

PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Leaders of Hastings Going for Zero campaign hail early success and say the future is in the balance**



Image credit: Georgie Scott

With news that the number of Covid cases and people being admitted to hospital has reduced and government figures indicating that for the first time in months, Hastings had one day with zero cases, the campaign to kick Covid out of Hastings – #Imgoingforzero – secured a major boost. But community and health leaders say it's not time to ease up now. Carole Dixon, CEO of Education Futures Trust said:

“It is fantastic that the hard work of residents and the NHS has resulted in Hastings achieving its first zero day. Thinking back to the difficult winter peak, Hastings has faced up to huge health and social challenges that make achieving zero a real triumph.”

“The next stage is to use our incredible community spirit to build on this success, and open our schools and businesses with the minimum of new infections. Unless we do this, there is a real danger that our well-loved events, such as the Seafood and Wine Festival, will be cancelled, and a host of local hospitality businesses will not be able to open. It is really important that we work together and make sure Hastings is open for business.”

The campaign is calling for more community groups and businesses to step up to the plate by making pledges on social media using the #I'mGoingforZero hashtag adding to those on the YouTube site at <http://www.youtube.com/hashtag/imgoingforzero>

The campaign is also backing the NHS vaccine campaign and has worked with the NHS to produce a leaflet urging Hastings residents who have been vaccinated to tell others – and encourage them to get the jab as soon as they can. Steve Manwaring, CEO of Hastings Voluntary Action added:

“Don’t hesitate. Getting the jab is striking a blow at the virus and its dreadful impact on the whole community, it’s how we can protect the town we love as well as ourselves and our families.”

“Unless a very high level of residents are vaccinated the town will be open to continued numbers of serious illnesses and death. Critically our essential tourist industry and the fantastic cultural life of the town simply cannot recover properly until the virus is contained.”

ENDS

For further information please visit [www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk) or contact:

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**Notes For Editors:**

Hastings Community Hub is a partnership group brought together at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic to plan and co-ordinate services to support the people of Hastings & St.Leonards during the crisis. Since March 2020 its number have grown to encompass the principal statutory and voluntary groups leading the work against the pandemic including Sussex NHS Commissioners, Hastings Borough Council, East Sussex County Council, Hastings Voluntary Action, Hastings Emergency Action Resilience Team, Citizens Advice 1066, Hastings Foodbank/King’s Church, Education Futures Trust, Fellowship of St.Nicholas, Neighbourhood Watch, Optivo Housing, Orbit Housing, Sussex Police and the Heart of Hastings Community Land Trust.

Watch video messages from: Cllr Kim Forward, Leader of Hastings Council, Andy Doe, Coxswain of Hastings RNLI Lifeboat, Keith Leech, chair of Hastings Old Town Carnival Association and Hastings Jack in the Green, Heather Leech, chair of Hastings Borough Bonfire Society, Joel Pivert from Source Skatepark and Kate Sands, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Station Manager at [www.youtube.com/hashtag/imgoingforzero](http://www.youtube.com/hashtag/imgoingforzero)

Hastings Pier image: Georgie Scott