
Your latest bulletin January 2026

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**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**
Improving People's Lives

The Interagency Bulletin

We are a compassionate community in which people are inspired and supported to look after themselves and each other.

In partnership with



Your regular bulletin

Welcome to the latest Interagency Bulletin.

The bulletin contains information on funding; networking; training; resources; community events and more.

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If you would like to send information to be included in the next bulletin, [please contact us by email](#).

(All information contained in the bulletin is correct at the time of publication).

Community Wellbeing Hub



**Community
Wellbeing Hub**
Bath and North East Somerset

The [Community Wellbeing Hub](#) provides a central point of access to a range of health and wellbeing services. It comprises over 30 local organisations that are statutory services or commissioned by the Council/NHS to offer support to residents.

How does it help? By reducing the number of calls you need to make. The Wellbeing Hub is not a signposting service. One contact to the Hub can connect you to multiple organisations that will actively provide support - whether you are contacting the Hub

about yourself, or making a referral as part of your role with an organisation. The majority of people receiving services via the Hub need support from two or three organisations to resolve their issues. The Hub's systems help to facilitate this.

What can I contact the Hub about? Anything that is having a negative effect on health and wellbeing. This might be something like the need to stop smoking or lose weight. However, it might also be worries about money, benefits, employment or housing. There is also specific support for young people. Alternatively, you might simply fancy learning a new skill, trying a new hobby or making new friends. [The Hub's services include:](#)

- Financial and money matters
- Accessing food
- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Housing advice
- Employment, skills and training
- Lifestyle services eg stop smoking
- Home from Hospital services
- Free courses
- Volunteering
- Supporting carers, family members and others
- Keeping active and healthy
- Achieving a healthy weight
- Services for the Armed Forces Community

How do I get in touch?

For residents: If you live in Bath and North East Somerset, you can contact the Community Wellbeing Hub on 0300 247 0050 Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm to talk to the friendly triage team and access the advice and support you need. The Hub is not a physical place that residents visit.

For organisations: If you work or volunteer for an organisation, you can also refer someone to the Hub, with their permission, via an [online form for professionals](#). This single referral replaces the need to contact multiple organisations.

For hospital patients: If you are a member of staff working in a hospital, you can refer a patient for support when they are discharged via the [online discharge form](#).

****NEW** - Information Videos**

We have two new, short explainer videos relating to the Hub on YouTube:

[The Community Wellbeing Hub - aimed at local residents](#)

[How to make a referral to the Hub - aimed at those working or volunteering for an organisation](#)

Funding

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives

Online Funding Finder

Bath & North East Somerset Council has a searchable [Funding Finder](#) which is freely available on our website. It contains details of hundreds of local and national sources of funding for organisations and individuals.

You can search for opportunities using different categories and the level of funding on offer. You can also search using keywords and by deadlines coming up soon. Using a keyword may give you the most comprehensive results.

We've included some of the deadlines coming up soon below - click on the titles to be taken to the organisation's website.



National Funding Opportunities

[Music Festival Grants - The Scops Art Trust:](#) A limited number of grants of up to £15,000 (although awards are usually for less than £10,000) are available to small to medium sized UK charitable organisations, including social enterprises, for local music festivals. **The next deadline is 27 January 2026.**

[The A B Charitable Trust \(ABCT\):](#) Unrestricted grants, generally for between £10,000 and £30,000 for 1-3 years, are available to small to medium-sized UK registered charities and Community Interest Companies supporting criminal justice and penal reform; human rights (particularly where this involves access to justice) or migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum. **The next deadline is 30 January 2026.**

[Twinkl Community Collection Scheme:](#) The educational technology company, Twinkl, is giving teachers the chance to win up to £20,000 towards an educational project. **The deadline is 31 January 2026.**

[Access Without Limits Community Funding:](#) Funding to registered charities, voluntary/community organisations and social enterprises to establish a sustainable Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) offer. **The deadline is 31 January 2026.**

[Community Defibrillator Programme - British Heart Foundation:](#) Applications for a BHF-funded defibrillator are now open. They are expected to **close in February 2026** depending on the volume of applications received.

[The 7stars Foundation:](#) Grants to organisations and individuals to relieve the needs and suffering of children aged 18 years old and under. (Grants to individuals are made via safeguarding professionals). **The next deadline is 1 February 2026.**

[Grow Wild Community Grants 2026 - The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew:](#) A limited number of grants of up to £2,000 are available to community organisations across the UK to transform an area in an urban community (defined as having 10,000 or more inhabitants). **The deadline is 4 February 2026.**

[Museum Fundamentals Grants:](#) Grants of up to £20,000 are available to small and medium UK museums (fewer than 50,000 visitors each year) for projects that are based on their collection's needs as well as improving knowledge, care and access to UK heritage. **The deadline is 5pm on 5 February 2026.**

[Mental Health Grants Programme - The James Tudor Trust:](#) Grants of up to £25,000 over 12 months are available to regional and national charities across the UK with an annual income of under £20 million. They support charities that help children and young people recover from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and/or parents affected by ACEs, mental illness or addiction. **The deadline is 5pm on 6 February 2026.**

[Age Without Limits Day Grants 2026:](#) Small grants of up to £500 are available to UK community groups and local voluntary organisations to support them in taking part in the Age Without Limits Day on Wednesday 10 June 2026. **The deadline is 5pm on 10 February 2026.**

[The Stanley Smith \(UK\) Horticultural Trust:](#) Grants averaging £3,000 are available to charities, charitable organisations and individuals in the UK to promote horticulture and horticulture education; conservation of the natural environment and making gardens accessible to the general public. **The next deadline is 15 February 2026.**

[Rise Programme - Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust:](#) Grants up to £30,000 to help small and medium armed forces charities become stronger, more resilient and better prepared for the future. **The deadline is 12pm on 18 February 2026.**

[Climate Action Fund - Food Systems - The National Lottery:](#) A limited number of grants of between £3 million and £5 million over 5-7 years are available to partnerships of not-for-profit organisations for projects that strengthen the UK's food systems and reduce food insecurity for people and communities. **No deadline at present.**

[Find more opportunities.](#)

Local Funding Opportunities

[Customer and Community Improvement Fund 2026/27 - GWR](#): Grants of up to £25,000 (but averaging £12,500) for small and medium rail-related projects that can be completed during the 2026/27 financial year (or the 2026/27 academic year for in-school projects). Bids must relate to the railway and address an area of social need. **The deadline is 12 noon on 2 February 2026.**

[Community Grants 2025-26 - Radstock Town Council](#): Grants of between £500 and £1,000 (with larger amounts in exceptional circumstances) are available to support charitable or voluntary activities for organisations operating within the Radstock Town Council area. Provision for local nature recovery and biodiversity is a central theme for the Town Council, therefore grants that show support for this theme would be most welcome. **The deadline is 4pm on 27 February 2026.**

[Avon & Somerset Police Community Trust General Fund](#): Grants up to £1,000 are available to community and other local voluntary organisations in the Avon and Somerset police force area for projects that address one or more of the Trust's priorities:

- Protecting local people and property from crime
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Educating young people on the dangers of drug, alcohol and solvent abuse
- Increasing community safety for all but especially the young, vulnerable and elderly
- Diverting young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour, encouraging their growth into responsible young adults
- Building good community relations

The next deadline is 1 March 2026.

[Find more opportunities.](#)

The B&NES Funding Finder

Hundreds more funds available! Visit the searchable **[B&NES Funding Finder](#)** - a collection of local and national funding sources which is updated several times a month.

Did you know?

- The Funding Finder includes information on grants, benefits and bursaries for [individuals](#) as well as funding for organisations.
- If you search for something regularly, you can save the results as a favourite and it will include new results the next time you click on your saved link.

If you have any feedback on it, please [get in touch by email](#).

Networking



B&NES 3rd Sector Group

[The 3SG](#) (Third Sector Group) is a membership network of over 200 charities, social enterprises and community groups in Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES). It offers a wide range of events to help third sector organisations thrive. They also promote events being run independently of 3SG that you may find beneficial.

Canva Tutorial - Easy Graphic Design Platform for Non-Profits

03 Feb 2026, 12:00 - 13:00 (Online via Zoom) [Register Here](#)

Bath Social Impact Network: 'AI in Action' - Live consultation event

04 Feb 2026, 18:00 - 22:00 (Locksbrook Campus, Bath) [Register Here](#)

Volunteering Network: Flexible and Inclusive Volunteering

10 Feb 2026, 10:00 - 12:00 (The Locksbrook Inn, Bath) [Register Here](#)

Exploring Collaborations and Mergers Workshop

25 Feb 2026, 10:00 - 12:30 (Location TBC) [Register Here](#)

Ageing Well Network

19 Mar 2026, 10:00 - 12:00 (St John's Foundation Boardroom, Bath) [Register Here](#)

Free for employees or volunteers of a 3SG Member organisation. Non-members can join some events for a small fee.*

[Visit their website to find out more.](#)



B&NES Interagency Network Meetings

The [Interagency Meetings](#) are hosted by Bath & North East Somerset Council to provide an opportunity for local service providers and community organisations to share information, network, promote projects/events and improve partnership working. They are very informal, held over lunchtime and open to anyone working or volunteering for an organisation in the area. No need to register, just turn up if you can.

The meetings take place on the third Tuesday of every other month between 12pm and 2pm by Teams. The forthcoming dates are:

- [17 March 2026](#)
- [19 May 2026](#)
- [21 July 2026](#)
- [15 September 2026](#)
- [17 November 2026](#)

You can also visit the [Interagency Meetings webpage](#) for the links to join.

You can catch up on the meeting held on 20 January 2026 by clicking the arrow on the YouTube video above.



Connecting Communities Meetings January and February

Bath Community Conversations

The [Bath Community Conversations](#) are informal, drop in events at community venues and generally held during the day. The next one is:

- **Bathwick on Wednesday 28 January 10am - 3pm** at The Community Pavilion, Sydney Gardens, Bath BA2 6NH. Those present will include the Ward Councillors for Bathwick; Avon Fire and Rescue; Avon & Somerset Police;
-

Everyone Health; Community Wellbeing Courses and B&NES Council Community Engagement. All welcome.

Following this, we will be organising Bath Community Conversations in Moorland Road and Lansdown. Details will be posted on the website soon.

Area Forums - North East Somerset

The [Connecting Communities Area Forums](#) are public meetings that bring together residents; Ward Councillors; Parish Councils and community organisations to discuss topics of local interest and help address areas of concern. The Police also regularly attend to give updates and take questions.

There are four Forums covering different areas of Bath and North East Somerset. Each of them meets four times a year, either in person or online. [See a map of the Forum areas.](#)

The theme of the February Meetings is **Children and Young People**. All welcome. The dates are:

- 9 February - Keynsham Area (Online) 6.30pm - 8pm
- 10 February - Bathavon Area (Online) 6pm - 7.30pm
- 11 February - Chew Valley Area (Chew Valley School) 6pm - 8pm
- 26 February - Somer Valley (Online) 6pm - 7.30pm

If any local organisations would like to present to the Forums about their work or a project, [please get in touch by email.](#)



Monthly Co-working Clubs

[Cool Ventures](#) provides business support services, many of which are freely available. As part of this, they hold FREE, monthly, co-working clubs for sole traders and micro businesses.

These are quiet, supportive spaces where you can work on your business, enjoy peer-to-peer conversations and discover what fully funded business support is available to you. A business mentor from Cool Ventures will be available throughout.

February Sessions:

Thursday 12 February between 10am - 12pm

The Somerset Toiletry Company, Upper Bristol Road, Clutton BS39 5TA

[Find out more and book a space.](#)

Thursday 26 February between 10am and 12pm

Share and Repair, Redbridge House, Lower Bristol Road, Bath BA2 3EW

[Find out more and book a space.](#)

Courses and Training



Launch of Youth Guarantee Trailblazer Roadshow 29 January - Midsomer Norton

On Thursday 29 January between 10am to 2pm, the very first Youth Guarantee Trailblazer (YGTB) Roadshow will be launched at Welton Rovers FC in Midsomer Norton.

This event is designed to inspire young people aged 16 to 21 who are not currently in work, education, or training. The Council is seeking local employers to take part. By showcasing your industry, skills, and opportunities, you can help them see what's possible and encourage them to take their next step toward a brighter future.

Why get involved?

- Showcase your sector: Host a live demonstration or interactive activity that brings your work to life.
- Spot future talent: Meet motivated young people eager to explore new career paths.
- Give back to the community: Play a direct role in tackling youth unemployment and supporting local growth.
- Raise your profile: Position your business as a champion for opportunity and inclusion.

To get involved or host a demonstration, please [get in touch by email](#).

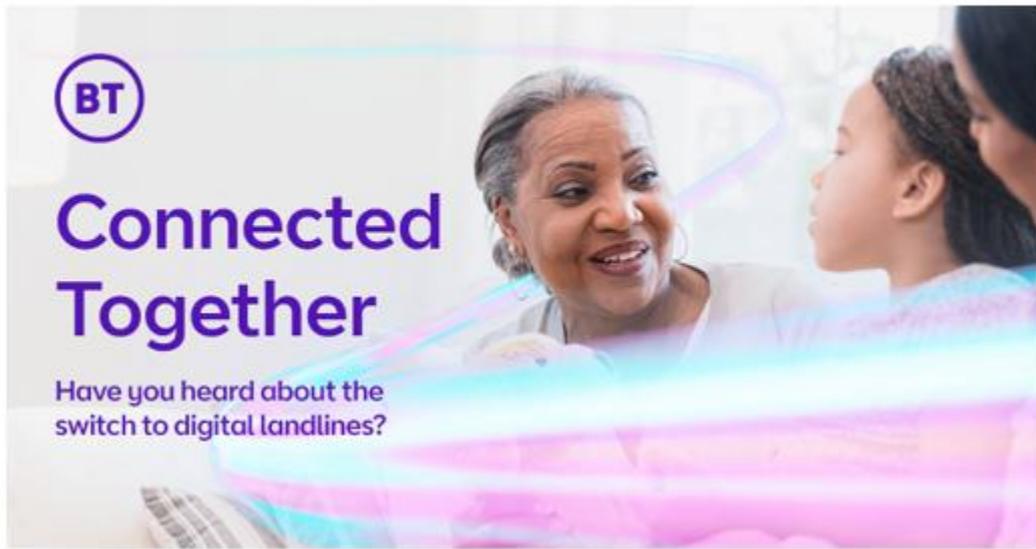


Prevent Week of Action 9 - 13 February 2026

This week of action offers a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of key [Prevent](#) topics through expert-led sessions and practical insights. Whether you're looking to strengthen your knowledge of Prevent, improve your confidence in making referrals, explore emerging risks like digital harms, or understand the links between

misogyny and extremism, these sessions will provide practical guidance and real-world context to support your work.

[Find out more and book.](#)



BT Update for Stakeholders

Final Year Before PSTN Switch-Off - Driving Action in 2026

BT invites stakeholders in the South West to a Monthly Programme Update Call. These take place on the second Tuesday of every month, 10am - 11am from **10 February**.

The sessions are designed to keep you fully updated on their final year migration plans, progress and the support they will need as they move through this critical and final phase. The calls will not be recorded, so they strongly recommend attending live to stay up to date with the latest developments.

If you have not been sent an invitation and would like to take part, [contact Sodhi Dillon - Engagement Manager with EE by email.](#)



Free Online Conference for NHS Employers
17 March, 9.30am - 3.45pm

This event will bring together leaders, advocates, and partners to share best practice and innovative approaches for creating inclusive employment opportunities and supportive environments for Reservists and the wider Armed Forces community.

The event is aimed at HR directors, workforce leaders, Armed Forces Leads, staff experience leads and anyone with an interest in supporting the Armed Forces community.

You will hear how NHS trusts are working with Step into Health to enhance opportunities into the NHS through apprenticeships and skills pathways. Discover how healthcare providers are embedding policies and practices that enable Reservists to excel, while meeting operational needs.

[Find out more and take part.](#)



Free Cultural Awareness Training Workshops on Travelling Communities

[Julian House](#) is hosting free cultural awareness training workshops, designed to help frontline staff to gain a better understanding of the travelling communities and the barriers they face.

They've had some great feedback from attendees and have lots of dates over the next few months.

If this is of interest to your team, please [get in touch with Hollie Miller by email](#).



Free e-learning course on measuring social impact - University of Bath

The University of Bath has launched a new e-learning course designed to help researchers, practitioners, and community organisations confidently measure and communicate the social value of their work.

[Find out more.](#)



Wellbeing Courses

Bath and North East Somerset

Free or Low Cost in person and online activities

The [Wellbeing Courses](#) are now being led by the [3SG](#) and open to people aged 16 and above, who live, work, or are registered with a GP in BANES.

The initiative is funded by Bath & North East Somerset Council and the NHS with courses either free or low cost.

The aim is to help people learn new skills, reduce isolation and boost overall wellbeing. Most activities take place in person, in different areas of Bath and North East Somerset but some are possible online.

Examples of courses currently on offer include:

- Yoga for Chronic Pain - Radstock and Southdown, Bath
- Smartphone Skills and Online Safety for Over 50s - Midsomer Norton
- Buggy Walk - Keynsham
- Declutter Your Home - Online

There is also a cancer support group, bereavement support groups and special [activities for unpaid carers](#) which are free of charge.

If you have any questions please contact the Community Wellbeing Hub on 0300 247 0050.

Online and Other Resources



Bristol Veterans' Hub

The Bristol Veterans' Hub is a place where veterans can meet each other and access support with employment, health and mental wellbeing. Veterans from Bath and North East Somerset are welcome and attendance is growing month on month.

It takes place on the last Thursday of the month at Bedminster Cricket Club BS3 2JX between 10am to 3pm. No booking required.

Locally, [The City of Bath Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club \(AFVBC\)](#) meets on the second Saturday of the month from 9am at The Riverside Inn, Saltford BS31 3EZ

The [Op COURAGE Integrated Veterans Mental Health Service](#), delivered by Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership, can support anyone who has served in the UK Armed Forces community regardless of length of time served, rank or reason for leaving. They cover the areas of Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, Cornwall and The Isles Of Scilly, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Somerset.



Emergency Dental Appointments in BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire

As part of the 700,000 extra urgent dental appointments being rolled out across the country, there are extra appointments now available for people in BANES; Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW).

These appointments are for urgent conditions including:

- Swelling or infections in the face or mouth that are getting worse (but not affecting breathing)
- Severe dental or facial pain that can't be eased with normal painkillers
- Broken or badly moved teeth after an accident
- Knocked-out baby teeth
- Facial injuries that may need a hospital check
- Bleeding in the mouth that you cannot stop
- Gum or mouth infections, like painful or rapidly worsening gum disease or cold sore outbreaks

You do not have to be registered with a dentist to access urgent care.

If your issue is not urgent, you may be advised how to care for it at home or guided to contact a dentist for routine care. To get an urgent appointment go to [NHS 111](#) or phone 111.



English indices of deprivation 2025

The Government has published the English indices of deprivation 2025 (IoD25), updating the 2019 indices of deprivation.

The IoD25 measures relative deprivation in small areas in England called lower-layer super output areas. The index of multiple deprivation (IMD25) is the most widely used of these indices.

The [statistical release](#) and [FAQ document](#) explain how the IoD25 and the IMD25 can be used and signpost to data files and guidance documents available.

[There's also a tool allowing people to enter a postcode to see how their area ranks, and compares with different postcodes.](#)



Start 2026 with a focus on mental health at work

The Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) [Working Minds campaign](#) has launched a new webpage to help employers recognise how work-related stress develops and why prevention matters.

Employers have a legal duty to protect workers from stress at work. There are six key areas of work design that can impact stress levels, which employers should actively manage:

- Demands – Workload, work patterns and the work environment.
- Control – The degree of control workers have over their work.
- Support – The support workers receive from managers and colleagues.
- Relationships – Promoting positive relationships at work.
- Role – Understanding of job role and responsibilities.
- Change – Managing and communicating change effectively.

The page explains the impact stress can have on health, absence and productivity. To understand the risks of stress at work and take the first steps towards preventing it in your workplace, visit the new page: [Understanding the impact of stress at work.](#)



Your Local Community Directory

Live Well is an online resource for Bath and North East Somerset offering information, support and signposting through three, community directories. These are split into categories:

- Livewell B&NES Children and Families - details of parenting support, registered childcare and family activities.
- Livewell B&NES Adults - information, signposting and resources for adults with care needs, or those supporting them.
- Livewell B&NES SEND (Rainbow Resource) - information for families with a child or young person (0-25) with additional needs, special education need and/or disability.

[Access all the directories here.](#)

Your organisation not listed?

If your organisation is not featured, you can add the details by [registering for an account](#). You can then use this to keep your listings up to date.

Unsure where to start?

Live Well B&NES has a feature called [Unsure where to start?](#) to help residents find the information they need for themselves or a family member who needs care or support. Users of the site select a category (such as money matters & finance, keeping safe, caring for others) answer a few simple questions and are then presented with a range of resources and information relevant to their needs.

Social Media

They also have popular socials with lots of local events and activities featured:

www.facebook.com/livewellbnes
www.instagram.com/livewellbathnes



Warm Spaces Directory

[The Warm Spaces Directory](#) for Bath and North East Somerset is now live on the Livewell B&NES website.

Warm Spaces are welcoming venues where people can go to stay warm, feel safe and meet others during periods of cold weather, high energy costs, loneliness or isolation. These spaces provide a comfortable, friendly environment and may also offer free hot drinks or other facilities like WIFI, books, or toys for children to play with (facilities vary, depending on the venue).

[There is a handy map of Warm Spaces](#) to help everyone find their nearest warm and welcoming venue.

Want to add your venue to the directory?

Adding your Warm Spaces is a fantastic way to support your local community. Now in its fourth year, we have seen a wide range of organisations, community groups and local businesses taking part, including pubs, village shops, libraries, community spaces and ongoing groups, a laundrette, a building society and even an estate agents! We would love for you to join them.

It's free, quick and easy for a venue to [register as a new warm space](#) in Bath and North East Somerset (private homes are not eligible).

If you have any questions about Warm Spaces, please [contact the Live Well B&NES team by email](#).

Jobs and Volunteering



Volunteer Role for a Disabled Sensory Walk Guide

[Your Park Bristol and Bath](#) work to make sure everyone can enjoy parks. Their Parks 4 All project focuses on making parks more accessible for Disabled people and unpaid carers. They are also looking for Disabled people and unpaid carers to deliver the Sensory Walks.

Volunteers will help lead park walks that support people who may find parks difficult to use. The walks will help people to notice sounds, smells, movement, textures, colours, or simply enjoy being still. In the role you will:

- Help plan simple, accessible walk routes
- Welcome people and help them feel safe
- Guide small groups at a relaxed pace
- Talk to people about the walk and discuss how they can be developed.

They are looking for volunteers that:

- Identify as a Disabled person or an unpaid carer
 - Enjoy being outdoors and in parks
 - Are friendly and enjoy being with other people
 - Like supporting people with different needs
-

- Are interested in leading walks

You will receive support and training for leading Sensory Walks as well as food, drink and travel expenses.

To apply, [contact Miranda at Your Park by email](#) or calling 07355 619767

Training will be taking place in February in the hope that walks can start in Spring 2026.



B&NES Council's Volunteers' Fair 23 February 2026, 11am - 1pm, Bath

Bath & North East Somerset's Volunteers' Fair returns to the Guildhall on 23 February, running from 11am to 1pm.

Hosted by [Achieve in B&NES](#), Bath & North East Somerset Council's employment and skills brand, the fair is aimed at anyone looking to give back, learn new skills, or connect with inspiring community organisations.

Those interested in attending can find [full details and register via Eventbrite](#).

For those unable to attend, the Council also commissions Everyone Health to manage the [BANES Volunteer Service](#). They use '[Simply Connect](#)' to help people search for a suitable volunteer role and to help organisations promote their opportunities.

Events



Free NHS Health Checks

Even though you might be feeling good, getting an NHS Health Check is a great way to check any possible risk of current or future certain health conditions, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke, high blood pressure. [Everyone Health](#) offers full NHS Health Checks to any workplaces or organisations (staff and/or service users) in BaNES.

These are available to anyone:

- living, working or registered at a GP in B&NES
- aged between 40 – 74
- who has not had an NHS Health Check in the past 5 years.

NB: NHS Health Checks are NOT available to those with any of the below pre-existing health conditions: Heart disease/Stroke/High blood pressure (and taking BP meds) /High Cholesterol (taking statins) /Atrial Fibrillation, Chronic Kidney Disease or Diabetes).

Upcoming clinics:

- Tuesday 27 January at The Hub, Mulberry Park, Bath, BA2 5BU 10am - 2pm
- Friday 6 February at Bath City Farm, BA2 1NW. 12pm-5pm.

To book please check the eligibility above and contact the BaNES Wellness Service via the Community Wellbeing Hub on 0300 247 0050. You can also use this number to talk to them about coming to your workplace to do NHS Health Checks for your staff.

Everyone Health is commissioned by Bath & North East Somerset Council. Find out more about the services they offer [on their website](#).



The [National Association of Local Councils \(NALC\)](#) hold regular online events featuring leading organisations and policymakers. All events consider the significant issues facing communities and provide a new perspective on them. They are aimed at Parish and Town Councils but all are welcome (there is a charge). They are designed to give Councillors and Clerks from across the country an opportunity to connect, share best practices and learn from one another from the comfort of their home or workplace.

Coming up (all online at 12pm - 1.15pm):

[Mastering Asset Management - Navigating New Responsibilities - 28 January 2026](#): An in-depth exploration of the essential principles for managing current and future assets.

[Beyond the Precept - Funding Solutions for Smaller Parish and Town Councils - 11 February 2026](#): This event digs deeper into practical, achievable funding routes for smaller parish and town council

[Future Leaders: Attracting young talent to parish and town councils - 25 February 2026](#): This event will delve into successful practices from various local government bodies that have effectively connected with younger populations and showcase the achievements of a leading council known for its exceptional work in this area.

[The Housing Puzzle: Putting parish and town councils at the heart of the solution - 25 March 2026](#): This event will explore the role of housing associations working to tackle these challenges and include insights from a stakeholder involved in rolling out successful community-led housing initiatives.

[See all forthcoming events](#)

View past sessions free!

NALC has made its online event recordings freely available. [Visit their website to see](#)

[the full list and watch the sessions for free.](#)

They also offer a range of [online training courses](#) for Parish Clerks and Councillors.



Sunday Social Tea Party
1 February, 3pm - 5.30pm, Bath

[GrandFriends](#) is a Bath based charity which started in 2022. Their aim is to link older people with young people which they do through playtime visits and library sessions at schools; Sunday Socials and a Hobbies Club.

Their next Sunday Social is on 1 February at The Community Pavilion in Sydney Gardens (situated to the left of the Holburne Museum car park). They welcome guests from all younger generations to enjoy a delicious traditional tea with games, crafts and excellent company. You can also go along if you are interested in finding out more or volunteering for them. Their volunteers currently range in age from early 60s to late 80s.



**Festival of Libraries
7 - 21 February 2026**

The Libraries in Bath and North East Somerset have a jam-packed, two week programme full of free events and activities for everyone to enjoy!

There are events, author talks and activities, culminating in an Authors and Small Publishers Fair.

There will also be activities you can do online and a celebration of volunteering in libraries.

[Visit the Libraries Website to find out more](#)



Lunch Club at The Hive, Peasedown

SWALLOW Community Cafe at The Hive in Peasedown St John are hosting a lunch club

on the last Wednesday of every month between 12.30pm and 2.00pm. Two courses costs £10.

To book, please call the SWALLOW cafe directly on 07834 598288 or pop in and see them in the cafe - Bath Road, Peasedown St John, Bath BA2 8DH.



Opportunity for Community Groups
Deadline to apply is 2 March

The [Festival of Nature](#) is the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world, taking place every June across the West of England region.

They are seeking local community groups who would like to put on events between 6 and 15 June to celebrate the actions communities are taking for nature. These would be promoted as part of the Festival of Nature programme.

To take part, organisations simply need to organise an activity or event that their community can take part in on any day between the 6 and 14 June. The group could organise anything: a litter pick, a wildflower planting session, nature talk or walk, building bird boxes or anything in-between! There's no idea too big or small.

They offer up to £100 for community groups to put on events (this funding is subject to availability and is not guaranteed). The deadline for submissions is Monday 2 March at 9am.

There are 2 half hour webinars to provide more information, or groups can also arrange a call directly with a member of the NHC team to talk about the opportunity or help develop an idea - this contact info is on the website.

Webinar times: 3 February at 6pm and 17 February at 10am.

[Find out more.](#)



The next COVID-19 Day of Reflection will take place on Sunday 8 March 2026.

It will be an opportunity to come together to remember those who lost their lives since the pandemic began and to honour the tireless work and acts of kindness shown during this unprecedented time.

From small gatherings with family and friends to larger community events, you can plan a Day of Reflection event that feels right for you.

If you plan to host a Day of Reflection event, you can submit your event to be featured on an interactive map. The map will be published shortly.

There are other ideas for taking part on the website too - [find out more.](#)

News



NALC Star Awards

Congratulations to Cllr Caitlin Brennan from Keynsham Town Council who has been shortlisted in the [Young Councillor of the Year Category](#) of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Star Awards.

The winners will be announced at a Parliamentary Reception on 24 February 2026 at the House of Lords. We wish her every success.

[Find out more about becoming a Town or Parish Councillor](#)

**Norovirus cases
are on the rise**

**Hand sanitiser isn't fully
effective on norovirus.**

Wash your hands with warm water and
soap for 20 seconds to reduce the
chance of spreading germs.

Norovirus cases up 60% in the past two weeks

Latest data shows that cases have increased 61.1% in the last two weeks, compared to

the previous two-week period. There has been a significant rise in cases in adults aged 65 and over, and outbreaks in hospital settings have increased too. Common symptoms of norovirus include:

- nausea and vomiting
- diarrhoea
- high temperature
- abdominal pain
- aching limbs

Good hand hygiene is important to stop norovirus spreading. To stop norovirus spreading, you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly using soap and warm water after using the toilet or contact with a sick individual and before preparing and eating food
- stay off school or work until you have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days
- not rely on alcohol gels instead of washing your hands, as these do not kill the virus
- wash any contaminated clothing or bedding using detergent at 60°C using disposable gloves to handle any items
- use bleach-based cleaners to disinfect surfaces

If you catch norovirus, stay home for 48 hours after your symptoms clear.

[Find out more.](#)



Book your Christmas tree collections now

B&NES garden waste collections will restart from Monday 19 January and that includes a chance to collect your Christmas tree. If you'd like your tree collected, don't forget to [book a Christmas tree collection](#) at least 2 days before your [collection day](#).

Please make sure all decorations are removed, your tree is cut in half (no taller than 1.2m) and is left at the front edge of your property on the right collection day.

Alternatively, you can take your tree to one of our [Recycling Centres](#) for composting.



UK Town of Culture 2028 competition

Towns across the country can now apply to enter the UK Town of Culture competition, which aims to shine a spotlight on the unique contributions that towns make.

Three finalists – one small, one medium, one large town – will be chosen, with the winner crowned the ‘UK Town of Culture 2028’ and receiving a £3 million prize money to deliver a cultural programme in 2028. Two runners-up will also receive £250,000 to deliver elements of their bid.

Bidding places have until 31 March to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI), making the case for why their town is special. Relevant councils must be engaged in any applications put forward.

[Find out more and apply.](#)

(The deadline for the [UK City of Culture 2029 competition](#) has been extended to 8 February 2026).



Prince of Wales Award

Nominations are open for the Prince of Wales Award - supported by the Duchy of Cornwall with the Royal Bath and West of England Society.

To apply, organisations must be

- located in Bristol, BANES, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire or Gloucestershire
 - an organisation run by the community for the community
 - improving the lives of the whole or specific part of the local community
-

- sustainable

The full criteria and a link to the application form [can be found on their website](#).

Applications should be received by the closing date of **Friday 20 March 2026**. All nominations will be reviewed by a panel of judges and those chosen will have a short visit from the judges on Thursday 16 April 2026. Those shortlisted will be invited to the first day of the Royal Bath & West Show on Thursday 28 May 2026.

The winners will be announced at the opening ceremony of the Show and presented with a certificate; keepsake and cheque for £1,000.

Have Your Say: Surveys and Consultations



NHS Health Check Survey

The NHS Health Check for adults aged 40–74 is a free 5 yearly check up on overall health that can identify people at a higher risk of developing diseases including: heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease and stroke, and help them to take steps to reduce their risk and prevent disease.

Looking across Bath and North East Somerset, the take up of the Health Check is lowest among those at the younger end of the eligibility range, particularly:

- men
-

- individuals from minority ethnic groups
- people living in less well-off neighbourhoods

Alongside public health efforts to better target the offer of NHS Health Checks to groups with low uptake, Healthwatch is engaging the public to understand their awareness of and access to the Health Check. What are the barriers to attending the Health Check and what would make it easier?

[Find out more and take part.](#)

No advertised closing date at present.

The logo for Bath & North East Somerset Council, featuring the text "Bath & North East Somerset Council" in a green, sans-serif font, centered between two horizontal blue bars.

Improving People's Lives

Trees and woodlands strategy consultation

We are putting together a district tree and woodland strategy and want to offer the farming community an opportunity to feed into this landscape scale tree and woodland strategy. We also want to gather information around on-farm trees and woodland as well as gauge interest, barriers and opportunities to tree and woodland management and new planting.

If you are interested in learning more about trees on farms, woodland planting and woodland management we'd like to capture this and help you find the right help moving forward.

The consultation closes at **5pm on 2 February 2026.**

[Find out more and take part.](#)

Improving People's Lives

Public Space Protection Order Dogs in Council-Owned Cemeteries

We are responding to repeated reports of issues caused by the behaviour of dogs and their owners in council-owned cemeteries. We are proposing introducing formal rules, enforceable by fines, which will require owners to:

- keep their dogs on a short lead (2 metres or less)
- immediately clean up and remove any dog mess

We welcome responses from residents, cemetery visitors and anyone who is concerned about the environment we provide in these public spaces, which are:

- [Locksbrook Cemetery](#), Upper Bristol Road, Bath BA1 3DQ
- [Harptree Cemetery](#), West Harptree Road, East Harptree BS40 6BQ
- [St. Michael's Cemetery](#), St. Michael's Road, Lower Weston, Bath BA1 3BJ
- [Smallcombe Cemetery](#), 6 Widcombe Hill, Bath BA2 6DD
- [St. James' Cemetery](#), Lower Bristol Road, Bath BA2 3BQ
- [Twerton Cemetery](#), Bellotts Road, Bath BA2 3RT

The PSPO would not apply to:

- assistance dogs at any site if it is not practical for owners to follow regulations
- our main site in Bath, Haycombe Cemetery, where no dogs except assistance dogs are permitted onsite.

The consultation closes at **5pm on 2 February 2026**.

[Find out more and take part.](#)

School term and holiday dates consultation 2027 to 2028

We are consulting on our planned school term dates to give an opportunity to raise any issues or provide comments before they are confirmed. As in previous years, we have discussed our proposed dates with neighbouring authorities to try and offer similar term dates for the convenience of parents, carers and schools.

The consultation closes on **20 February 2026**.

[Find out more and take part.](#)



Reducing the prevalence of private estate management arrangements

The consultation focuses on tackling the growing issue of unadopted amenities on privately managed housing estates in England, where roads, drainage systems, green spaces, and other communal infrastructure are maintained by private estate management companies rather than public authorities. This trend has led to unfair charges, poor transparency, and limited homeowner rights, creating significant consumer detriment.

The government aims to:

- Reduce reliance on private estate management and increase adoption of amenities by public authorities.
- Implement common standards for adoptable amenities to improve quality and consistency.
- Explore mandatory adoption for certain public amenities, while considering exceptions for premium or exclusive features.
- Remove perverse incentives that make non-adoption attractive to developers.
- Improve data transparency, homeowner protections, and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Consider prohibiting embedded management arrangements and promoting resident-controlled management.
- Assess financial sustainability of estate management charges and introduce affordability safeguards.
- Seek evidence on impacts for homeowners, developers, local authorities, and management companies.

The government recognises the importance of new housing supply to meet national demand, and we must deliver reform in parallel with our wider housing ambitions, including building a record number of desperately needed new homes, while making sure that public services are sustainable.

The Consultation runs until **12 March 2026**.

[Find out more and take part.](#)



Consultation seeking views to modernise laws on powered mobility devices

The Department for Transport has launched a 12-week consultation seeking views on changing the rules for using powered mobility devices, including powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters, on public roads and pavements.

This includes:

- updating the words we use in law to describe powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters and who can use them
- where these devices can be used – on roads, pavements or elsewhere
- changing the rules around size, speed and age for using larger devices
- whether people should be allowed to carry a passenger
- whether other types of devices should be allowed on public roads or pavements when used by disabled people or a person with reduced mobility

The consultation closes on **31 March 2026**.

[Find out more and take part.](#)



Consultation on Local Transport Authorities and the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles

The Department for Transport is seeking views on the potential benefits and challenges of making all local transport authorities (LTAs) in England responsible for taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing.

The consultation focuses on the impact this would have on:

- councils
 - taxi and PHV businesses
-

- passengers

As taxi and PHV licensing is devolved in all UK nations, this proposal would only apply in England.

This consultation follows publication of the English Devolution White Paper by MHCLG in December 2024. The white paper sets out the government's proposal to change the administrative level of licensing for taxis and PHVs to facilitate better and safer transport services for the public.

The consultation closes on **1 April 2026**

[Find out more and take part.](#)

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Improving People's Lives

B&NES Council Consultations

[Visit the Council's website for its latest consultations.](#)

Do also visit our [newsroom](#) for the latest press releases as these often promote consultations and sign up for the weekly [e-newsletter](#) (e-connect).

Stay Informed

BANES E-Connect - [View the Council's weekly newsletter, e-connect](#). You can [sign up to receive it here](#). For more information contact the Communications and Marketing team by [email](#).

LiveWell B&NES - provides a wide range of information, signposting and resources for families, children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (our SEND Local Offer) and adults needing care or support to live independent. [Find out more here](#).

3SG - Keep up to date with news from the [3SG](#) - an independent membership network supporting the charity, social enterprise, faith and voluntary sector operating in Bath and North East Somerset.

Public Health B&NES - Stay up-to-date with local and national public health campaigns, resources, services for local residents and much more. To find out more go to the [council's website](#). You can also [sign up to receive the B&NES Public Health e-newsletter and view previous editions](#).

BSW ICB - keep up to date with news from the B&NES; Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board, visit their [website](#) or [sign up to their newsletter here](#).

Radio Bath - a volunteer radio station broadcasting online and on DAB across Bath, North East Somerset and West Wiltshire. [Listen Live or Listen Back here](#).

Bath Sound - formerly Bath Hospital Radio and BA1 Radio - a community radio station for Bath. [Listen Live](#)

Keynsham Town Community Radio - KTCRfm covers Keynsham, Saltford, Hanham, Bitton, Warmley Clutton, Timsbury, the Chew Valley and as far south as Temple Cloud. East to the eastern edge of Bath, north across South Gloucestershire to the M4 corridor, and west into many parts of Bristol. Broadcast on 105.8fm, and [online](#).

Somer Valley Radio - How to listen - Keep up to date with local news. ON FM: 97.5 FM in the NE Somerset Area, ON DAB: Just look for 'Somer Valley' in Bristol and Keynsham, ONLINE: Click the 'Listen' button on their [website](#) or click [here](#).

The hyperlinks to third party websites are provided for convenience of only. Bath & North East Somerset Council does not endorse the views or information held within such websites, the websites themselves, or the owners and operators of the websites, and is unable to grant permission to use material found on such sites.

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[Bath & North East
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Our mailing address is:

The Guildhall, High Street, Bath, BA1 5AW

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