

East Sussex continues to see a low rate of infection for Covid/19. The recent cumulative rate is 298.8 cases per 100,000 of population. Total cases in East Sussex= 1665, total number of deaths has reached 100. Our local hospitals have few cases of Coronavirus now. However, residents can help control spread of the virus by getting tested if they develop symptoms, by sharing information about recent contacts if they test positive, and by self-isolating if advised to do so.

On the East Sussex web page: [Coronavirus-help and support](#)

The **Emergency Active Travel Fund** intends to provide local authorities with help to restart local transport, to promote more walking and cycling, alongside safe social distancing in our high streets and town centres. ESCC has been allocated £535k in Phase 1 and potentially £1.916m in Phase 2. Phase 1 includes road closures, footway widening, improved signage, and enhanced cycling routes across a number of areas. The campaign encourages families to walk or cycle to school.

ESCC is running a campaign to encourage East Sussex parents to **send their children back to school**. This commenced on 17th August. There are adverts on local radio, on the sides of buses, at bus stops, on social media, and on banners outside schools. The campaign aims to reassure parents that everything possible has been done to make schools safe and ready for children to return. Children are at very low risk of becoming ill with Covid/19. A redesigned curriculum, revised timetables, hand sanitiser stations, reorganisation of school furniture, increased cleaning, and safety markings inside and outside school buildings are measures being adopted by Primary and Secondary schools. Our local Consultant Community Paediatrician said “research shows that children are less affected by the Covid/19 virus, they are very unlikely to become seriously unwell if they do carry the virus, and even those with complex health needs are not affected to a greater extent than they are with other common viruses. Children are not super-spreaders. The role children play in passing on the virus is very limited”.

Projects to help the East Sussex economy has been boosted by £11m from government funding. All eight schemes put forward by ESCC to deliver jobs and aid economic recovery have been supported by the **“Getting Building Fund”**. Projects include the conversion of a building in Newhaven to create commercial space for marine sector businesses, the restoration of a Victorian pavilion in Eastbourne’s Winter Gardens, and the creation of retail, leisure, office, and community space in the Observer Building in Hastings. Also being developed is the world’s first large-scale solar farm to directly power electrified railways in East Sussex. This funding is part of £85m secured by the Local Enterprise Partnership, SELEP, for a total of 34 projects across East Sussex, Kent and Essex.

A consultation on the effects of **alcoholism** opened on 13th August. The public are being asked about the effects of drinking on everyday life, and whether these have increased due to lock down and the pandemic. Drinking alcohol is a complex issue, on the one hand being a part of many peoples' social lives, and on the other hand being a healthy industry which sustains jobs and livelihoods. Alcohol also causes harm and serious health complications, and consumes millions of pounds of taxpayers' money. Often the harm is greatest for the poorest. For more information: Alcohol consultation

Cash boosts of between £1000 and £15,000 are being made available for projects to help prevent **suicide and self-harm** in people at high risk. Groups and organisations have till September 7th to apply for a share of the **Suicide Prevention Fund**, launched by Sussex Health and Care Partnership. Funding can only be given to constituted groups. Voluntary Action in East Sussex can provide details of how to set up a constituted group. Contact libby.hill@eastsussex.gov.uk

The pandemic has had a huge effect on many peoples' lives. People finding it difficult to cope are being encouraged to ask for help **from Community Connectors**. This is a service set up to improve mental health and well being. Between April and June, the service-commissioned by ESCC and the CCGs, and delivered by Southdown---received only 147 referrals, compared to nearly 400 between January and March. People can self refer, or refer through their GP. The team at Community Connectors works in partnership with GPs in Hastings, Rother, Eastbourne, Seaford and Hailsham and can connect face-to-face or virtually or by phone. More information from: www.southdown.org/CommunityConnectors

As part of the continued recruitment drive to bring more Police Officers to Sussex, the Force is now recruiting over 90 new PCs to join the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship Scheme. Women, particularly, are being encouraged to join.

The PCC has a community safety fund, with grants of up to £5000 available for groups providing crime diversion and prevention activities that deliver positive and lasting impact for residents. Please check the PCC website for more information.

ESCC has secured £500,000 which it is hoped will support up to 250 businesses to grow, and create more than 100 new jobs. The project, part of **SE Business Boost**, and funded by the European Regional Development Fund, will also offer assistance to new enterprises and support local women and BAME entrepreneurs.

Call the Business East Sussex Growth Hub on 01273 335878

Or email: info@businesseastsussex.org.uk

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