

# Alan Campbell MP

## Community News April 2021



Good afternoon

I hope you are keeping well and staying safe.

As we begin to emerge from lockdown, in this edition of my community news, I have updates on further help and support for individuals and businesses as well as information on what the local roadmap out of lockdown looks like.

We also know that as we emerge from lockdown, our local attractions, beaches and parks will be busier than ever. You will find information on the plans that have been put in place to make sure residents can continue to stay safe as we open up further.

As ever, there's also information on some of the recent meetings and events I have attended online as well as details of the work of local and national organisations I am supportive of. There are also links to various organisations that may be of help for people. Please be assured that all links have been tested and are safe to click through to. I do hope you find it informative and useful.

If you need to get in touch please call 0191 2571927 or email [campbellal@parliament.uk](mailto:campbellal@parliament.uk)

You can also find useful information on my website at [www.alancampbellmp.co.uk](http://www.alancampbellmp.co.uk) or on Facebook at;

[https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARCt\\_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI\\_cGhOnsm\\_TvNnVuiYMhil](https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARCt_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI_cGhOnsm_TvNnVuiYMhil)  
[m](#)

I continue to write my fortnightly column for the News Guardian, you can access these [here](#).

With all best wishes

Alan Campbell MP

Tynemouth

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## Self Employment Income Support Scheme



From mid-April, HMRC will contact customers by email, letter or SMS if they believe they may be eligible for the fourth SEISS grant, providing them with their personal claim date. Claims can be made from this personal claim date in late April, until the claims service closes on 1 June 2021. You should not apply before your personal claim date, as it will not be processed.

To be eligible for the fourth SEISS grant, self-employed individuals (including members of partnerships) must:

- Have submitted their 2019-20 tax return on or before 2 March 2021.
- Have trading profits that are no more than £50,000 and at least equal to their non-trading income, based on their 2019-20 tax return or an average of relevant tax years between 2016-17 and 2019-20.
- Declare that they intend to continue to trade and are either: currently trading but are impacted by reduced activity, capacity or demand due to coronavirus, or have traded previously but are temporarily unable to do so due to coronavirus (If they've been abroad and have to stay in quarantine or self-isolate, this does not count).

- Declare that they have a reasonable belief that there will be a significant reduction in their trading profits due to reduced business activity, capacity, demand or inability to trade due to coronavirus.

## March CJRS Claims



The deadline for employers to submit March furlough claims is Wednesday 14 April.

As a reminder, the UK Government will continue to pay 80% of furloughed employees' usual wages for the hours not worked, up to a cap of £2,500 per month, to the end of June. In July, CJRS grants will cover 70% of employees' usual wages for the hours not worked, up to a cap of £2,187.50. In August and September, this will then reduce to 60% of employees' usual wages up to a cap of £1,875. Employers will need to pay the difference from July, so that they continue to pay their furloughed employees at least 80% of their usual wages for the hours they do not work during this time, up to a cap of £2,500 per month.

## VAT Deferral Schemes



Businesses that deferred VAT payments due between 20 March and 30 June 2020 and have been unable to pay in full by 31 March 2021, can join the VAT deferral new payment scheme.

Businesses can apply now to spread these payments over a number of months.

Businesses that join by 21 April 2021 will be able to benefit from up to 10 instalments. The later businesses join, the fewer instalments are available to them.

Businesses can join the scheme quickly and simply online without needing to call HMRC. More information, including the things businesses need to prepare before joining online, is available on GOV.UK.

Businesses need to apply by 21 June 2021 if they want to join the scheme online.

## Council Covid Hub to remain in place



We are supporting those most at risk or those having to self-isolate in North Tyneside by supplying essential, non-medical support.

For anyone who cannot be supported by family, friends or social care services, contact our COVID-19 support hub:

**0345 2000 101**  
contact.us@northtyneside.gov.uk

COVID-19 support hub phone lines open:  
Monday to Friday, 8am - 5pm

VODA  
North Tyneside Council

I'm pleased that North Tyneside Council's safety net of support continues to remain in place for those who need it.

Since the beginning of the pandemic the NTC COVID-19 Support Hub has helped thousands of residents. With help from the community and voluntary sector, businesses and an army of volunteers, the council has provided non-clinical help to those who are unable to call on others for support.

A lifeline to many, it has included help with grocery shopping, household supplies, picking up prescriptions and purchasing pet food. The team have also made regular welfare calls for those who'd like one.

Mayor Norma Redfearn has recently confirmed that the support will continue to be available for those who are self-isolating, either because they've been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or have tested positive themselves.

It will also continue for those who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable to the virus, despite shielding coming to an end, for the coming months. The hub's opening hours are Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm, and it is available by calling 0345 2000 101 or by emailing [contact.us@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:contact.us@northtyneside.gov.uk)

## North Tyneside Covid

## Vaccination Programme



It is now possible to book COVID vaccination appointments at a new pharmacy-run service at Monkseaton Methodist Church (MMC) on the national booking system, but only when vaccine supply allows for appointments to be uploaded to this service.

The NHS is delivering the vaccine across the UK through two systems: local GP-led vaccination centres provided by groups of GP practices (Primary Care Networks) and the national booking system which allows people to book to pharmacy-led sites and mass vaccination centres across the North East region.

Our local GP-led services in North Tyneside and the National Booking Service run in tandem with each other but are separately organised. The local GP-led services are contacting people for vaccination by text or phone call, whereas the national service will invite people by letter.

Phase One of the COVID Vaccination Programme, inviting Priority Groups 1 – 9 (down to >50 year old age group) is now underway across England, and if you are eligible but haven't received a letter yet, you can also book on-line with the following national booking

link. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

## Operation Coastwatch



I'm pleased that following discussions with Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness, Mayor Norma Redfearn, the Police and Nexus, Operation Coastwatch is back this year earlier and with more resources.

Extra police patrols are taking place on Metro during the busy spring and summer season, where beaches and beauty spots are likely to attract more visitors as lockdown measures start to ease.

The operation will see an increase in officers patrolling alongside Nexus staff on the Metro network, and Council wardens to tackle any anti-social behaviour and ensure local residents aren't disturbed.

The annual initiative encourages communities to enjoy their light nights safely and responsibly and be respectful of residents and our beautiful beaches.

Activity will include extra patrols, preventative work at Metros to disrupt and stop any disorder before it reaches communities and beach wardens to monitor coastal activity.

Officers will also be gathering cross-agency intelligence on anyone found to be taking part in criminality or disorder as well as carrying out modified CCTV plans to best utilise resources and capture disorder for prosecution.

I know that local residents and businesses have concerns around anti-social behaviour and disorder and this should reassure them that there is a comprehensive plan in place to support and protect local communities as we emerge from lockdown.

## **Totally Tynemouth**



I've backing a new group, Totally Tynemouth which has been set up by 3 local women with an interest in looking after the local environment particularly the beaches.

They are currently looking for driven people to join their core group to help them compile a more detailed strategy and plan of action - not just for the upcoming summer but also for the longer term. If you would like to get involved please email [totallytynemouth@gmail.com](mailto:totallytynemouth@gmail.com)



## Outdoor Activities to return



Tennis courts, football pitches, Churchill Community Track, Whitley Bay Mini Golf and Footgolf, and Shiremoor Adventure Playground all now open to the public.

I understand that the council are also working to open leisure centres in Step 2 of the roadmap from April 12. You can find out more about the roadmap to reopening here <https://my.northynteside.gov.uk/node/26724>

## Reopening of libraries



Residents will welcome the news that from Monday 12 April, branch libraries and libraries within Customer First Centres will begin a phased reopening.

All venues in Tynemouth constituency will offer a Quick Picks service, giving customers the opportunity to browse for 20 minutes.

There are currently no late fees for books that could not be returned during lockdown, but the council are asking people to try and return them now. All books returned will be quarantined for 72 hours.

## Have your say on the future of town centres



Residents are invited to take part in a survey to help decide future priorities for our town and local centres.

This survey takes about 10 minutes and is being conducted by the People & Places Partnership on behalf of North Tyneside Council, with support from VODA and the North Tyneside Business Forum.

The survey is part of work to plan for the recovery and revitalisation of selected town and local centres. It is open until April 12th and can be accessed here. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NTtowncentres>

## Local Culture Recovery Fund Awards



I'm relieved that both the Jam Jar Cinema in Whitley Bay and the Saville Exchange in North Shields have both received funding as part of round 2 of the Culture Recovery Fund.



Both of these awards are well deserved and I'm sure local people will be pleased that these funds will allow both the Jam Jar and Saville Exchange to continue to play their roles at the heart of our local communities.

## **Royal Mail Stamp Design Competition**



Royal Mail is launching a design competition for UK schoolchildren to honour heroes, including key workers and others, who have done great things since the start of the pandemic to help the country through a very challenging period.

I'm encouraging local schools and families to get involved.

This competition gives children, aged 4 to 14 years of age, the opportunity to design one of eight special Royal Mail stamps to honour the heroes of the pandemic. As well as NHS and social care staff children may want to illustrate volunteers in their community, refuse collectors, cleaning staff, teachers, supermarket workers, public transport staff, delivery drivers, perhaps even the scientists who created the vaccines.

You can visit [www.royalmail.com/stampcompetition](http://www.royalmail.com/stampcompetition) to sign-up for one of 6,000 resource packs available.

This is only the fifth time that Royal Mail has held a competition like this, and the first time for non-Christmas stamps. A special panel of judges will determine the eight winning designs from 120 regional finalists. As with all stamps issued by Royal Mail, the final eight designs will be sent to Her Majesty The Queen for approval before they can be printed and issued.

The competition is now open and children have until 29<sup>th</sup> May to submit their entries.

## **People's Postcode Lottery Funding Open**

Supported by players of



I recently attended a briefing by the People's Postcode Lottery to find out more about how over 3,500 grassroots organisations in Britain will receive a share of almost £17 million this year.

Local projects can apply for funding from the Postcode Neighbourhood Trust, which is for organisations operating in the north of England. Registered charities can apply for up to £20,000 of funding, which is available for both project-based and core costs.

Applications will be accepted every month until October 2021.

Over the last year many local charities have responded to the covid pandemic by working to support and protect our communities. Yet the last year has also been a difficult time for charity fundraising.

The funds raised by People's Postcode Lottery players and available to local charities are therefore a great chance for local organisations to secure funding.

As a commitment to supporting smaller good causes, applications will only be accepted from organisations with an annual income of less than £1 million. Preference will be given to those with an income less than £500,000.

More information, including a funding guide and eligibility quiz, can be found on the trust's website. [www.postcodeneighbourhoodtrust.org.uk](http://www.postcodeneighbourhoodtrust.org.uk)

## **Age Uk Help for Older People**



I know that the easing of restrictions will be a welcome development to many. But after a year of the pandemic, the easing of restrictions may be difficult to adjust to for many older people. When lockdown eased last July, Age UK published this <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/discover/2020/07/mental-health-lockdown/> useful article for older people who may be experiencing anxiety about coming out of lockdown, which includes some tips that may be helpful as we begin to re-open again.

Age UK have also published some straightforward helpful advice for older people who are feeling anxious or low about coronavirus, or lockdown easing. <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/coronavirus/staying-safe-and-well-at-home/coronavirus-anxious/>

## Ending violence against women and girls



The tragic death of Sarah Everard has rightly renewed demands for action to tackle violence against women and to make our streets safe. I'm proud to support charity Women's Aid in their campaign 10 ways to help. The campaign has been created after they were inundated with people asking how they could help. Please follow this link to see how you can. <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/ten-ways-to-help-end-violence-against-women-and-girls/>

## Help for domestic abuse

## Useful Domestic Abuse helplines:

National Domestic Abuse Helpline* 0808 2000 247	Forced Marriage Unit* 020 7008 0151		* (24/7)
Local Wearside Women In Need helpline* 0800 066 5555	Karma Nirvana (support for honour based violence and forced marriage) 0800 5999 247		
Women's Aid on line chat <a href="http://www.chat.womensaid.org.uk">www.chat.womensaid.org.uk</a>	Victims First Northumbria 0800 011 3116		
The Men's Advice Line, for male domestic abuse survivors 0808 801 0327	Samaritans* 116 123		
The Mix, free information and support for under 25s in the UK 0808 808 4994	Respect helpline 0808 8024040 or <a href="http://www.respect.uk.net">www.respect.uk.net</a>		
National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 999 5428			

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, you can report an incident by ringing 101 or visiting [www.northumbria.pnn.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.pnn.police.uk). Also in a non-emergency situation you can text the police on 07786 200814.

In an emergency, always call 999. If you dial 999 and are unable to speak, the emergency operator will ask you to dial 55 and to follow their instruction to quickly put you in touch with police.

Help is also available From Victims First Northumbria, who can be found at <https://victimsfirstnorthumbria.org.uk/> or on 0800 011 3116

## Vote safely this May



On May 6<sup>th</sup> you have a chance to vote for your Mayor, Police and Crime Commissioner and your local councillor. Make sure you have a chance to have your say by registering to vote and applying for a postal vote to do so safely.

You can register to vote here <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

You can sign up for a postal vote here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote> or call the Council's election services team on 0191 643 2270 and they will send you out a form. The deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> April.



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