

Team Bolton

MARCH 2021

COVID-19
EDITION
#hereforyouBolton



It's time to
vaccinate

// Inside this edition

Look after your mental health
Details of help and support
Support for businesses
Health services still there for you

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Celebrating our volunteers
Health and care staff keeping people safe
Starring role for Bolton on TV
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Bolton
Vision

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Our second edition of Team Bolton

What a year it has been for everyone in Bolton.

The global Covid-19 pandemic has claimed millions of lives around the world and put normal life on hold.

It has been the biggest public health crisis of our lifetime - and has challenged all our public services in ways never seen before in peacetime.

But the people of Bolton have risen to the challenge – alongside those on the frontline supporting our communities which make up 'Team Bolton'.

Our health and social care teams have been our key defence against the virus, providing care and compassion and saving lives. The NHS is delivering the biggest vaccine programme in its history, and all of our services have and continue to adapt to the challenging times.

A year on from the start of the crisis we want to update you about the work being done across Bolton by our key services.

During the last year, Bolton Council, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, Bolton NHS CCG, Bolton at Home, Greater Manchester Police, the University of Bolton, Bolton CVS, and our other partners have worked together to meet the challenges of the pandemic. We would like to thank everyone for all you have done to keep our residents safe. And we want to thank you, for following the rules and doing your bit.

Soon, we all hope we can begin to focus on recovery, and once again Team Bolton will be at the forefront of these efforts.

Your health and wellbeing are our top priority, as well as the economic recovery of our borough and its future prosperity.

We will come through this together Bolton – but in the meantime, as the Bolton family, let's stay the course and carry on keeping each other safe and well.

Councillor David Greenhalgh,
Leader, Bolton Council

Tony Oakman
Chief Executive, Bolton Council

Dr Wirin Bhatiani
Chairman of NHS Bolton CCG

Fiona Noden
Chief Executive, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

Helen Tomlinson
Interim Chief Executive Officer, Bolton CVS

Jon Lord
Chief Executive, Bolton at Home

Chief Superintendent Stuart Ellison
Greater Manchester Police

Professor George Holmes
President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bolton

Don't forget for the latest news and updates visit the council website.

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work



In my many years of being involved in local government I have never quite known events like those we have experienced during the last 12 months.

However, as Leader of the Council, I have never been prouder of our staff and of the work of all our partners in the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

I'd also like to thank you all across the borough for your efforts, during a difficult year, for following the guidelines and protect your families, friends and neighbours.

Team Bolton has come together, rolled its sleeves up and got the job done: keeping vital public and other services going and providing a lifeline to our residents, businesses and

communities during the crisis. We have all been in this together.

The really positive news is that our most vulnerable are receiving vaccines and getting protection. It's the first stage of a long process but we have hope ahead for a brighter future.

Your health and wellbeing remain the top priority of us all, as well as ensuring that

we recover and build Bolton back better than ever before.

The same Bolton spirit which saw us through 2020 will continue through the next months so that we will all come through this. Take care.

**Councillor
David Greenhalgh
Leader of Bolton Council**

Business Grants

So far over £77m has been given out in the form of grants to thousands of Bolton businesses who have been forced to close or been severely impacted by local and national restrictions put in place by the Government since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Business Rates and Business Bolton teams have been working hard to process applications as quickly as possible and deal with all enquiries to provide help and support to as many businesses as they can. Valuable support has also been provided from other teams across the council to assist with processing payments and keeping the team operational, including the IT systems and Support Service teams as well as the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Recovery Teams.

The current grant schemes in place include:

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)

Businesses that have had to close from Thursday 31 December 2020

or from 5 January 2021 can apply for this grant.

Businesses that have been paid the rolling Tier 3 grant (due to having to remain closed from 2 December 2020) are being paid their next grant automatically and do not need to re-apply.

This payment includes the Closed Business Lockdown Payment. A one-off grant worth up to £9,000 announced by the Chancellor being paid on top of existing grants to businesses with a business rates account that have been required to close due to national restrictions from 5 January 2021.

Additional Restrictions Grant

Bolton Council's Additional Restrictions Grant scheme is for businesses required to close but who are not liable for business rates, or those that have not been legally forced to close but are nonetheless severely impacted by the restrictions. Retail businesses not required to close but who show a substantial loss of income are now eligible for a payment under this scheme.

Childcare businesses based in buildings i.e. in schools which have been required to close, are also now in scope.

Find out more and apply for grants at www.bolton.gov.uk/businessgrants

The team are working extremely hard to process and assess all applications as quickly as possible and are aiming to process them within 28 days of receipt of a full application (including all supporting information). Eligibility for all grants is being assessed at the same time so only one application is needed.

If you do not receive any communication after 28 days from the date you submitted your full application, please get back in touch with the team by emailing businessbolton@bolton.gov.uk. For the latest information on Government support and other funding available please go to www.businessbolton.org/covid19. Alternatively, sign up for regular updates by email at www.businessbolton.org/newsletter.

Get free financial advice

with Bolton's Money Skills Service

Bolton Money Skills Service offers free advice on managing money more effectively and accessing grants and benefits.

The service also helps with:

- rent arrears
- council tax
- energy bills
- credit cards, loans and debts
- help with affordable repayments
- court forms, debt relief orders and bankruptcy

Cllr Adele Warren, Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Money Skills service, said: "The team recently helped a gentleman from Bolton who has COPD and autism and was struggling to manage his finances and couldn't afford to put his heating on."

"He was in arrears with his council tax and water charges and had a magistrates court fine outstanding for not having a TV licence."

"Our advisors established that he wasn't getting all the benefits he was entitled to and helped him to claim Personal Independence Payment which was backdated and subsequently led to an increase in his other benefits."

"Whilst there are many positive stories, there are still far too many people suffering in silence, and we urge them to come forward and talk to us."

If you or someone you know needs financial help and guidance contact the Money Skills team on **01204 33965, or email: **moneyadvice@bolton.gov.uk****



Help and support for you

Bolton's COVID-19 support hub continues to provide vital services to some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Set up at the beginning of the pandemic, the humanitarian support hub delivers food parcels and essential items to Bolton residents in need.

The hub supports those who are:

- Classed as clinically extremely vulnerable and therefore advised to stay at home
- Self-isolating due to illness (regardless of age)
- Experiencing financial hardship
- Experiencing food poverty

So, far the hub team has:

- Received over 4,000 phone calls to the helpline
- Made more 14,000 outbound call to shielding residents
- Kept in weekly contact with over 70 vulnerable households
- Helped provide 25,000 food parcels
- Co-ordinated 200 community volunteers

Bolton Council leader, Cllr David Greenhalgh, said: "For months now, the support hub has been providing a vital service to residents thanks to the hard work of council staff and volunteers.

"We've received calls from residents helped by the hub who have been overwhelmed by the support and kindness they have been shown by everyone involved.

"In challenging times, it has been a real example of how the Bolton community has pulled together during the pandemic."

Among those receiving support was a Bolton mother who became ill with COVID-19 and worried there was not enough food in the house for her family, including two children with additional needs.

When her 12-year-old son contacted the hub, the team arranged a food parcel and medication and kept in daily contact until their isolation period ended.

"The team were very friendly and calming when we panicked and I was feeling very unwell.

"I was scared that I would get worse and not be able to properly help my children. The support you arranged meant I was able to manage the situation better."



Do you need support?

Our COVID 19 community response line is open, offering vital help to people who need food or essential items

01204 337221

Mon to Fri 8.30am – 5.30pm and Sat 9am – 1pm

Looking after your Mental Wellbeing

Covid-19 has had an impact on people right across the world and it's important during this time to take care of your mind as well as your body.

Everyone will be reacting in their own way. You might be feeling down, worried or anxious.

Remember, it is OK to feel like this. These are normal reactions to uncertainty and to challenging events.

Looking after your wellbeing



Bereavement

Being bereaved can be a lonely experience, you or someone you love may be feeling like this. Remember, you are not alone.

Greater Manchester Bereavement Service

Call them on 0161 983 0902 between Mon-Fri 9am-5pm & Wed 9am-8pm or visit www.greater-manchester-bereavement-service.org.uk

Thoughts of suicide are not uncommon

Some useful information, if you're having suicidal thoughts or worried about someone else www.shiningalightonsuicide.org.uk/

Save a life, take the free short training www.zerosuicidealliance.com

Information and Support

Single Point Of Access (SPOA) –

If you need help with anxiety or depression then please contact SPOA on 01204 483101 or via their online portal – www.iaptportal.co.uk/bolt.html

Silverwellbeing Therapy Service –

Counselling and bereavement support offering online and telephone support. Individual, couple and bereavement counselling- Call on 01204 917745 or silverwellbeing@1pointbolton.org.uk

Age UK – 01204 382411 or www.ageuk.org.uk/bolton

(To request a call phone 9am-4pm, Mon – Fri)

Bolton Carers Support – helpline is now open 24 hours, 7 days a week - 01204 363056.

Samaritans are here for you to listen in confidence and without judgement 24 hours a day for free. Contact them on 116 123 (Freephone) or email jo@samaritans.org

Greater Manchester health support, advice and tips around smoking, alcohol, sexual wellbeing, moving, feelings and eating visit www.gmhealthhub.org

Bolton's Mental Health Microsite for Children and Young People - Local services available to support young people's mental health. Find out more visit www.bekindtomymind.co.uk

COVID-19 vaccination - what to expect in Bolton

You'll have heard the COVID-19 vaccine is being rolled out across the country.

Led nationally by NHS England, this is the biggest vaccination programme our country has ever seen.

Arrangements to get everyone vaccinated are moving very fast and are subject to last minute changes. However, we are working hard in Bolton to get everyone vaccinated who is eligible. Those set to receive the vaccine have been placed in priority order, decided by an independent advisory group called the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Priority groups includes:

Care homes	Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
80 yrs	All those 80 yrs and over and frontline health and social care workers
75 yrs	All those 75 yrs and over
70 yrs	All those 70 yrs and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
65 yrs	All those 65 yrs and over
Underlying health conditions	All individuals aged 16 yrs to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
60 yrs	All those 60 yrs and over
55 yrs	All those 55 yrs and over
50 yrs	All those 50 yrs and over

Priority groups correct at time of going to print.

Please bear with us. But don't worry - if you are in one of the priority groups, you will be offered the vaccine when doses are made available to us.

One of the most common things people ask is 'when and where will I receive my vaccine?'

- You'll be invited for your appointment by text, telephone or by letter to attend your own GP practice or another location
- Letters have also been sent inviting you to book an appointment at a Vaccination Centre, either online or by phone
- Large vaccination sites have been selected so they can vaccinate thousands of people each week
- On arrival at your appointment, you'll be greeted by a marshal who will take your details. Don't forget your face covering
- You will then go through a short medical screening process to make sure you're fit to have the vaccine
- You will be asked to give consent – to make sure you are happy to proceed with the vaccine
- The vaccination itself takes seconds – this will be done in the top of your arm
- Depending on which vaccine you receive, you may be asked to take a seat in a waiting area for 15 minutes, for observation
- Then you'll be free to go

All measures are in place to keep you safe and to reduce the risk of infection, including social distancing, hand washing and sanitisation of equipment.

If you are waiting to hear about your vaccination from your GP practice, please wait to be contacted and try to avoid contacting them for updates. Similarly, wait for your national letter before trying to book. If you are over 70 and not had your vaccination yet, you can book via www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or contact your GP practice.

More local sites have been introduced, including some managed by pharmacies, so that more people can be vaccinated as quickly as possible.

Both vaccines, currently being used, do not contain any animal ingredients or egg. The ingredients have been reviewed by regulators. Information about the ingredients and the vaccine can be found at: www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination.

Both vaccines are recommended by the British Islamic Medical Association: www.britishima.org.

There is also information at www.boltonccg.nhs.uk/patient-zone/coronavirus.

Bolton awarded £500,000 for COVID Community Champions

Bolton has welcomed £500,000 of government funding to help save lives by sharing accurate and trustworthy information about COVID-19 with the community.

The council and its partners bid for the funding as part of the Community Champions scheme, aimed at the groups most at risk from the virus including older residents, disabled people and people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Trusted community voices have a vital role to play in sharing important messages about COVID-19 and challenging dangerous misinformation.

The new funding will complement the excellent work already being done by Bolton Council, NHS Bolton CCG, Bolton at Home, Bolton CVS, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust and many others.

Bolton Council Leader, Cllr David Greenhalgh, said: "Accurate and trustworthy information about COVID-19 and the vaccine is an essential part of our response to this pandemic."

Information about how to become a champion will shortly be available on the Bolton CVS website.

“This funding is very welcome and will help save lives by keeping everyone in Bolton up to date and tackling harmful misinformation.”

Bolton Council Leader,
Cllr David Greenhalgh

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Self-isolation is a legal requirement

Bolton Council is reminding residents who are required to self-isolate, that they must do so by law.

You must self-isolate if:

- You develop symptoms of COVID-19
- Live with someone who has tested positive or has symptoms
- You are contacted by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app
- You arrive back in the UK from a country that is not on the exemptions list

If you have symptoms, then the people who you live with must self-isolate as well.

If you live alone and have no means of support i.e., nobody to pick up essential supplies for you please contact our support helpline on **01204 337221**.

It can take up to ten days for symptoms to develop, so it's essential to self-isolate to stop the spread of the virus.

If you develop symptoms you should book a COVID-19 test as soon as possible via **www.gov.uk**.

Support payments

Bolton residents who are isolating because of COVID-19 and on a low income may be able to claim a £500 support payment if they cannot work and face a loss of income.

Applications for the support payment can be made online on the Bolton Council website **www.bolton.gov.uk**.



If you are self-isolating...

DO NOT:

- ✗ Go to work/school/public places
- ✗ Take public transport
- ✗ Have visitors to your home
- ✗ Exercise outdoors

DO:

- ✓ Stay at home
- ✓ Order food/medicine online or ask for support
- ✓ Only allow people you live with into your home

Or you could be fined.

Bolton Council

Supporting young people during holidays

Bolton has been awarded £1.48m to provide the free School Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme to young people in the borough.

The campaign is funded by the Department for Education and it will be open to eligible children to help families with different needs.

Teachers have long raised concerns about young

people's hunger and loss of learning during holidays, especially for those from low-income households who are already behind other pupils in attainment.

School holidays can be difficult for families with increased costs and reduced incomes. Some children are more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health.

The sessions will include physical and creative activities and healthy eating education.

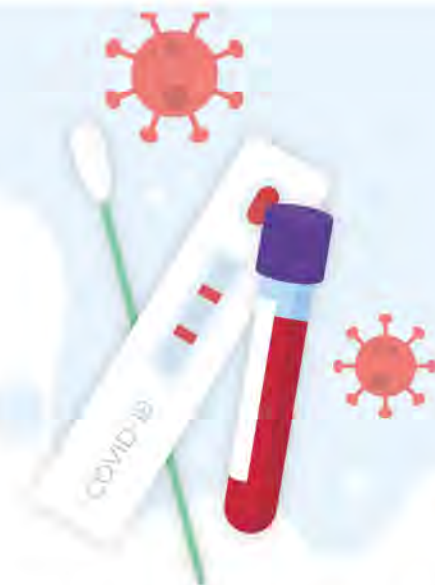
The programme aims to provide food to children attending the sessions at Easter, in summer and at Christmas.

The council is looking to commission services from a range of activity providers with private, voluntary and

third sector organisations. Providers will be expected to deliver quality services such as healthy food, engaging and fun physical activities and basic nutritional education.

For updates please see the council website **www.bolton.gov.uk**

Symptom-free testing helps Bolton fight COVID-19



A targeted COVID-19 testing programme is helping protect the Bolton community by identifying those who have the virus but may not realise it.

Asymptomatic rapid testing is available to critical workers across the borough. The scheme is supporting vital health, social and community services to keep running safely.

Many people infected with COVID-19 suffer no symptoms but still risk passing it on to their colleagues, family, friends and others.

As well as the obvious health risks, if the virus is allowed to spread quickly through a workplace it can seriously disrupt the vital services we all depend on.

The programme is targeted at those most at risk of catching the virus, those who can't work from home and are on the frontline delivering essential services.

Tests are being delivered at key sites in the borough with results available in as little as 30 minutes.

We are urging businesses to contact us to register an interest in the programme and enable their staff to take part.

To do this please email boltontesting@bolton.gov.uk

Upon registering your interest, we will share the details of how and when you can book appointments.

This quick and simple test will be crucial to ensure business continuity for vital services in Bolton and will help to protect you, colleagues and the wider community.

Organisations can view FAQs at
www.bolton.gov.uk/testingmanagers

Individuals can find FAQs at
www.bolton.gov.uk/testingstaff

We're still here for you

The health, safety and wellbeing, of all our patients, communities and staff in the hospital and in the community remain our absolute priority, now more than ever.

Your hospital is still here for you but as we continue to deal with COVID-19 we need to do things a little differently.

If you have an appointment it is really important that you attend. We have processes in place to make sure you are safe.

Our A&E department is also currently open for those with serious or life

threatening conditions such as:

- Chest pains
- Stroke symptoms
- Heavy bleeding
- Severe tummy pain or headache
- A child who is very unwell

Please also be aware that social distancing measures are in place across the hospital. Only patients attending appointments



or needing A&E treatment will be allowed into the building. Friends and relatives will be asked to wait in their cars or to go home. We know this may be difficult but it really is important to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

If you have been invited to the hospital for diagnostic services such as tests and scans or treatment for conditions such as cancer please keep your appointment. We are doing all we can to keep these services safely open.

If you are pregnant and have been invited to an appointment for

antenatal care, or for postnatal care once you've had your baby, please attend. It's really important for the health of you and your baby that you attend routine scans and appointments. We've worked really hard to make it safe for people to have their partners with them during scans, labour and after the baby is born. There's lots of advice on our website to help you and your baby stay safe.

For more information
www.nhs.co.uk



HM Government

**Help us help you
get the treatment
you need.**





Your **COVID Recovery**

If you're recovering from COVID-19 you may still be experiencing some effects on your quality of life, or coming to terms with the impact the virus has had on both your body and mind. These changes should get better over time but some people may take longer to improve than others.

Long COVID is recognised as the signs and symptoms that develop during or after an infection consistent with COVID-19, and continue for more than 12 weeks, and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis.

Some of the most common COVID-19 effects include:

- Breathlessness
- Muscle weakness and joint stiffness
- Extreme tiredness (fatigue) and a lack of energy
- Loss of appetite and weight loss
- Sleep problems
- Problems with mental abilities – for example, not being able to remember some events, think clearly and being forgetful
- Changes in your mood, or anxiety or depression
- Nightmares or flashbacks
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

Any problems you are experiencing are important if they are causing you concern or limiting you. Every individual experience is unique.

Healthcare professionals from Bolton NHS Foundation Trust have developed information to support patients with their long-term recovery from Post-Covid 19 symptoms.

The information is equally relevant to patients following a hospital admission and those patients who remain in their own homes; and it is intended that the advice provided will assist all patients and their families starting their long-term recovery following COVID-19.

This information should not replace any individual advice you may have received on discharge from hospital. If you have any concerns about ongoing or worsening symptoms, please seek advice from either your GP or the NHS 111 website www.111.nhs.uk.

Please visit
www.boltonft.nhs.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19/
for more information.



Cllr Haslam gives a helping hand to road crews at the start of the programme

£12m road repair programme extended

A huge scheme to repair and improve residential roads has been so effective that it means more roads can be done.

Efficient spending of the £12m Highways Investment Programme means that there is sufficient funding left to make further improvements.

The much-needed work was approved by the council's Cabinet in September 2019.

The £12m programme began in October that year. Since then more than 250 improvements to roads and footpaths have taken place across the borough. More than 19 miles of road

has already been resurfaced and more than five miles of footpaths repaired.

The Highways Investment Programme is financed through a £7m loan funded by dividends from shares in Manchester Airport, together with £3m income received from capital receipts from the sale of council buildings. The additional £2m is from the council budget.

Councillors worked with highways officers to decide their priority programme of residential roads and streets. Each ward was then given an equal share of the £12m.

Cllr Martyn Cox, Deputy Leader of Bolton Council said, "Road safety is a key priority, and we are committed to investing in the maintenance of our roads to ensure they are made as safe as possible.

"With money left in the pot, it's good news that we can make further improvements."

Cllr Stuart Haslam, Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said: "Despite these challenging times, the highways team have continued to provide this vital service to improve our roads.

"Not only that, but they have also managed to complete the original plans well under budget allowing the scheme to be expanded. This means more roads and streets in our neighbourhoods will be improved which will be of great benefit to our communities."

Bolton's Fund to support green community projects

Community groups and young people in Bolton are being encouraged to apply for a share of £50,000 worth of funding for projects to reduce the impact of climate change.

The money has been made available by Bolton's Fund to finance community projects aimed at making local neighbourhoods greener.

Successful projects will aim to reduce the borough's carbon footprint and support Bolton's emerging climate change strategy.

Opportunities could include improving access to public transport or cycling, local growing schemes or ways to reduce energy dependency.

Depending on the size of the projects, community organisations can bid for up to £1,500 or up to £5,000.

As part of the fund, £5,000 will be earmarked for applications submitted by young people aged between 13 and 21 involved with community groups or eco councils.

Designed with local Youth MPs and the Youth Council, the programme will see participants pitch for up to £500 to fund their youth-lead projects. Young people will also be involved in the decision-making process.

Louise Warburton, a member of Bolton Youth Voice and GMYCA Ambassador, said:

"The climate debate is important to young people because we want to reach our full potential in a safe and sustainable world.

"We can't do that without taking action now. I would encourage young people to apply for this funding to make a difference in Bolton."

Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Cllr Nadim Muslim, said:

"This council is committed to tackling climate change and making Bolton a cleaner and greener place for everyone.

"This is a great example of how grants from Bolton's Fund are supporting projects that address the priorities and concerns of the Bolton community.

"I am particularly excited to hear the ideas put forward by our younger residents who are so engaged and enthusiastic about climate issues."

Jon Lord, Group Chief Executive of Bolton at Home, added: "Bolton's Fund is about us working with the community to improve our local neighbourhoods and our climate fund will help support projects to make our area more environmentally friendly.

"It is exciting that we are also able to ringfence some funding for applications specifically from young people.

"Not only are they the generation who will inherit this world as time goes on, but it can also help them see that they can make a real difference to improve the world they live in."

Bolton's Fund is a voluntary sector grants programme delivered by Bolton Council, NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group, Bolton at Home and Bolton CVS.

All Bolton's Fund grant decisions are made by a panel of independent volunteer assessors from across the community.

For more information and to apply, visit www.boltoncvs.org.uk



The Bolton family pulls together

Bolton has always been proud of its exceptional voluntary sector, but this past year has really shown the kindness and generosity that lies at the heart of the local community.

From food shopping and checking on isolated neighbours to giving advice and helping at vaccine sites, this army of volunteers has played an invaluable role in our fight against COVID-19.

For further information about volunteering go to www.boltoncvs.org.uk

Here, some of our helpers share their experiences and explain what volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic means to them:



“Working alongside all these fantastic people truly is an honour and a privilege.”

Volunteering is “honour and privilege” for David

Before the pandemic, David was an active volunteer with Bolton CVS and Bolton Carers Support.

He did not hesitate to sign up as an Urgent Response Volunteer and has done shopping trips for vulnerable residents as well as signing up to help at vaccine clinics.

David said: “When the lockdown kicked in, I just wanted to help in whatever way I could. In fact, I felt it was my duty to do so.

“It is heartening and reassuring to see that many people are taking responsibility and contributing to keeping everyone safe.”

Christine has been a great support to over 50s in Bolton

When Age UK Bolton asked for help, Christine Baldwin started as a friendly phone call volunteer.

Christine, who is a Community Champion at Asda on Moss Bank Way, has been involved in online sessions teaching older people digital skills.

By helping older people to use Zoom to communicate, they can stay better connected with their friends and family so they feel less lonely and isolated.

“The ladies that I ring look forward to my phone calls as I have become that friendly person who I would like to think brightens their day,”

said Christine.

Helping hand reaches out to community

When COVID-19 hit, Denise Silcock began shielding due to her husband’s health condition.

Determined to do something, she set up ‘Lend a Hand’, using social media and distributing leaflets to find volunteers who could help their neighbours when needed. She soon had an army of volunteers doing everything from shopping trips to knocking down a shed. The team even arranged for an afternoon tea to be delivered on behalf of a lady from Kent whose dad lives in Horwich and wanted to surprise him for his birthday.

Denise said: “Although I couldn’t actually help on the streets, I could help in another way, by bringing people together. I wanted to make sure people didn’t feel alone or isolated and that’s basically what Lend a Hand is about. We’re all made of tough stuff in Bolton and the community soon started to come together, we all supported each other. Lend a Hand just wouldn’t be anything without the support of the marvellous people who are the real heroes.”

Council's budget to protect care and services

Bolton Council's Cabinet has recommended a 1.3% increase in the general council tax rate with a 2.5% rise for adult social care to protect those most vulnerable adults, as part of the budget for 2021-2.

Since proposals were published last November, the savings that the council needs to find have been reduced to £36.5m from £39.5 million.

This is because of the impact of a public sector pay freeze, together with a slightly improved Collection Fund deficit in 20/21. The £36.5m is split with £31.6m to find in 2021/22 and £4.9m in 2022/23.

"We are presenting a fair budget which looks to protect the most vulnerable in our society," said the Leader of the Council, Cllr David Greenhalgh.

"We have reduced the council tax rise needed to 3.8% and used the extra £3m we have available to protect vital services.

"We are protecting school crossing patrols, to make sure that bin and litter collection services are not

affected further, to make sure the Albert Halls continues as a live venue, and to reduce the impact of savings on other services to our most vulnerable.

"The past year has challenged the council's finances like no other, but I'm pleased that we will receive an extra £9m to cover costs of the Covid pandemic in the coming year. This is on top of the £26m the council received in emergency payments in 2020 to meet the costs of dealing with the virus.

"Despite the tough pressures that we face we will be recommending a balanced budget with a reduced savings target than our proposals published in November."



Working together to keep people safe

Police and council enforcement teams are thanking businesses and everyone for doing their bit to help fight the virus.

Greater Manchester Police, Bolton at Home, the council's Regulatory Services, Community Safety, and Public Health teams, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and other partners are working together to keep people safe.

They are making sure that people and businesses are following Covid-19 regulations to stop the virus spreading.

Most companies and members of the public are doing the right thing.

But there are a small minority breaking the rules.

By meeting virtually every day the partners are able to decide what action is required, and whether further enforcement is needed.

Police officers, PCSOs and council staff are out and about speaking with local businesses, and members of the public about the regulations. They are supporting and advising them about risk assessments and checking they comply with the rules.

Recently a barbers in Bolton town centre and a

mobile phone shop in the north of the borough were the latest firms to be issued with £1,000 fines by Bolton Council.

Those who are breaking the rules are just not playing fair and if you are one of the vast majority, sticking to them, it must be very frustrating to hear of these kind of breaches.

If you have concerns about a business please email: environmentalhealthcovidinbox@bolton.gov.uk

Concerns about individuals should be reported to www.gmp.police.uk

Regenerating our town centres

Major strides forward have been achieved in Horwich, Little Lever and Westhoughton to prioritise projects to receive a share of £16m town centre regeneration funding.

Members of the Town Centre steering groups in each area met to endorse the priority projects that will see the first steps taken towards delivering regeneration masterplans for each area.

Approval is being sought to further develop projects and to firm up costs for implementation alongside the delivery of some 'quick win' projects.

The improvements are part of Bolton Council's package of support to kick start town centre regeneration in Farnworth, Horwich, Little Lever and Westhoughton town centres.

Each district has carried out local consultation, developed a dedicated district centre strategy and masterplan which identified challenges and opportunities for their area and several key development proposals that will guide the long term regeneration of the district centres.

A two phased approach will be taken to implement the priority projects in each area. Phase one will be focused on implementing 'quick win' projects, completing further physical surveys and design work, and undertaking further public consultation. Phase two will concentrate on the implementation of the longer term projects.

Little Lever

Priority projects for Little Lever include: improvements to major town centre gateways; signage; creating an improved pedestrian route through Memorial Gardens to Tesco; public realm works to the square on the Mytham Park precinct; prevention of rat runs; and a shop front improvement scheme.

In addition, £1.255M of the available regeneration funding will contribute to the new £4.5m Little Lever Health Centre and Library which is currently under construction and due to open in December 2021.

Horwich

Horwich's priority projects focus on: improvement works to Lee Lane and Winter Hey Lane; Improvements to Old Station park including pedestrian and cycle links; public realm improvement works on and around Hampson



Street; a car parking strategy to assess future parking requirements and public realm improvement schemes in Blackrod.

Westhoughton

Westhoughton's priority projects include improving pedestrian links to the town centre; a car parking strategy; an assessment of future requirements for remodelling Market Street; improvement works to Central Park; securing the future use of the civic buildings; and bringing forward proposals for key development sites in the town centre.

Four million pounds of the regeneration monies will be used to co-fund the recently awarded £13.3m Future High Street Funding received from Central Government. This will deliver several priority projects in Farnworth, including the redevelopment of the market precinct - potentially creating a new square, 200 homes and new leisure facilities. Consultation on these proposals is currently underway.



Invest in Bolton

 Investinbolton@bolton.gov.uk
 www.investinbolton.com



Keeping vulnerable people safe

COVID-19 has brought unprecedented challenges to all of our health and social care services – forcing them to find new ways of working to meet demand. Here, we look at how the Intermediate Tier Services have adapted during the pandemic.

The services provide an invaluable link between medical treatment and social care – helping residents as they transition from hospital to home and working to avoid admissions in the first place.

They include home support reablement, bed base units and community work.

Like many other services, the teams have experienced staff shortages with colleagues either off sick or at home self-isolating.

Staff have gone above and beyond to provide cover, working across all areas and volunteering for weekend and evening shifts, often with very little notice.

Some staff were advised to shield due to their own health issues but continued to make vital contributions to the team by working from home.

Janine McLoughlin, Deputy Team Manager with responsibility for the social work staff, said: “Throughout the pandemic I have seen first-hand how people come together in a time of crisis.

“The teams do what they always do, and they pulled together to ensure all service areas were covered and safe.”

Those working at the bed base endure long shifts wearing full PPE while completing complex

assessments and dealing with the daily threat of COVID-19. Similarly, reablement and community staff visit vulnerable residents in their own homes, providing essential social care services.

With loved ones unable to visit, the teams have served as a lifeline for families, providing updates, communication, and reassurance.

In what is a hectic and stressful time for everyone, the teams have developed a system of “learning huddles” as an opportunity to share ideas, develop skills and unload after a busy day.

Janine added: “It has been reassuring to know that whatever challenge we face, we face it together.”

The teams have been nominated for the annual Bolton’s Best awards as recognition of their commitment and resourcefulness.

Bolton Council’s Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Cllr Andy Morgan, said:

“Under normal circumstances the Intermediate Tier Service do an incredible job, but they have gone above and beyond in adapting to the daily challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are lucky to have so many skilled and dedicated health and care workers across Bolton.

“Their commitment to their services users, and to each other, is an example to us all.”

We're getting ready for Census 2021

census
2021

What matters to us?



Family



Friends



Community

Households across Bolton are being asked to take part in the Office for National Statistics (ONS) census which takes place on Sunday, 21 March.

The census provides great benefits to all our communities. It is also a legal requirement for people to complete and return the questionnaires.

The census is a once in every ten years survey when everyone is asked the same questions on the same day to provide a snapshot of the population.

It's the only time every person and household are counted right across England and Wales.

The census is used to estimate the number of people and households in each area. It helps with decisions about where billions of pounds of public funding is spent on services like transport, education, and health.

It also helps charities and voluntary organisations with funding bids and businesses to understand their customers and provide valuable data for research professionals and students.

The 2021 census will be the first to run mainly online.

You will receive a letter with a unique access code, allowing you to complete the questionnaire on computers, phones or tablets. Paper postal questionnaires will be sent to some households and are available on request.

Bolton Council is supporting the ONS to encourage people to respond and maximise census returns.

The 2011 Census told us:

- **276,786** people lived in Bolton
- **6,324** families had three or more dependent children
- **6,860** sales and retail assistants - the most common occupation
- **2,499** nurses
- **1,187** taxi and cab drivers

For further information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk)

A year in a pandemic at the University of Bolton

It's more than a year since the University of Bolton began to meet the threat of COVID-19.

Almost three weeks before the first national lockdown, staff were split into rota 'teams' to enable the University to continue operating.

During that initial lockdown, new, remote learning arrangements were put in place and students and staff were kept constantly updated with latest developments.

By May, the university was one of the first in the UK to announce that ambitious measures would be put in place over the summer to make the campus Covid-secure for the start of the new academic year in September 2020.

These measures included:

- Installing sophisticated airport-style walk-through temperature scanners at every building entry
- Making 1,000 bicycles available for free loan by students, enabling them to avoid crowded public transport
- Providing regular socially distanced face-to-face tutorials, laboratory experience, access to arts studios and specialist facilities

A testing facility specifically for students and staff whose return to campus is essential (nursing and teacher training students for example) is up and running.

As soon as the latest lockdown was announced in January, the university organised for healthy meals to be made available, for just £1, for all those students still living in independent private accommodation.

Other support has included financial assistance, where those who feel they have been impacted by lockdown can apply for limited funds via the University's Student Services department and their individual circumstances will determine support offered.

There are also 700 nursing students at Bolton and their skills and expertise will be vital both during this pandemic and for the future where there is currently a shortage of qualified nurses across the UK.

During the latest 'Stay At Home' lockdown, all staff and students, unless their presence on campus is essential, are working and learning from home.

Professor George E Holmes DL, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Bolton said:

"We appreciate and understand what a difficult time this has been for our students.



"Our primary focus, as ever, remains on supporting all our students and endeavouring, whatever the circumstances, to give them the best teaching available to ensure their experience is a happy and safe as it possibly can be."



Thank You

from Bolton at Home

We'd like to say a big thanks to you, our tenants.



Bolton at Home

Tel: **01204 328000**
Website and webchat at:
www.boltonathome.org.uk

You can also stay up to date with Bolton at Home on Facebook and Twitter.

We really appreciate your patience and understanding as we've adapted throughout the Coronavirus pandemic to continue providing essential services. Thank you for supporting us to work safely by following guidelines and meeting requirements.

We're working as hard and as responsibly as we can to look after you and your home when you need us. All while keeping you, other tenants, and our staff as safe as possible. This is our number one priority.

Although our UCAN centres and office receptions remain closed for now, most of our services are still available. These include emergency repairs, housing and tenancy support, assisting older tenants, neighbourhood safety services, help with money worries, support into employment and much more.

If you'd like some support from us now, or at any point in the future, please get in touch.

We're also still teaming-up with organisational partners and charities such as Urban Outreach to support Bolton Council to provide emergency food aid to those who need it.

While the last year has been a challenge for all of us, we know that the pandemic has been particularly difficult for some.

We're here for you. Please contact us if you're feeling worried, lonely or unsure about how we're working under the latest restrictions and how we can help you.

Stay safe.

Jon Lord,
*Group Chief Executive Officer,
Bolton at Home*



Supporting families during difficult times

Local families will be able to get extra support during one of the most difficult times of their lives.

Bolton Hospice has opened a new Wellbeing Hub to support patients and their families with life-limiting illnesses.

The hospice is working round the clock, seven days a week and is committed to supporting those most vulnerable in our community.

It is running a number of specialist clinics from the new hub such as a palliative care outpatient's clinic, a specialist

respiratory clinic and a weekly psychology clinic.

During the pandemic Bolton Hospice reshaped its Hospice at Home service, increasing their capacity for care at home to make sure they could provide care safely and support those patients shielding at home.

They continue to support patients requiring symptom control or end of life care on the inpatient unit, and offering 24-hour telephone

advice to patients, carers, and healthcare professionals.

The Wellbeing Hub is a brand new beautiful, friendly, and professional space that will offer wellbeing and support sessions, and specialist services such as symptom management advice

sessions, legal advice and benefits clinics, outpatient clinics, bereavement support sessions, wellbeing sessions such as mindfulness and yoga, and a new relaxing café area.

Current restrictions mean that some of these drop-in services are not available yet.



Dr Jennifer Klimiuk, Consultant in Palliative Medicine at Bolton Hospice is leading on the development of the Wellbeing Hub.

She said:

“The Wellbeing Hub will allow the people of Bolton facing life-limiting illnesses to be supported in the best possible surroundings for many years to come and offer specialist services that suit individual needs and circumstances.”



If you would like more information on what services are available to you, please call the hospice on

01204 663 066

Bolton's starring role

Le Mans Crescent once again features in a high-profile TV drama.

Channel Four's *It's a Sin* is a five-part drama is set in 1980s London.

Le Mans Crescent doubles as a street in London in the five-part drama which follows a group of young friends who move to the capital to start a new life.

It's a Sin is a tale of love and loss set against the backdrop of the AIDS pandemic which devastated the gay community through much of the decade.

Filming took place in Bolton in October 2019. Le Mans Crescent has previously appeared in the hit TV crime show *Peaky Blinders*.

It follows another new series, *Traces*, which is set in Dundee but with large parts filmed in Bolton, including the town centre and university..



Filmmakers were back in the town earlier this month to shoot scenes for forthcoming Sky One Drama *Wolfe*, which is set to be broadcast later this year.

Netflix's *The Stranger*, *White Lines* and *The English Game* were also filmed in Bolton as well as BBC drama *Ridley Road* which is also due on air during 2021.

Just keep swimming

Bolton Aquarium celebrates a milestone - turning 80 this year

The aquarium is the only one of its kind in Greater Manchester.

Having first opened its doors to the public on 27 January 1941, it's now home to more than 70 varieties of fish from across the globe.

Prior to lockdown, the aquarium attracted more than 100,000 people each year. Since the aquarium

has been closed, it has kept visitors updated with online videos.

A recent highlight was the birth of a stingray on Christmas Day. The aquarium is also home to

three River Stingrays, an endangered species which having been successfully bred, contributes to global conservation efforts.

To mark the aquarium's 80th anniversary, families

can join in celebrations online with behind-the-scenes aquarium tour and fish feed, aquarium themed crafts and fish themed story-time.



Tell us your memories of the aquarium
visit Bolton Council and Bolton Library and Museum on social media

To find out more visit www.boltonlams.co.uk/aquarium-1



2020 in Bolton

Our response to coronavirus

The Covid-19 crisis has been very difficult for everyone, we have been working hard with partners to help residents. This is our round up of what's been happening to support Bolton.

We have paid out
£83.5m
in Covid grants for
Bolton businesses



We have provided
more than
3000
food parcels for
vulnerable children



More than
29,000
households are being
supported through our humanitarian
response hub with food, medicine,
welfare calls and other help.



Loans of more than
324,877
items from our libraries.
A third of these are digital
downloads, a 58% increase
from 2019



13.3m bins
emptied



9828
registrations of
births, deaths and
notices of marriage



The Money Skills service
has worked with

571 residents
saving them
£274,000



And so much more...

www.bolton.gov.uk
#hereforyouBolton