

Cllrs update August 13th

Students across the country received their A level, T Level and Level 3 VTQ results today. There is a wide range of support available for students considering further study, training, employment or other options. This includes advice on courses, careers and alternative routes for those who do not yet have plans in place for September. Students, parents and carers can go to the county council's advice and support, particularly where unsure about next steps or needs help after receiving results. Further detail about the support available is available in the [county council press release](#).

Support is available for families who may be struggling with back-to-school costs, including essential clothing and school uniform. The County Council's Crisis and Resilience Service (CRS) can provide help where households are experiencing financial hardship. A targeted promotion will run in mid-August when a direct e-mail will be sent to parents and carers of children who receive free school meals, including a link to apply for help with school uniform costs.

Support is for Norfolk residents aged 16 or over who can demonstrate financial hardship and are either claiming benefits or working on a low income with minimal disposable income. They can also signpost residents to wider financial and practical support to help manage immediate pressures and improve resilience.

A £1m budget has been allocated to the school uniform promotion, within the wider £6m CRS budget for 2026/27. Find out more about the range of help available through the Crisis and Resilience Service at www.norfolk.gov.uk/CRS. From 17 August there will be a specific link to [apply for school uniform support](#) (this link will work from 17 August). Residents who are not able to apply online can apply by phone through the NCC Customer Contact Centre on 0344 800 8020.

As fire crews continue to deal with outdoor fires, Norfolk residents are urged to continue to take extra care when out and about this summer to cut the risk of avoidable fires.

Norfolk County Council will trial an innovative pothole repair machine as part of ongoing work to improve road maintenance and keep Norfolk's highways in the best possible condition. The trial will take place during the first week of September on planned repairs in South Norfolk. The machine and operator are being provided at no cost to the Council for this short trial. If this short trial is successful, a longer-term trial will be arranged.

The Camera Safety Team Manager has been out and about in our division collecting speeding data and non-compliance with speed limits. She has found a couple of sites for enforcement and one to liaise with the police. If you would like me to ask her to monitor any sites in your village that haven't been done, please let me know.

The Stroke Association is hosting Stroke Information Live on 22nd September 2026 at the Norfolk Showground. This free event has been designed specifically for stroke survivors, carers, family members and friends, offering practical information, inspiring speakers, local support organisations and the chance to connect with others who understand life after stroke. See attached poster for details.

National Updates

Having a say in the future of personal independence payments (PIP)

Disabled people and people with long-term health conditions are being invited by the Government to take part in workshops to help shape recommendations for the future of Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

The 15 workshops will be held online and in person across the UK during September and October 2026. They include a specific online session for Norwich and surrounding areas on Tuesday 29 September. Each workshop lasts from 10am to 4pm, with regular breaks, and will have a maximum of 20 participants. Reasonable adjustments will be made for participants.

The workshops will be used to discuss and refine the Timms Review's emerging recommendations.

Councillors may wish to share this opportunity with residents, local disability organisations, carers' groups and advice services who may know people with lived experience of disability or long-term health conditions. Registration opens on Wednesday 12 August 2026 at 10am and closes on Friday 21 August 2026 at 5pm.

Selected participants will be informed by 4 September 2026.

Further information and details on how to register interest are available [here](#).

Crackdown on vaping and betting shops to revitalise high streets

The [Government has announced](#) plans to require new vape shops and adult gaming centres to obtain planning permission. It also intends to give councils greater powers to block betting shops and close businesses selling illegal tobacco.

The changes are intended to give local councils and communities a stronger say over whether new betting shops, vape shops and adult gaming centres are appropriate for their area, particularly on high streets.

The Government has also said it will set clearer expectations for the design and appearance of high street shopfronts, supported by practical guidance for councils.

