

Following the outbreak of a novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China, there have been a number of cases in other countries, including the UK. This led to the WHO declaring a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The first UK case was reported on the 30th January 2020 and a resident of Brighton was the third case to test positive in the UK. This individual works for a company with a base in East Sussex. PHE (Public Health England) are following up a number of people across the wider geography who may have been in contact with confirmed cases. The NHS has been given detailed instructions on how to manage suspected cases, and we are arguably the best country for contact tracing. People can be reassured that the system is working together to minimise risk to the public.

PHE has the following website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Any member of the public who is concerned should ring NHS 111

The East Sussex Social Value Marketplace is a project between local authority partnership, Orbis, and ESCC Public Health Team. This was named Social Innovation of the Year at January's National Social Value Awards. The marketplace allows Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations working in communities to post requests for help on an online platform which can be considered by businesses or organisations.

<https://socialvalue.supplytoeastsussex.co.uk/about>

An exhibition highlighting the little-known history of East Sussex's LGBT communities will go on public display at various venues including Charleston, Lewes and Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, and the Towner, Eastbourne. Entitled LGBT+ equals me-a skip, a hop, and a jump, the project has taken months of work by young people who trawled the archives and visited cultural sites.

East Sussex Careers Hub brought business, education and training representatives to Eastbourne Kings Centre for the 4th annual careers event. Students with SEND and Social, Emotional and Mental Health issues were able to speak to employers, training providers, and guidance specialists for advice, support and opportunities. The "ICan careers event" gave visitors (400 attended) the chance to get help with CV writing, interview skills, and college applications, watch career-based videos, and talk to trainers, and employers. Students from 27 Sussex schools attended and the careers event was a huge success.

A teenager from Eastbourne, Lylian Nunoo, has been given the prestigious Paul Boskett Award by the British Youth Council for her powerful speech on knife crime delivered in the House of Commons. She took part in the UK Youth Parliament debate on knife crime and in an unscripted speech in the House this 15 year old made a big impression.

I asked a question at Full Council on 11th February about coverage of superfast broadband. Coverage was only 63% when ESCC and BDUK started their jointly funded project in 2013. The 3rd contract with BT Open reach finishes this summer, achieving 97% coverage. I wanted to make sure that there is total commitment from the county council to achieve 100% coverage across the county. There appears to be “gainshare” funding available, and central government is committed to broadband, 5G and other gigabit-capable networks. The lead member, Rupert Simmons assured me that ESCC is committed to 100% coverage.

Schemes to encourage cycling, walking and public transport use will benefit from a major funding boost. ESCC’s Active Access for Growth (AAFG) programme has been awarded an additional £400,000 of government money, which will allow the programme to continue till March 2021. The programme enables the county council to fund projects which boost physical activity, encourage sustainable travel, and support economic growth in Newhaven, Eastbourne, South Wealden, Bexhill and Hastings.

Pupils at Hastings Academy were visited by Shane Snelling and his gritting lorry “Ready Salted”. Shane explained to pupils how he helps to keep the county roads clear when temperatures drop. The gritter also visited Union Corner pre-school in Hailsham and All saints CE Junior school. So far this winter the fleet of 22 gritters have been out on the roads 20 times treating a total of 25,040 km of roads across the county.

Angharad Davies ES County Councillor Northern Rother