

[NCC 17/10/24](#)

New weight management service for children and young people

Norfolk County Council has launched a new service to support children and young people (CYP) aged 4-18 and their families to make long-term, sustainable changes to their health, weight and wellbeing.

In collaboration with DDM Health's Gro Health platform, the weight management service offers a mix of face-to-face and digital resources to better support CYP and families maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle.

The multidisciplinary team supporting the programme includes dietitians, psychologists, physical activity specialists, and behavioural change experts, all working together to provide a well-rounded service.

The digital app is NHS certified and NICE accredited. Residents can access the service through primary care referrals or by self-referral. To check eligibility and register, please visit: www.grohealth.com/norfolk.

Further information about the new service is available in our news release [here](#).

Helping the vulnerable to keep warm this winter

Norfolk County Council is looking to use £1.15m of the £6.7m allocated to the county through the Household Support Fund to keep people warm and help them make ends meet.

This additional use of our allocation follows the government's decision to make the winter fuel payment means tested from this winter.

The county council will use £0.75m to partner with local organisations, including Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureau, to reach some of those most affected by the changes to the Winter Fuel Payments. They will also put £400k into the 'warm spaces' scheme which provides vital respite in community spaces across the county.

Additional proposals for the fund also include £3.6m to continue providing cost-of-living vouchers for families eligible for means tested free school meals.

Further information and a link to the cabinet member decision is available [here](#).

Flood Action

The Environment Agency is urging the public to ensure they are prepared for a flood as they mark the annual 'Flood Action Week', which this year runs from 14-20 October.

Norfolk County Council has a range of useful information and advice related to flooding and to steps people can take to protect their home.

The link to the council webpages, is available [here](#).

Flood Action in Attleborough

Working under the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance, preparations have been made in North Attleborough to ensure floodwaters can drain away effectively this winter.

Breckland District, Norfolk County and Attleborough Town Councils, alongside Anglian Water, have pooled resources to ensure the work is carried out before autumn and winter rains bring the risk of more flooding in the area. This work has included the shifting of 100 tons of debris.

Further details available [here](#).

The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance is a taskforce, brought together in early 2021, to work so that Norfolk communities and infrastructure are safer and more resilient to the risks of inland and coastal flooding.

Apprenticeships in Norfolk

More than 200 apprentices have been able to start at businesses and organisations across Norfolk thanks to a scheme that has transferred £2.2 million to where it is most needed.

Apprenticeships Norfolk's Levy Support Scheme enables unspent funds, which would otherwise be returned to HM Treasury, to be transferred to employers that can use them to fund apprenticeships, for new or existing staff.

Further information about the success of the scheme is available in our press release [here](#).

To find out more about the Levy Support Scheme, [visit the Apprenticeships Norfolk website](#) or contact the team at apprenticeships@norfolk.gov.uk or on 0344 800 8024.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service – car washing challenge

Staff from across Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) are taking on a fundraising challenge in aid of The Fire Fighters Charity.

Crews and other service staff will be based at 27 fire stations across Norfolk for the simultaneous car wash event. They will be armed with sponges, buckets and gallons of water, with crews from stations alongside staff from NFRS's professional services teams rolling up their sleeves to help. Their aim to wash 999 cars during the event.

The event takes place on Saturday 26th October from 10am to 2pm

Everyone is welcome to bring their car for a wash and to make a donation.

Further details and a list of participating fire stations available [here](#).

National updates

Industrial Strategy – green paper

The Government has published the green paper for its industrial strategy, '[Invest 2035: The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy](#)'. The strategy is intended to drive long-term growth in key sectors that is sustainable, resilient, and distributed across the country.

The 8 key sectors the government will focus on are:

- advanced manufacturing
- clean energy industries
- creative industries

- defence
- digital and technologies
- financial services
- life sciences
- professional and business services

The Government said it will also seek to support net zero, regional growth, and economic security and resilience.

Simultaneously, the Government has [opened a consultation](#) on the development of the industrial strategy. The consultation closes on 24 November 2024

The final Industrial Strategy will be published in Spring 2025, alongside the multi-year Spending Review.

Funding for nursery places

A £15 million funding pot to allow primary schools to deliver hundreds of nursery places has been launched. It forms the first stage of the Government's plan to open an additional 3,000 nurseries in England through "upgrading space" in primary schools, as Labour stated in its manifesto.

Schools can bid for up to £150,000 of funding to use solely for capital expenditure, to convert surplus space within a school building so that it is suitable for nursery provision.

The Department of Education expect the funding to be allocated to successful schools in spring 2025 to support delivery for the first cohort of places for the September rollout.

Further information with links to guidance for eligible schools is available [here](#).

Health and Social Care – review of the Care Quality Commission (CQC)

In May 2024, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) asked for an independent review into the operational effectiveness CQC

The full review report by Dr Penny Dash has confirmed 'significant failings' in the way the watchdog operates. It says that failings at the CQC are hampering its ability to identify poor performance at GP practices, hospitals and care homes.

The report provides seven recommendations for improvement, which are supported by the government.

The Health and Social Care Secretary has ordered immediate action and the CQC has been ordered to pause its plans for integrated care systems inspections.

The CQC will pause the process to assess integrated care systems for at least 6 months, to enable more capacity to be used for assessments of providers and local authorities

It is not expected that this will change the inspection process that Adult Social Services are currently preparing for.

The CQC response to the review has accepted all the recommendations, which focus on their internal structure and the assessment framework. You can read their response and the full report [here](#).

Health and Social Care – new review of patient safety

Following on from the review of the CQC and a focus on operational effectiveness, the Health and Social Care Secretary has asked for further reviews.

[The next review](#) will examine the roles and remits of six key organisations and make recommendations on whether patient safety could be bolstered through a different approach. The 6 organisations are:

- Care Quality Commission (CQC) including the maternity programme (MNSI)
- National Guardian's Office (NGO)
- Healthwatch England (HWE) and the Local Healthwatch (LHW) network.
- Health Services Safety Investigation Body
- Patient Safety Commissioner
- NHS Resolution (quality and safety functions only)

Review findings will also be used to inform the government's 10-year health plan.

Veterans Cards approved as voter ID

The government has backed the armed forces community by allowing [HM Armed Forces Veteran Cards to be used as Voter ID in forthcoming elections](#), while a wider review of the Voter ID policy takes place to understand its impact on citizens.

The government laid a statutory instrument in Parliament to put the HM Armed Forces Veteran Card on the list of photographic identifications accepted in polling stations as voter ID, in addition to the already accepted MOD 90 ID card.

The Government hopes it will help around 2 million veterans engage in the voting process in time for the local elections in May 2025.

Firework safety

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has produced [safety tips for this fireworks season](#) on how to use fireworks responsibly and considerately to help protect both people and animals.

Kind regards

Cllr James Bensly