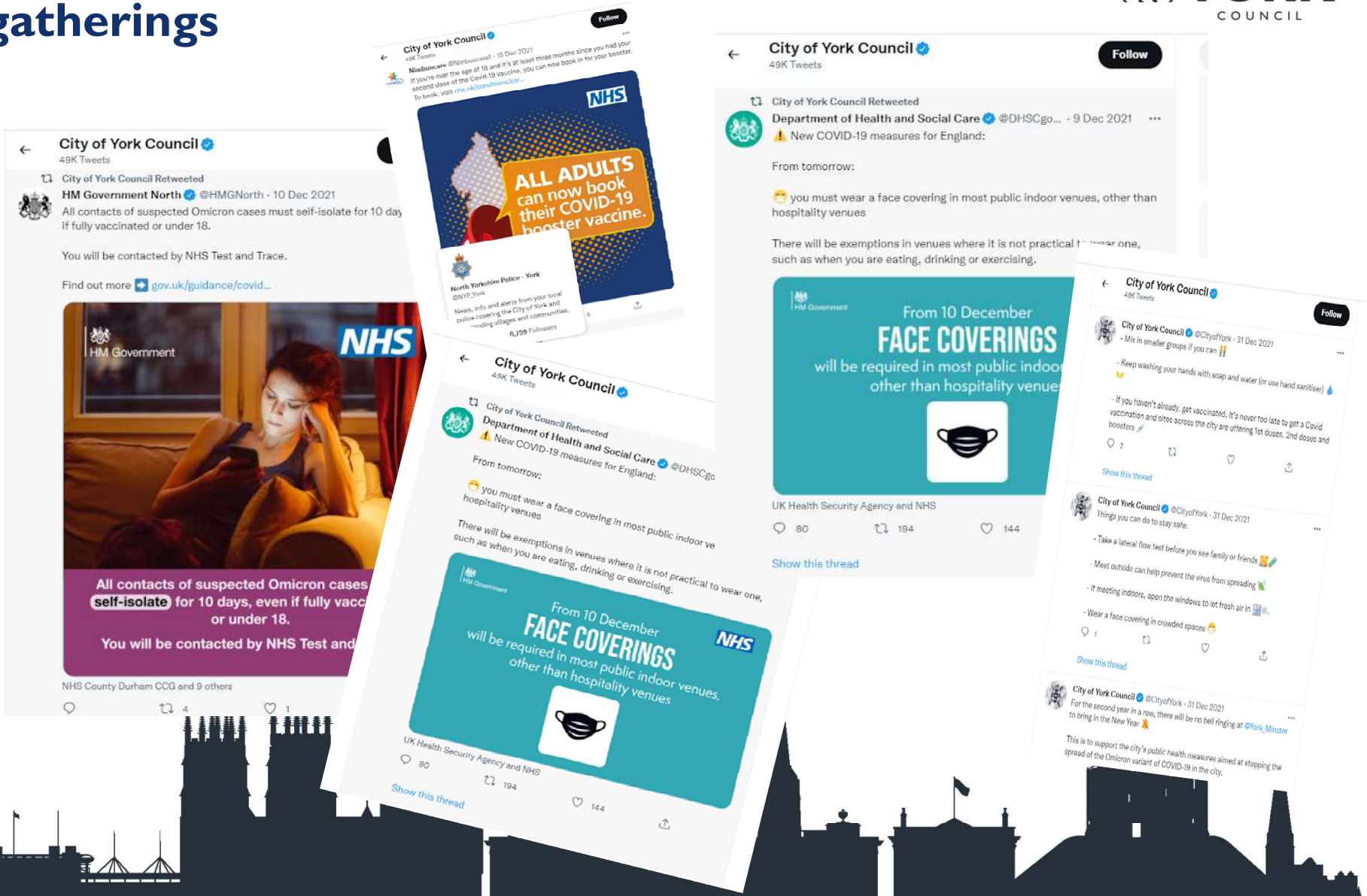
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Working together to improve and make a difference

18/01/22

Plan B and Omicron – Rules, behaviour and gatherings



The collage features several overlapping elements:

- Top Left:** A tweet from City of York Council retweeted from HM Government North (@HMGNorth) dated 10 Dec 2021. The text states: "All contacts of suspected Omicron cases must self-isolate for 10 days if fully vaccinated or under 18. You will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Find out more gov.uk/guidance/covid-19".
- Top Center:** An NHS poster with a blue background and a map of the UK. It says: "ALL ADULTS can now book their COVID-19 booster vaccine." Below it is a smaller white poster for "North Yorkshire Police - York @NYP_York" with 6,709 followers.
- Top Right:** A tweet from City of York Council retweeted from the Department of Health and Social Care (@DHSCgov) dated 9 Dec 2021. It announces "New COVID-19 measures for England:" and lists: "From tomorrow: you must wear a face covering in most public indoor venues, other than hospitality venues. There will be exemptions in venues where it is not practical to wear one, such as when you are eating, drinking or exercising." Below this is a blue NHS poster that reads: "From 10 December FACE COVERINGS will be required in most public indoor venues other than hospitality venues" with an image of a face mask.
- Bottom Left:** A tweet from City of York Council retweeted from the UK Health Security Agency and NHS, dated 31 Dec 2021. It lists "Things you can do to stay safe:" including: "Take a lateral flow test before you see family or friends", "Meet outside can help prevent the virus from spreading", "If meeting indoors, open the windows to let fresh air in", and "Wear a face covering in crowded spaces".
- Bottom Center:** Another NHS poster identical to the one in the top right, stating: "From 10 December FACE COVERINGS will be required in most public indoor venues, other than hospitality venues".
- Bottom Right:** A tweet from City of York Council dated 31 Dec 2021. It says: "For the second year in a row, there will be no bell ringing at York Minster to bring in the New Year. This is to support the city's public health measures aimed at stopping the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the city."

Working together to improve and make a difference

Share accurate and timely messaging: Drumbeat messages - consistent, responsive



City of York Council 49K Tweets

DAILY UPDATE: The latest "validated" data for the last 7 days of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 as at 11 January.

York 7 day rate: 1,150.6
Regional average: 1,489.6
National average: 1,272.4

Read more at yorkpendata.org/covid-19-daily...
Let's keep York safe and open

COVID-19 Update: 7-day rate of new COVID-19 cases	
Cases in all 148 January subnets per 100,000	
York 7 day rate:	1,150.6
Regional average:	1,489.6
National average:	1,272.4

Let's keep York safe and open this winter.

City of York Council 49K Tweets

City of York Council @CityofYork - 2 Jan

This winter, let's keep York #SafeAndOpen

You can help stop COVID-19 hanging around by wearing a face covering in public, if you can.

york.gov.uk/coronavirus

#TogetherYork

Let's keep York safe and open this winter.

City of York Council @CityofYork - 14 Jan

Every adult in the country now needs to get a Covid-19 booster vaccine, because two doses does not give you enough protection against catching Omicron.

nhs.uk/conditions/cor...

GET BOOSTED NOW
GET YOUR COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE
NHS.UK/COVIDVACCINATION

City of York Council @CityofYork - 14 Jan

DAILY UPDATE: The latest "validated" data for the last 7 days of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 as at 8 January.

York 7 day rate: 1,564.8
Regional average: 1,977.5
National average: 1,695.4

Read more at www.yorkpendata.org/covid-19...

City of York Council @CityofYork - 1 Jan

If you test positive for Covid 19 you can now report your contacts online. Sign in to the NHS Test and Trace contact tracing website at contact-tracing.nhs.uk.

Help stop the spread of the virus and keep York safe and open this winter.

Aged 18 yrs or over?
Visit Test and Trace online
And fill in the details yourself

City of York Council @CityofYork - 1 Jan

Nobody needs to sleep rough this winter. If you, or someone you know, is sleeping rough please get in touch with the early help centre for a bed. They're located at 63 Lawrence Street, York, YO10 3BU and you can get in touch by calling 07586 570432.

City of York Council @CityofYork - 18 Nov 2021

This winter, let's keep York safe and open. You can help by wearing a face covering in public, if you can. Washing or sanitising your hands regularly helps too! Where possible, give those around you extra space.

york.gov.uk/coronavirus

#TogetherYork

Keep York safe and open this winter.

City of York Council @CityofYork - 23 Dec 2021

Take a lateral flow test before you visit, so you know you're only bringing festive cheer to the city. Let's each do what we can to keep York safe and open this winter. If you can, please remember to wear a face mask in busy and indoor spaces.

Keep York safe and take a symptom-free test before you visit

Working together to improve and make a difference

18/01/22

Locally-targeted community communications



COVID-19 Update 

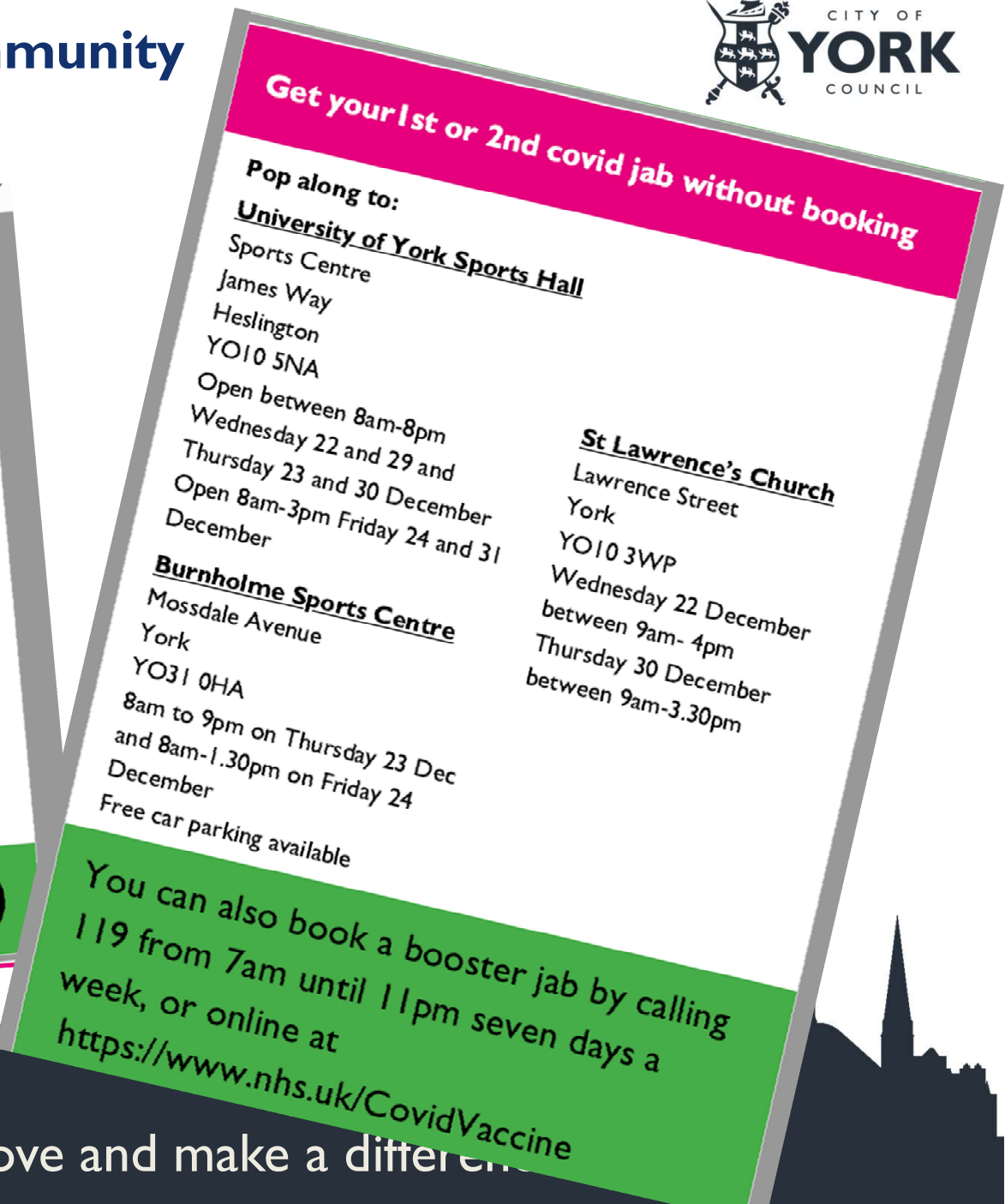
It's never too late to get the 1st or 2nd dose of your covid-19 vaccination

Getting both doses of the covid-19 vaccination, as well as your booster jab, is the best way to protect you and your loved ones

You can pop along to the University of York, Burnholme Sports Centre or St Lawrence's Church without booking

Get your 1st & 2nd covid-19 vaccinations without booking

#TogetherYork   



Get your 1st or 2nd covid jab without booking

Pop along to:

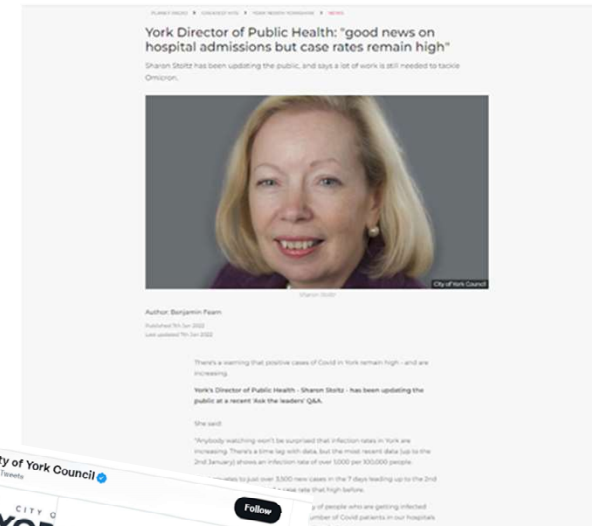
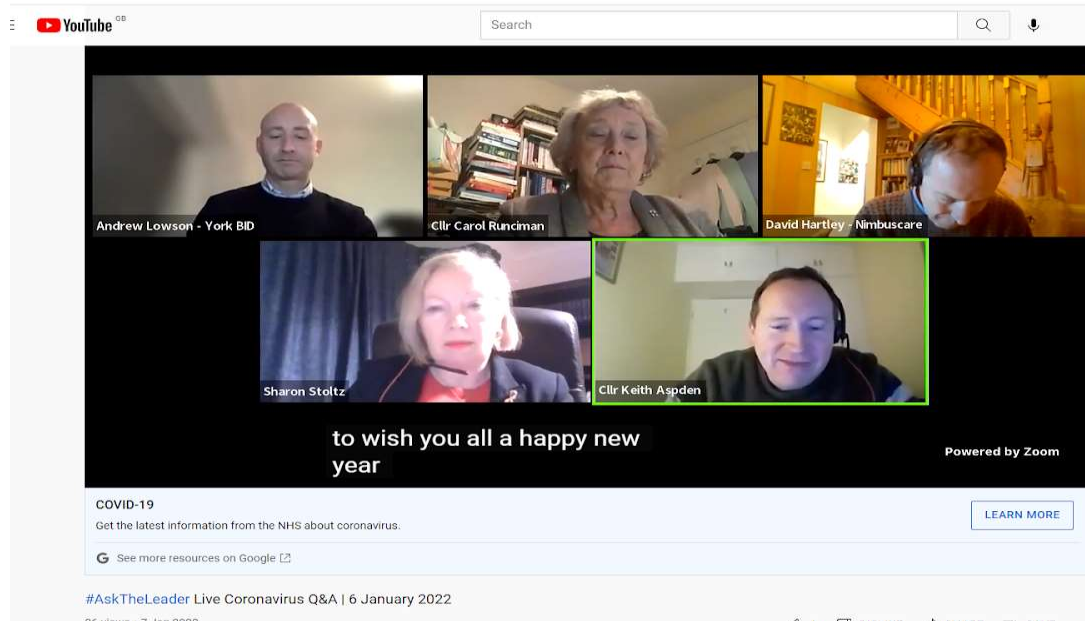
University of York Sports Hall
Sports Centre
James Way
Heslington
YO10 5NA
Open between 8am-8pm
Wednesday 22 and 29 and
Thursday 23 and 30 December
Open 8am-3pm Friday 24 and 31
December

St Lawrence's Church
Lawrence Street
York
YO10 3WP
Wednesday 22 December
between 9am- 4pm
Thursday 30 December
between 9am-3.30pm

Burnholme Sports Centre
Mossdale Avenue
York
YO31 0HA
8am to 9pm on Thursday 23 Dec
and 8am-1.30pm on Friday 24
December
Free car parking available

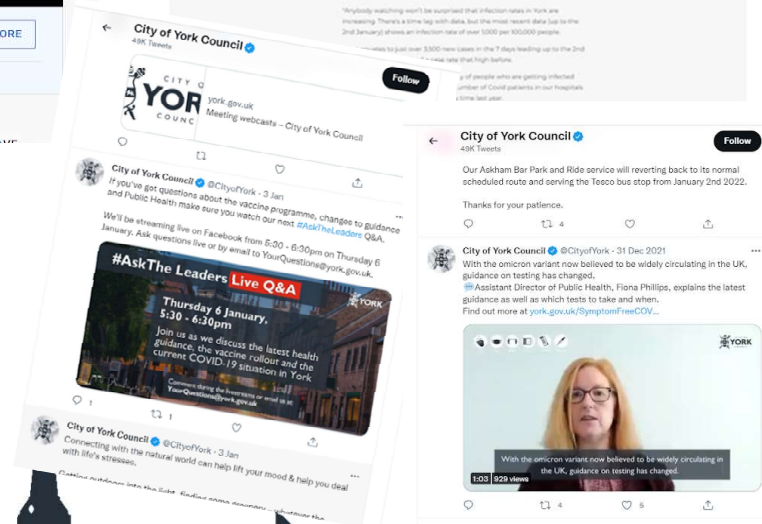
You can also book a booster jab by calling 119 from 7am until 11pm seven days a week, or online at <https://www.nhs.uk/CovidVaccine>

Share accurate and timely messaging: Facebook Live O & A



Facebook Live

- 28 comments, 3 shares, 9 reactions
- 843 3-second views, 1881 reach



Working together to improve and make a difference

18/01/22

Share accurate and timely messaging – media work



Since November 25 we've 53 press releases issued, with 21 COVID or health-related. For the same period there were 64 media enquiries, of which 21 were COVID related

Date	Title
14 January 2022	Process set up to get grants to York businesses
10 January 2022	New Year, New Healthier You - free health and wellbeing support
31 December 2021	#AskTheLeaders session to answer public health questions
30 December 2021	Keep well this winter
27 December 2021	Have a Happy and Safe 2022
23 December 2021	Lord Mayor makes special festive delivery to York residents
21 December 2021	Council stands ready to administer grants to support York businesses
21 December 2021	Positive response to business growth vouchers: 450 businesses get support
21 December 2021	City of York Council staff step up to help NHS COVID booster rollout
15 December 2021	City of York Council to maintain a Public Health focus
15 December 2021	City of York council resumes Covid safe meetings
10 December 2021	Apply for council's business growth voucher scheme
09 December 2021	Residents invited to celebrate Christmas cheer
08 December 2021	New support for victims of domestic abuse
06 December 2021	Statement from Council leader on Saturday's city centre protest
03 December 2021	Residents with mental illness experience to co-produce new service in 2022
30 November 2021	City of York council steps up winter campaign; Omicron controls launched
26 November 2021	York administers 50,000th assisted COVID test
22 November 2021	York Education Futures strategy and conference shape post-Covid learning
18 November 2021	Photo opp: City of York commits to a safe and happy X-mask
15 November 2022	Free help and support for Alcohol Awareness week

Looking forward

Continued work with partners and using different channels to reach as many people as possible.

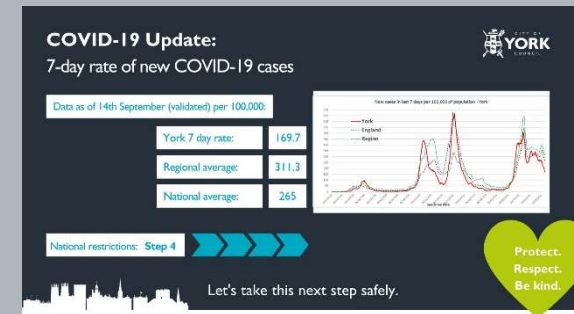
Regular communications:

- Resident, business, members and partners, and families e-newsletters
- Regular press releases and media interviews
- Continued social media campaigns
- Facebook live as and when required

Horizon scanning:

- Support to businesses - monitoring
- Rule changes from 26th January, Mental and physical health and self-help
- NHS demand messages
- 12 – 15 and 16 – 17 vaccinations

Regularly share case data and vaccination update



Working together to improve and make a difference

Physical fitness

Physical health - #WhatsMyNextStep

We've issued toolkits to partners to help them support people get more active more often to rebuild their strength and fitness post-COVID. The toolkits included case studies, articles for newsletters and intranets, plus social media posts. The three steps were:

Step 1 - in the home

Step 2 - activity outdoors (plus interviews with Greatest Hits Radio and Global Radio)

Step 3 - re-joining clubs and groups and getting more active socially.

York people urged to get more active

By Emily Horner | @EmilyAMHorner
Digital Reporter



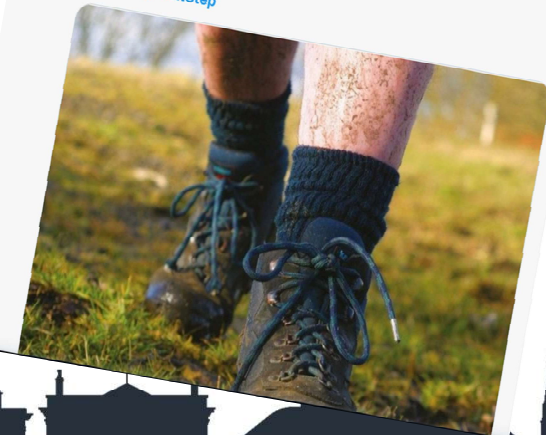
4 comments

COUNCIL chiefs are urging York residents to exercise more for their physical and mental wellbeing - with a campaign and two grant schemes available for sports clubs.



York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS FT @YST... · Aug 16 ...
From stepping out in Acomb Wood to rambling round Wheldrake Ings, why not make your daily walk a little more interesting and challenging? Break the routine of your lockdown walks with these 35 brilliant walks in nature at: itravelyork.info/downloads/download...

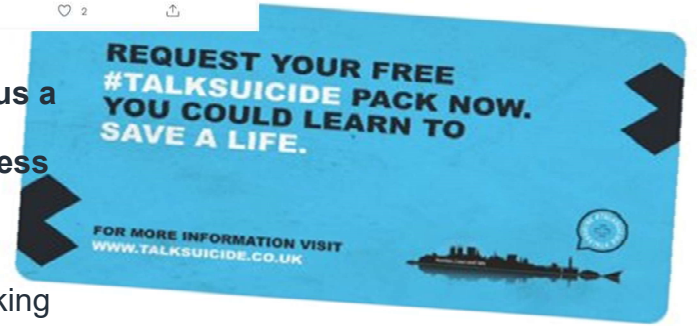
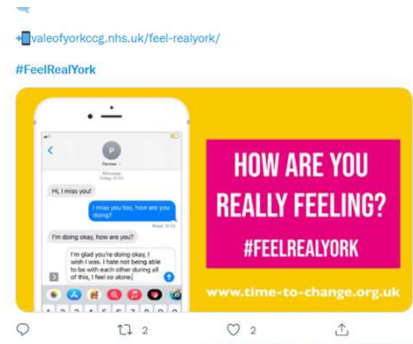
#WhatsMyNextStep



Working together to improve and make a difference



@CityofYork · Sep 18
 What to do if someone you know is struggling with
 ...
 ...bring FREE suicide prevention training to spot the
 ...
 ...



Mental health

#FeelRealYork toolkit update:

Our toolkits for include brief articles for intranets and newsletters, plus a suite of social media posts and graphics. The aim is to encourage honest, real conversations about mental fitness and promote helpful resources.

The latest toolkits shared internally and with partners include:

- **Suicide Prevention Day:** sent in early September and focusing on taking the #TalkSuicide training.
- **Bereavement:** Sent in early October, to partners in the health and care sector
- **World Mental Health Day:** sent in mid-October
- **Student wellbeing:** sent late October as fresher start/(students return)
- **York Business Week:** mental health workshops were amplified
- **Challenge Poverty, Talk Month:** we posted on how mental health can be affected by money worries, talking therapies.



Have you experienced a bereavement during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Do you work in health, care or emergency services across North Yorkshire, Vale of York and Humberside?

We can help...

The Humber, Coast and Vale Resilience Hub supports health, care and emergency workers and their families who have been impacted by COVID-19.

Our COVID-19 bereavement support group offers a safe and supportive environment where you can discuss and share your experiences with others.

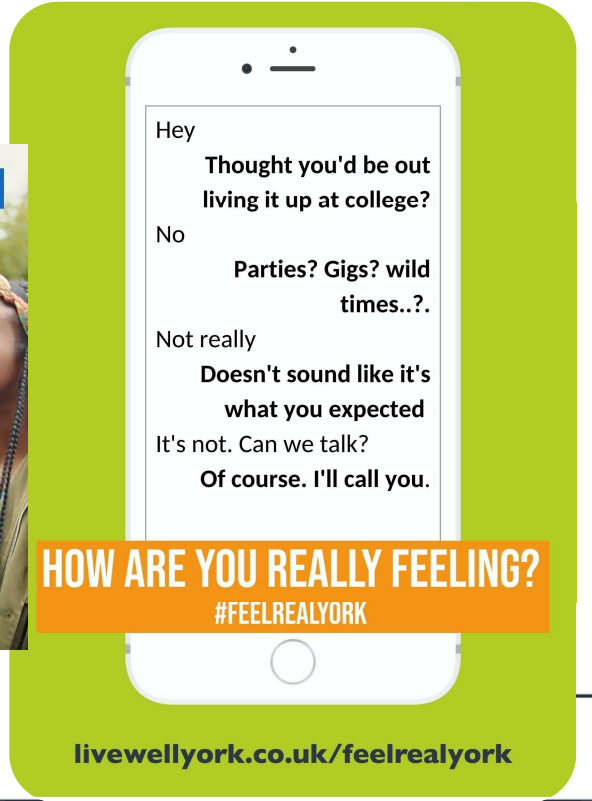
Groups take place on a Monday between 4 - 5pm

If you think you would benefit from joining one of our groups you can register your interest by visiting our website, emailing us or calling us on the number below.



The Humber, Coast and Vale Resilience Hub

If you are a health, care or emergency worker and struggling with the impact of COVID-19 we are here to help
 Visit www.hcvresiliencehub@nhs.uk for more information
 You can also email: tevv.hcv-resiliencehub@nhs.net



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Universities and Colleges Sub Group - Update for the Outbreak Management Advisory Board

Summary

This regular report from the Universities and Colleges sub group provides updates for the Outbreak Management Board on covid measures and mitigations across HE and FE institutions in the city, including our collective response to omicron, access to testing, and vaccination access.

Detail

1. Omicron and Case Data

Since our last report to OMAB the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid has had a substantial impact on our institutions.

As we have seen across society there has been a significant increase in the number of cases across the staff and student populations. However, rates have not risen in a direct proportion to overall rates in the city and are generally lower across university and college settings than comparable local, regional or national rates.

At the time of writing, the University of York had 90 active student cases within York, down from a peak of over 100 in early January. There continues to be a steady number of new cases per day, but currently total levels of infection across the student community are substantially lower than previous peaks. The University of York has also seen an increase in staff cases too, although the vast majority of these are in staff who were already working from home as a result of Plan B measures.

At York St. John University there are currently 97 students isolating due to a positive test result, again down from a peak of 125 earlier in the month. Many of these students have not yet returned to York from the holiday and are reporting positive tests from their home addresses. York St John also continues to see a number of staff cases across the University

Across both Universities we continue to see no evidence of transmission within teaching and learning spaces or significant clusters of infections or outbreaks on our campuses. The fact that rates across the student population are tracking well below regional averages is also, we believe, a good indicator that our current mitigations, especially high levels of testing and vaccination are having an impact.

2. Plan B

The government announced on 8 December 2021 that they would be implementing “Plan B” contingencies across England, as described in the national covid response policies. In line with these measures, a number of colleagues at all institutions are now working from home although face to face education continues to be delivered and a large number of staff in all institutions continue to work in person to provide critical frontline services, research, support for students and, of course, teaching.

All institutions have also reviewed and revised policies on face coverings in line with the Plan B measures and continue to provide regular reminders to staff and students of the importance of face coverings as a mitigation against covid transmission. All institutions also continue to hold their own local outbreak response plans which could be deployed in response to a rise in local cases independent of the national introduction of Plan B.

3. Testing and Vaccinations

All four Universities and Colleges are continuing to work closely with city partners to ensure high vaccination rates across our student population. We continue to see good uptake and little to no sign of vaccine hesitancy across our communities. At York St. John University Student survey data this month shows around 65% of the student body have been boosted, with 93% either boosted or double jabbed . At the University of York data also suggests a good uptake of boosters, with 70% of respondents to a recent survey indicating they had already been boosted. To date 83% of students at the University of York are reporting that they are either double or triple jabbed.

All institutions are continuing to regularly promote uptake of vaccinations to our students using our own communications material; locally coordinated messages and collateral from national campaigns. Further pop up clinics targeting our student communities are also planned, particularly to drive up booster uptake further still.

The University of York also hosted a satellite booster clinic in partnership with Nimbuscare as part of the pre-Christmas national booster campaign, where several thousand members of the local community were vaccinated.

Use of LFDs continues to be widespread across institutions, with large numbers of home testing kits being collected regularly by both staff and students. CYC testing sites at both Universities also saw considerable demand in late December and early January, but we remain assured by DHSC and UKHSA of future availability of LFD kits.