

Local context

Community Engagement - *Hampshire Perspectives*

During this time of change, it is important that the County Council can undertake regular engagement with residents to understand core local issues. The County Council is therefore developing a virtual residents' forum - *Hampshire Perspectives* - to gain further insight during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Having a 'ready' forum of residents will enable engagement to be responsive, specifically targeted, and actionable. This will allow the County Council to move quickly to shape services and make informed decisions. Forum members will be asked to share their perspectives via short online questionnaires or polls. Occasionally, members may also be invited to join in other types of research such as focus groups, interviews, or formal consultations, conducted in a Covid-safe way.

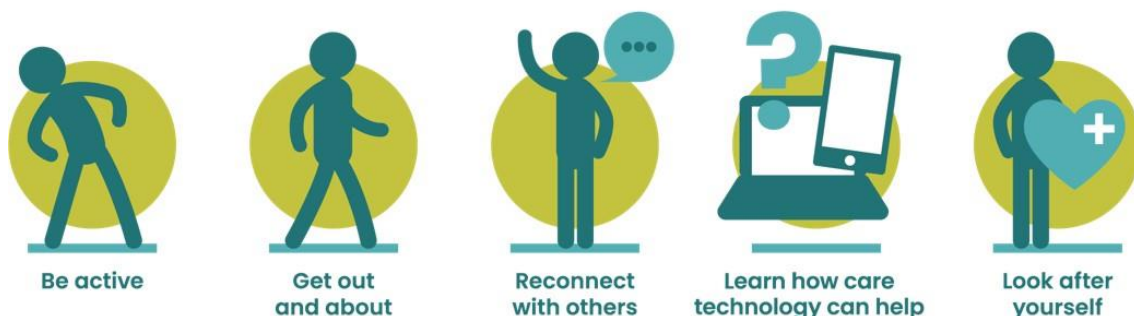
Recruitment of a representative group (around 200 per District) of Hampshire residents aged 18 and over will commence in mid-August through relevant communications channels. Groups that have traditionally been excluded will be directly targeted.

It's OK to...

The *It's Ok To...* digital campaign went live on Monday 10 August with adverts on Facebook and Google initially targeting people who have interests in topics relating to shielding. The adverts link to a new [landing page on Connect to Support Hampshire](#) that details the five key actions of the campaign and signposts to relevant parts of the website.

The campaign aims to reassure people who are coming out of shielding with practical advice to feel confident with getting going again. It recognises that some people may feel nervous at first and it may take a while to get used to things that were considered "normal" before Covid-19.

It's OK to...

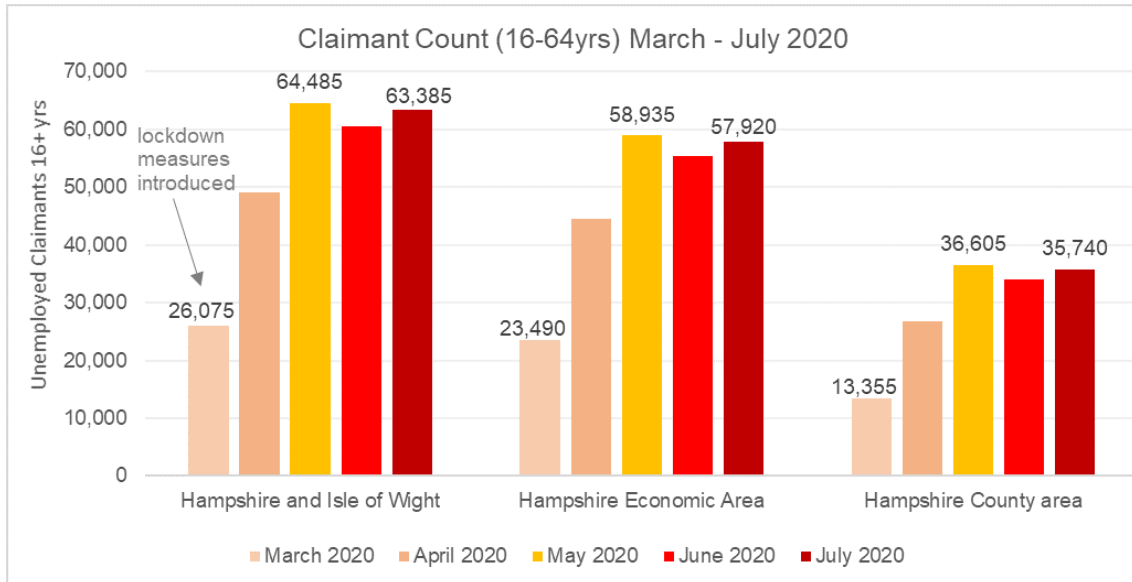


Local claimant counts

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has [published](#) the labour market overview for August 2020. The ONS data shows that in the Hampshire County area, there was an increase in the monthly unemployed claimant count from 34,025 (June) to 35,740 (July). The working age rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 4.3%. All age groups saw a rise

in claimant counts, with the 16-24 age group, who are more vulnerable in a recession, increasing by 410 on the month and up by 5,550 on July 2019.

The comparable working age UK rate is 6.4% and the South East region 5.3% - which means the Hampshire County area rate sits below the benchmarks. However, Portsmouth (7.1%), Southampton (6.9%), and the Isle of Wight (6.8%) are above both benchmarks. Looking at the data on a district level, Havant (6.3%) and Gosport (5.5%) are above the South East benchmarks, while Hart has the lowest working age rate in Hampshire at 3.3%.



Green recovery

Hampshire County Council has submitted a bid to the Government for a further £3.45 million to deliver a range of schemes to help redesign some roads and high streets to support social distancing, assist economic recovery and support people who want to continue walking and cycling more.

The County Council submitted a successful bid earlier in the year for £863,000 for temporary pop-up measures to help people socially distance more easily. We have listened to feedback from residents and worked in partnership with, Town Councils, Parishes, and Borough and District Council colleagues to develop plans to change our towns and high streets and implement new schemes which encourage active travel such as walking and cycling.

For more information, please see the [press release](#). For more information about the bid visit the [transport webpages](#), and for more information about the range of temporary changes see the [Covid travel webpage](#).

National context

Children and education

GSCE and A level results

The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has [announced](#) a new 'triple lock' process which aims to give young people added security as they receive their grades. Students can

accept their calculated grade, appeal to receive a valid mock result, or sit autumn exams. It has also been confirmed that £30 million has been earmarked to help fund schools for the cost of pupils resitting exams.

School transport

On Saturday (8 August) the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, [announced](#) more than £40 million of funding for local transport authorities to ease pressure on public transport as students return in September.

Local transport authorities will be allocated the funding to reflect the number of children and young people in the local area and how far they have to travel. This includes students travelling to education or training, as well as anyone supervising or escorting students to education provision.

The guidance on school transport has been [published](#), this will apply from the start of the autumn term and contains information on managing capacity and demand on public transport and taking measures to reduce risk on dedicated home to school or college transport.

Technology

For the 2020 to 2021 academic year, the Government will make more laptops and tablets available for disadvantaged children in certain year groups who are affected by disruption to face to face education at their school, or have been advised to shield because they are clinically extremely vulnerable.

The Department for Education has [published](#) guidance on how schools can access these digital devices.

National Tutoring Programme

From autumn 2020, schools will be able to access support for children and young people who have been most affected by school closures during the Covid-19 outbreak through the National Tutoring Programme. Tutoring will begin from the second half of the autumn term and increase through the spring term 2021. Schools can now [register interest](#) in joining the programme.

Ofsted visits

Ofsted has [confirmed](#) that it will start carrying out visits to some nurseries and childminders from September 2020. They have published [guidance on interim visits](#) that sets out how they will work in practice and which providers will be visited.

University places

The Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan, has [written](#) to all Vice-Chancellors asking them to hold places for students appealing their A level results until they receive the outcome of the appeal, where possible. The Minister has also said universities should take into account a range of evidence when admitting students to courses.

Adults' social care and public health

NHS Test and Trace service

The Government has [announced](#) that NHS Test and Trace and Public Health England (PHE) will extend its partnership with councils.

Upper tier local authorities, responsible for public health, will be provided with dedicated ring-fenced teams from the national service.

Long-term health impacts of COVID-19

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, has [launched](#) a comprehensive research study into the long-term health impacts of Covid-19. This will assess the impact on around 10,000 patients who have been hospitalised, with the study focusing on their health, recovery, possible ways to help improve their mental health and how individual characteristics influence their recovery, such as gender or ethnicity. The findings will support the development of new strategies for clinical and rehabilitation care, including personalised treatments.

Economy and business

Economic impact

ONS has [published](#) the latest analysis of monthly growth for the production, services and construction industries in the UK economy between May and June 2020, highlighting the early impact from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The analysis shows that the economy is in a technical recession after Quarter 2 saw a record fall of 20.4%.

Dairy Response Fund deadline extension

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has [extended](#) the application deadline for the fund set up to help those dairy farmers most in need to overcome the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak. The deadline has been extended to midnight, 11 September 2020.

Shop Local Week

To mark the start of Shop Local Week, the Government has [encouraged](#) shoppers to visit their local high street and support businesses.

Shop Local Week is part of the Government's Enjoy Summer Safely campaign.

Compulsory strike off process

Companies House has [confirmed](#) that from 10 October, they will resume the process to strike off companies they believe are no longer carrying on business or in operation.

Environment, place and transport

Support for bus and tram services

The Government has [announced](#) that bus and tram services will receive extra support worth up to £256 million to help support increase services ahead of an expected rise in public transport use in September.

All bus operators in England outside London that previously claimed the Bus Service Operators Grant, as well as operators who run services tendered by Local Authorities, are eligible to claim the new funding and future provisional funding.

Travel corridors

The Department for Transport has [updated](#) the exempt list. People do not now have to self-isolate if they are travelling from Brunei or Malaysia.

Holidays in areas with local restrictions

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has [issued](#) guidance for people who are on holiday in an area with local Covid-19 restrictions, or live in a restricted area and are planning on taking a holiday outside the area.

National Covid-19 data

Cases

As of 4pm on 12 August, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **313,798**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **1,009**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths was **46,706**, with **77** new deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.8-1.0** and the growth rate range is **0% to -5%** per day as of 7 August.

Additional links

- Hampshire County Council webpages on coronavirus (including links to press releases): <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>
- Latest information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- NHS information on coronavirus: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- FAQ from the Cabinet Office: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>
- PPE guidance hub: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>
- Guidance for local government: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>
- County Councils Network (CCN) coronavirus information pages: <https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/coronavirus-information-for-local-authorities/>
- Local Government Association (LGA) councillor guidance: <https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-outbreak-councillor-guidance>

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