

North Yorkshire Councillor report June 2025

First phase of improved recycling service to launch this month

Residents in the former Ryedale area will benefit from an improved recycling service later this month, as part of the first phase of a countywide roll-out.

The majority of residents will have now received two new wheelie bins ahead of their alternate fortnightly household recycling collections. With the remaining residents are set to receive them in the next two weeks.

As set out in the policy, these recycling bins will include one for paper and card and one for other recyclable materials, including glass, cans, plastics and cartons.

This model of collection already takes place in the Selby area and allows the council to increase the amount and quality of recycling collected at the kerbside, reduce the cost of collection, and helps towards carbon reduction.

Separating the recycling improves the quality of material, reduces processing costs, and generates a higher value when it is processed providing the best value for money for taxpayers, as well as increase recycling rates and contribute to our plans to reduce carbon emissions.

For the rest of the county, these changes will be phased in over the next two to three years. In the former Craven District this will mean the addition of a recycling bin over the existing collection regime, being collected alternately either side of the existing fortnightly general waste bin collections.

Apply to be a reading challenge volunteer at your local library

Young people are being encouraged to help run the ever-popular Summer Reading Challenge soon to launch in North Yorkshire libraries.

The challenge, which is organised by the Reading Agency, relies on volunteers aged between 13 and 24 to help run and promote it alongside library staff. The event encourages children aged between four and 11 to read six library books over the summer holidays.

This year's theme is Story Garden, inspiring children to celebrate their surroundings, explore enchanting worlds, and take on outdoor adventures through reading.

Volunteers will register children onto the challenge, help them to choose books, talk to them about the books they have read, award prizes, and assist with library activities.

To find out more about volunteering and to apply, go to or contact your local library. Applications should be made by Friday, June 27.

For more information on the Story Garden challenge, visit the website at www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Free programme of learning sessions to mark Safeguarding Week

A programme of free online sessions aimed at protecting children and adults from abuse or neglect and educating people around them to recognise the signs and report concerns is now open to the public to mark this year's Safeguarding Week, which begins on Monday, June 16.

Partners from Safeguarding Adults Boards, Children's Safeguarding Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships across North Yorkshire, the City of York Council, Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council have come together and developed an extensive programme of learning events, seminars and interactive sessions which all underpin this year's theme - "Safeguarding is everybody's business".

Spurred on by the success of Safeguarding Week 2024, partners have worked to extend the range of topics being covered this year. These include suicide prevention, support for people impacted by domestic abuse, signs of radicalisation, keeping children safe online, fraud awareness and protection, the power of the bystander amongst many other safeguarding areas.

While a number of the sessions are open only to professionals working in the safeguarding sector, the week-long programme of 65 sessions caters for members of the public, volunteers, parents and carers too who want to learn more about safeguarding.

The full programme of events, which will take place between Monday, June 16 to Friday, June 20, is open for viewing at <https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/safeguarding-week-2025/> and early registration is recommended to avoid disappointment.

City of York Council's executive member for children, young people and education, Cllr Bob Webb, said: "We're inviting residents and professionals to learn more about how we can all play a part in identifying, reporting and preventing abuse.

All the agencies involved will be sharing information across their social media channels and website in the run up to Safeguarding week and throughout the week. To follow along look for the hashtag #safeguardingweek2025.

For more information about safeguarding North Yorkshire children, young people and adults please visit [NYSCP](#) and <https://safeguardingadults.co.uk/>

North Yorkshire traders urged to sell their stock as vape ban looms

Businesses in North Yorkshire have been asked to sell their stock as a national ban on single use vapes comes into force.

From Sunday, June 1, it is illegal to sell or supply disposable (single use) vapes across England, Scotland and Wales.

Trading Standards Officers from North Yorkshire Council are encouraged traders to sell off their stock of single use vapes.

They are also asking people who are using disposable vapes to quit smoking to prepare now by switching to a reusable device and seeking free stop smoking support from www.northyorks.gov.uk/stoppingsmoking

The ban, introduced under environmental legislation, is designed to cut down on single-use plastic waste and limit underage access to vapes. From June 1, all vapes sold must be rechargeable and refillable.

Vaping remains one of the most effective tools to help smokers quit. Over half of people who successfully quit smoking in the past five years used a vape to support their quit attempt.

This new law is an important step forward for both public health and the environment helping reduce waste and prevent children from getting hold of vapes.

Residents in North Yorkshire are being urged to dispose of their used vapes responsibly. Materials used in single use vapes can be harmful to the environment and need to be disposed of separately. Vape recycling bins have been installed at all county's 20 household waste recycling centres, with the aim of avoiding them ending up in kerbside bins.

Once collected at the recycling centres, they are transported to the recycling facility to be dismantled and the lithium-ion battery is removed for processing while the metals and plastics are recycled.

Lithium-ion batteries can cause fires if they are discarded in kerbside recycling or waste bins. Most fires in the waste collection and recycling industry are caused by these batteries.

NHS advice is clear - nicotine vaping is less harmful than smoking as well as one of the most effective tools for quitting smoking. Vaping is not completely risk free and children and non-smokers should never vape.

If you are a business that needs advice about the new law or someone who wants to report a shop selling single-use or other illegal vapes, please contact the consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

Libraries launch memory bags to help those living with dementia

Residents and families affected by dementia are being offered support from their local library with the launch of a scheme aimed at unlocking memories.

Memory bags are now available to pick up from libraries across North Yorkshire, which include items, books, and activities for individuals or groups to improve their quality of life. The bags and their contents aim to promote conversations between people with memory loss as well as their family and friends.

The bags contain a selection of books from the Reading Well dementia collection, jigsaws, and sensory items such as fidget toys and scents.

They also include tactile-themed items such as gardening gloves, a gym towel and bean bags, and items to reminisce over such as seaside posters and sport programmes.

Library users can also take away items including hidden disability lanyards and a copy of the 'blue book', which contains a summary of support and activities for people living with dementia.

A booklet containing information to support making new memories, collecting old ones, and supporting people and families living with memory loss is also available.

Figures from Alzheimer's UK found that 26,233 people over the age of 65 are living with dementia in North Yorkshire and the Humber, but only 15,807 of these people have received a recorded diagnosis.

Bags can be borrowed from your local library for up to three weeks. Find your local library at www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-libraries. If a bag is not available, you can reserve it free of charge.

Home to school travel changes to remain for North Yorkshire

A motion which called for a potential U-turn of the policy failed to get support at a recent extraordinary meeting of the council (Wednesday, May 21). But commitments were given to ensure the fairest system for all parents across North Yorkshire following a debate on the authority's revised home to school transport policy. This in the face of continued financial pressures to Council budgets and given we are one of the highest spending local authorities in the country on home to school transport.

North Yorkshire Council has introduced the new policy to make sure that frontline services can be protected due to the escalating costs of providing home to school transport. It is one of the three largest areas of expenditure, now costing the council £52.5 million a year – alongside adult social care and waste management.

The council's revised home to school transport policy replaced the previous system which offered the choice of travel to the nearest school or the child's catchment area school.

The policy, which was given the go-ahead at an executive meeting in July last year, included free transport for eligible pupils to the nearest school to their home address.

It also provides support for travel to a child who lives within the statutory walking distance to their nearest suitable school if the route has been assessed as "unsafe" and there is no other alternative route below the statutory walking distance.

All routes used to take pupils to school will be risk assessed, and discretionary powers have been extended for the eligibility of travel assistance for secondary age pupils from low-income families to attend one of their three nearest suitable schools within two to 12 miles. This is to reflect the rural context of the county and ensure low-income families in rural areas are supported.

However, the motion was voted down by ten votes (35 for, 45 against and four abstain).

Families of pupils starting new schools in September who are waiting to hear if they are eligible for free travel to and from school will have already been informed.