



# INFORMATION BURST

**Your monthly information burst  
May 2023**



## Think 'What3words' app this summer

As the weather is getting warmer and the days are getting longer, we expect a lot of the public to be out, especially if warm weather is looming.

We are encouraging the public to download the 'what3words' so when it's hard to describe where you are in an emergency, you only need to read out three words given on the app for the call handler to know exactly where you are.

North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and other emergency services have always advocated the 'what3words' app which is available on the App Store and Google Play to download, to help specifically locate any members of the public. This is whether you are in the city, at home, at the beach or on the hillside. The app helps to better locate an individual faster in an emergency if you are unsure of your exact location.

## New warnings over Measles outbreak in the North West

A statement provided by Colin Cox the Director of Public Health for Cumberland Council and Interim Director of Public Health for Westmorland and Furness Council, has been issued after recent cases found in Cumbria area. Colin said, "The UK Health Security Agency is urging people to check that they and their families are up to date with their MMR vaccines, particularly before they travel this summer and before attending summer festivals where measles can spread more easily."

In the North West, uptake of both doses of the vaccine by age five was below 90 per cent in more than half of local authorities in the region and less than 80 per cent in some areas. This is well below the 95 per cent target set by the World Health Organisation (WHO). With one in ten children in England not up to date with their vaccinations and at risk of becoming seriously unwell. In particular, we are asking all parents to check if their children are up to date with their MMR vaccines to protect them against measles, mumps and rubella. To become fully protected children, need two doses, the first at age one year and the second at 3 years 4 months.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) have predicted a rise in measles cases across Europe in 2023, making it is more important than ever to make sure that your child is fully protected. Measles can make a child seriously unwell and can lead to pneumonia with rare long-lasting conditions such as blindness and brain damage. To make sure your children are up to date check your child's red book or GP records and make an appointment to catch up on any missed doses.

Anyone with symptoms is being advised to stay at home and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice.

For more information on the NHS vaccination schedule, please visit [NHS vaccinations webpage](#).

## New response vehicle put into operation in Alston Moor

The hybrid Kia Sportage will provide transport for the five Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) who are based in the community whenever they are providing emergency cover and has been introduced as part of plans to create a new sustainable model for emergency care for the rural community.



It carries similar life-saving equipment to our standard emergency response vehicles (including a defibrillator, oxygen therapy and pain-relieving gas), as well as the addition of warming blankets.

Gene Quinn, Head of Operations for Cumbria and Lancashire, said, "We understand the issue of emergency care provision has been an emotive one for the local community, and I am delighted to get to the point of trialling this solution". "Meanwhile, we are continuing to recruit local community first responder (CFR) volunteers in the area, and I urge anyone interested to get in touch".

You can read the full story on the new response vehicle [here](#).

## Get Involved



### Patient and Public Panel (PPP)

Our Patient and Public Panel have over 274 volunteers already supporting improvements at NWAS, if you would like to contribute by sharing your lived experiences to help improve our ambulance service and become a member of our Patient and Public Panel, please do not hesitate to get in touch: [Patient.Panel@nwas.nhs.uk](mailto:Patient.Panel@nwas.nhs.uk)

### Patient Stories

If you or your family have any feedback or experience that you would like to share, we would like to hear from you! Please get in touch, [Talk.tous@nwas.nhs.uk](mailto:Talk.tous@nwas.nhs.uk)

### Patient Engagement Team

Just a reminder that the Patient Engagement Team are always happy to come and speak to your organisation, group, or forum virtually on MS Teams, Zoom, and in person to share NWAS updates verbally. If you would like the PE Team to attend your meetings, please do not hesitate to contact us at [Talk.tous@nwas.nhs.uk](mailto:Talk.tous@nwas.nhs.uk)

