



RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL WEEKLY ROUNDUP – 22 OCTOBER 2021

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1. COVID-19

a. Latest situation

As of 4.00pm on Thursday 22 October, 8,689,949 people have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK. Of those who have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, 139,326 people have died across all settings within 28 days of a positive test.

As of 4.00pm on Thursday 22 October, 49,603,139 people in the UK have received their first dose vaccination and 45,486,950 have received their second dose vaccination. These figures continue to be published on the government's daily dashboard: coronavirus.data.gov.uk

Rutland recorded 235 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the period between 11 and 17 October, an increase of 52 compared to the previous week. This equates to 581 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 479.

As of 20 October, 85% of people in Rutland aged 12 and over had been given first doses of COVID vaccinations; 79% had received their second dose.

A total of 74 coronavirus-related deaths were registered in Rutland up to 8 October.

b. Director of Public Health update

Mike Sandys – Rutland's Director of Public Health

COVID cases are rising across the country, which has prompted lots of discussion in the news about contingency plans heading into winter. We've been clear that COVID remains a risk – even for those who have been vaccinated – so now is a good time to remind ourselves of the simple but highly effective ways we can all stay protected. Regular handwashing, masks in crowded spaces and opening windows to improve ventilation may have fallen by the wayside for some people. However, these measures are just as important today as they were at the height of the pandemic.

COVID cases in Rutland have risen in line with the national picture and are particularly high at the moment. Like the rest of the country, the majority of our cases appear to be among the younger 10-20 age groups who are now starting to receive the COVID vaccine in greater numbers. This will help but we must all take precautions to stay safe. Testing rates also remain high in Rutland, which is helping to identify cases. I would encourage people to please keep up with regular COVID testing as another effective way to prevent the spread of infection, even if you don't have any COVID symptoms.

Information about the types of COVID test that are available and when to take them can be found online at: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

c. International travel

What you need to do when you travel to England depends on whether you qualify as fully vaccinated or not.

To qualify under the fully vaccinated rules for travel to England, you must have been fully vaccinated with a full course of an approved vaccine under:

- The UK or UK overseas vaccination programme
- The United Nations vaccine programme for staff and volunteers
- An approved programme in one of a number of listed countries

Full details of this can be found [on the national GOV.UK website](#).

You can still travel to England if you do not qualify as fully vaccinated but [you must follow different rules](#).

There are also [different rules if you have been in a red list country or territory](#) in the last 10 days and you may not be allowed to enter England.

2. WIDER COUNCIL OPERATIONS

a. Community Care Services: Supported Living

Staff at our supported Living cottages of Ash and Hawthorn are continuing to support the 12 service users who live there to maintain a healthy and happy lifestyle while promoting independence and supporting them to achieve individual goals.

The supported Living staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support the service users and keep them safe, incorporating stringent infection control measures and meeting national government guidelines to ensure that these are met and updated on a regular basis.

Staff have worked tremendously hard and gone above and beyond the requirements of their jobs with the support from staff from Day Opportunities and Micare.

Recruitment to fill vacant roles has been difficult – more so than at any other time.

Our Day Opportunities service has also moved to Oakham Enterprise Park – this is an exciting new venture where we are moving away from the old school day service to offer a more bespoke individually tailored service to the people we support.

As a service we are looking to recruit to all areas and would encourage anyone who has an interest in our service to apply or just contact us for a chat to discuss options. We are looking to recruit anyone who has an interest in this line of work or previous experience and would like to join our team making a difference to individual's lives.

b. MiCare service pressures

MiCare continue to be under pressure to pick up hospital discharges while still having Safetynet cases waiting to go onto private providers. It is looking likely that there will be some movement in the next week and we continue to work closely with Brokerage to get the service users the support they need. Micare also sit on the Domiciliary Care Crisis Meetings, working with other areas to see how we can pull together to ease the crisis.

There are also pressures from staff having to take Annual Leave which closes capacity further. We have recruited to a vacancy, so when the recruitment checks are finished we can begin their induction. Some staff have also taken on some extra hours on a temporary basis to help ease the pressure. Micare continue to support with Track and Trace visits.

Staff retention in this area is good. The service recently celebrated a staff member who has been working for 25 years, and the only vacancy has been to cover hours dropped by a member of staff, who is going to university to further her career in Adult Social Care and still works part time for the team.

c. National Care Leavers Week

National Care Leavers' Week runs from 25-31 October. It focuses on highlighting the needs of care leavers, and encouraging the agencies responsible for looking after them to work in a coordinated and effective way. It is also an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the successes of care leavers from across the UK in the hope that it will inspire them to achieve their full potential.

Here in Rutland, we have a total of 40 care leavers who live in various parts of the UK ranging from Manchester, London, Swansea, Hull, Leicestershire, Leicester, Rutland, Cambridgeshire, and Scunthorpe to name a few. Our leaving care services run care leaver clinics at different locations across the UK to support our care leavers with any challenges they may face such as issues with bills, housing, employment/training and education.

The vast majority of our Care Leavers are either in Higher Education, Further Education, or employment. We have young adults undertaking paid employment such as carers looking after dementia patients, labouring work and work within educational settings. Other young adults attend college courses in areas such as Health and Social Care, Dramatic Arts, Functional Skills and our cohort of university students are completing degrees in areas such as Graphic Design, Music, Nursing, Psychology and one care leaver who has embarked on a degree in Teaching – to name a few. The service are really proud of these young people who despite facing adversity in their younger years have demonstrated a real sense of resilience and wanting to achieve in their lives.

Sadly, there are some care leavers who struggle with day to day life and the pandemic has had a significant impact on them in terms of employment leading to financial hardship which impacts their overall mental and emotional well-being. This combined with isolation and loneliness has made for a very challenging two years. We work very hard to support this group of care leavers, for example, 1:1 work with those care leavers focusing on employment, training and education, CV work and also emotional wellbeing sessions to support young adults in accessing opportunities to realise their potential and aspirations.

The needs of care leavers, one of our most vulnerable groups in society, remains a high area of focus in Rutland to ensure that their aspirations continue to be supported and that their talents and achievements continue to be highlighted and celebrated.

d. Supporting Black History Month

Black History Month enables both adults and children to gain a broader understanding of Black histories, going beyond racism and slavery to also spotlight Black achievement.

Black History Month was first celebrated in the UK in October 1987 and is observed every year, both here and around the world. Rutland County Council is supporting Black History Month and its staff-led Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group has produced a special newsletter with resources and spotlights that can help people learn more. This newsletter comes attached with the weekly Rutland Roundup. You can also find out more by visiting: www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk.

e. 1,001 Critical Days

The first 1,001 days, from conception to the age of two years, is an important and influential time in a child's life. During this time a baby's brain is shaped by his/her experiences, in particular, the interactions with parents and other caregivers. What happens during this time lays the foundations for a child's future, cognitive, emotional, social, physical, and communicative development.

Local authorities and NHS partners are working together to promote this important area of work. Colleagues across Rutland's children's services are coming together as part of an online stakeholder event on Wednesday 10th November 2021, which will provide the opportunity to hear from those leading and working in this field. The purpose of the event is to share the vision and the aims to work together to deliver integrated and culturally appropriate support to children and families, in the first 1001 critical days of a child and families' life. To read more about this important initiative, please visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-best-start-for-life-a-vision-for-the-1001-critical-days.

f. Planning Policy update: CIL payments to Town and Parish Councils

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments to Town and Parish Councils have been calculated and letters sent last week to inform these and ward members.

Town and Parish Councils should receive payments on 26th October 2021.

Payments are due to be made to Ashwell, Edith Weston, Ketton, North Luffenham, Uppingham and Wing. In addition, there is a neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy to be spent in the Barrow Parish Meeting area, which will be held by the County Council.

g. StreetSafe reporting

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews has welcomed the launch of a new online tool enabling women and girls to flag areas of the county that make them feel unsafe.

StreetSafe is a three-month national pilot launched by the Home Office as part of its strategy to tackle violence against women and girls.

It will enable users to pin drop areas on a map where they feel at increased risk of crime – regardless of whether an offence has actually taken place.

The data will be available to police and crime commissioners to improve safety and target resources in the right places, implementing additional security measures including night-time patrols and better street lighting.

StreetSafe has the support of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and is hosted on the national policing website police.uk.

It is primarily aimed at women and girls and will allow the public to anonymously drop a pin on a map and describe the factors that cause them concern, including behavioural and environmental reasons why they felt unsafe including poorly-lit walkways to incidents of public harassment.

The information will be used alongside other key data by policing, in partnership with stakeholders, to deliver improved wellbeing and safety for communities.

Changes and improvements could range from installing CCTV and street lighting across a park or common, to introducing night-time patrols led by officers or members of the local community, such as Neighbourhood Watch groups.

You can access StreetSafe online at: www.police.uk/streetsafe.

3. GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING

a. This week

The following meetings took place this week (w/c Monday 18 October):

- [Planning and Licensing Committee, Tuesday 19 October](#)

b. Look ahead

The following meetings will take place next week (Monday 25 October):

- [Cabinet, Tuesday 26 October](#)
- [Employment and Appeals Committee, Tuesday 26 October](#)

The latest version of the [RCC Forward Plan](#) can be viewed online.

c. Interim Monitoring Officer appointment

Marie Rosenthal is joining Rutland County Council as Interim Monitoring Officer, while we recruit a permanent Monitoring Officer following Phil Horsfield's recent promotion with another local authority.

Marie has been working in local government for many years and has been monitoring officer and council solicitor at a wide range of authorities. Marie will be advising on a range of legal and governance matters, including elections.

4. STAFF NEWS

a. Starters

We welcomed the following new starters this week:

- Daanyaal Ismail, Accountant
- Mia Joyce, Community Support Worker
- Mike Blakesley, School Transport Driver
- Megan Horner, Community Support Worker

5. RCC IN THE NEWS

a. Media coverage

- [Rutland Water celebrates Green Flag Award](#)
- [High infection rate attributable to younger generation in South Kesteven and Rutland](#)

ENDS