**Weekly News Update – April 16th, 2025**

**PCN NEWS**

**PCN Networking Event**

See the link below for registration to our networking event – being held next week on April 24th (10am – 1pm).

Speakers:

Firstly, we will be joined by **Marc Dunne** (Preston City Council) and **Cath Coffey**(The Foxton Centre), who will discuss the Preston Youth Forum Network, the recently released Youth Strategy 2025 - 2035, and updates from The Foxton Centre.

Next, we will have **Tim Jacques** (Preston's Vault Youth Zone), to give us some updates on the venue, and future events happening there.

Finally, we will have a talk from **Stephanie Kenyon** (Lancashire County Council - Youth Futures) who will discuss the Youth Skills Award.

We will also be giving an update on PCN's work and developments in the VCFSE sector in general.

There will be tea and coffee available and of course, the event will also offer plenty time for the relaxed informal networking which we know our members appreciate so much.

If you have not yet registered to attend, you can do so via the following link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/PrestonCommunityNetwork/PCNNetworkingEventApril24th>

**Disability Equality North West Celebrates New Home**

Our friends at Disability Equality North West (DENW) have announced a major milestone for disabled people in the region by officially signing a lease on their new base at Bannister House in Preston.

Please click on this [link](https://disability-equality.org.uk/disability-equality-north-west-celebrates-new-home-in-preston/) for full details.

An official opening and VE Day celebration is being planned for May, but before that DENW is inviting members, supporters, and local residents to a soft opening drop-in session to take a look around on Thursday, April 24 from 10.30am–1pm.

No booking is required. Just drop in for a tour and a chat.

DENW is also appealing for local businesses to help - decorators, donations of paint, kitchen equipment, and vinyl flooring to help bring the space to life are all welcomed. If you can help, please contact [melanie@disabilityequality.org.uk](mailto:melanie@disabilityequality.org.uk).

**Risk Assess your Charity Building**The Ethical Property Foundation offers free advice on conducting a risk assessment for your premises, including understanding risk, navigating a risk assessment and learning about your legal responsibilities, insurance etc

A free online webinar takes place at noon on Tuesday, May 20 and you can register by clicking [here](https://propertyhelp.org/events/charity-building-risk-assessment-webinar/).

**Preston VCFSE Needs Survey**

PCN, along with Preston City Council are seeking the views of VCFS groups on their organisational needs. We want to be able to offer the right support in the right places, so need to understand any areas where organisations are lacking in resources and/or skills.

Through [Preston City Council’s Social Value Policy](https://www.preston.gov.uk/socialvaluepolicy), there may be opportunities in the future for the Council’s suppliers to offer business support to Preston-based VCFS organisations. For example, with guidance and support around governance, finance, HR, marketing and communications.

[To understand what your organisation’s needs are to sustain your operations now and for the coming 12 – 18 months, we ask you to take 10 minutes to answer this short survey.](https://www.cognitoforms.com/PrestonCommunityNetwork/PrestonVCFSNeedsSurvey2025)

**PCN Training Sessions – Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Media Training two weeks ago, and our AI training last week. We hope you found the sessions informative and beneficial. We are planning on doing another AI session next month – details to come soon.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**We Do Tennis – Youth Leaders Course**

‘We Do Tennis’ are offering a [FREE Tennis Leaders Course](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/dcd8b05c-83af-7e20-3fe4-188586fc4732.png) on Thursday the 1st May from 5pm-9pm at Christ The King Catholic High School in Preston. The course is open to anyone aged 11 and above. Click on the link to sign up [LTA Youth Tennis Leaders Course - Fred Perry Community Tennis Trust - Preston — We Do Tennis C.I.C.](https://wdt.corsizio.com/event/67eadc1600cd6ddccec53f0f)

**Kings Trust – Start Your Own Business Course**

Any young people aged between 18-30 who are looking to start their own business can get support and financial support through this new programme with the [Kings Trust](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/c71c9bd9-4187-38c7-0b83-1af7966c6214.png).

For more information please see [Free support to start a business | Enterprise programme](https://www.kingstrust.org.uk/how-we-can-help/support-starting-business)

**B&M Work Experience Programme**

[B&M are excited to announce the launch of the next phase of B&M's Work Experience Programme](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/75ad1da4-7971-9f7b-86bd-05f5f56e8a31.png), which will include over 700 stores across the UK. The B&M Employability Team has been working alongside the DWP to secure further initiatives to support individuals interested in retail careers.

The objective of this programme is to offer individuals an opportunity to gain experience in a retail environment and be trained as B&M colleagues. Each placement will last for four weeks, with up to five placements per store, depending on the store size. All participants will receive a full B&M company induction and a 10% B&M staff discount. They will also be paired with a buddy throughout their placement to ensure they have support and a point of contact.

This is for young people aged 18+ and they must be on Universal Credit and being supported by a Job Centre Workcoach.

**FUNDING**

**Roots & Routes Fund**

The Roots & Routes Fund is now open for grant applications for climate justice projects from youth-led organisations, particularly those working with under-represented groups.

There’s more information [here](https://link.mediaoutreach.meltwater.com/ls/click?upn=u001.k3fjZ577BZMZIDMkNBiEr-2BuI3MvG90Ok-2FNDEdOy2VfWCJdzKSeZbtaTTa2CJdqeAl5pGbbCz0xytt99eDb8zE9F10n9IS79PkdpKaGsLq0Q-3DLJi6_M7561dTk8oPSP7-2FkK3w4hTdD59pUvmq6ITCGp8RayB77zkqO41ramqWybfaCqwDaM3iTa5QHixDSrmXhfsWLYWpncMSz-2Fj164r1YE9f1l4lvGPodLhfVdGwe058LdsO8R4aLjRYZgbcs93Q381KjUUkt7W-2BnuyI-2B4Z2BnT6mkTbyOc6Csh0QqBGshVkjkCftuOkheLlVjV5R85hxmEEbRbYykis5vfZjhiKst9WZ7b2e-2BmKb1YibVSe-2BfvxRGWSooU99L0JhwRnvw5qr2Z7KggStQSrb5k-2BbrICuwTWOZncWY6qZ6NI1WYWNeyU-2F0qqFRUOV-2BgFOTUSMiEerpzilc2vQhiLdctHup3-2FVzqVZZXWJ5WwXD-2FFjxXjTGuIkPbETCtopQxFJqTKraeuMv6mWJA-3D-3D) and you can register for a guidance webinar on Monday, April 28 by clicking [here](https://link.mediaoutreach.meltwater.com/ls/click?upn=u001.k3fjZ577BZMZIDMkNBiEr6pAoTAEiyhe-2BiuQIcH7pN8xMx61c4d4HPQVZPSC3MPl39OFVBnp6pSm8QxuUrS4fwiCCq2cWM-2FlvmbT5eGhODGEU0oNvL2bsg-2BYMVwSmQ4xhn69c7or-2F3BbQ1tO0DJfEw-3D-3DLZ-C_M7561dTk8oPSP7-2FkK3w4hTdD59pUvmq6ITCGp8RayB77zkqO41ramqWybfaCqwDaM3iTa5QHixDSrmXhfsWLYWpncMSz-2Fj164r1YE9f1l4lvGPodLhfVdGwe058LdsO8R4aLjRYZgbcs93Q381KjUUkt7W-2BnuyI-2B4Z2BnT6mkTbyOc6Csh0QqBGshVkjkCftuOkheLlVjV5R85hxmEEbRbYykis5vfZjhiKst9WZ7b3tMO-2BpGovrO-2FGKKfUr4cKusJVo9iSGpQfDPWorSL0uLxSBmWR9Py3dVI2dOSSXCFUVevNMO1SXmi6cJBmchqO3nVycc7kw36PEiHQncwL8bX9mSpJeYCKEwHOuU44Z8sF8PXg86Pf8yaW1wrMfz5b2ygYlMR-2BmyIsyzGeN-2Bmsf8g-3D-3D).

Grants of up to £20,000 are available and closing date is June 2.

**New Government Fund to Tackle Anti-Muslim Hate**The Government has launched a new Combatting Hatred Against Muslims Fund to address the alarming rise in anti-Muslim hate crime, which now accounts for nearly 40 per cent of all religiously motivated offences.

Backed by up to £650,000 in 2025/26 and rising to £1 million annually from 2026/27, the fund will support organisations to monitor incidents, raise awareness and provide vital support for victims.

Applications are open until May 18 and you can find more details [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-fund-to-tackle-hatred-against-muslims).

**National Lottery Community Fund Funding Priorities**The National Lottery Community Fund has introduced new priorities for its Reaching Communities programme, focusing on creating fairer, stronger and more resilient communities.

Grants starting from £20,001 are available for not-for-profit groups whose work supports people facing poverty, discrimination, or disadvantage.

Funding is available for both ongoing and new projects, and applications can be submitted any time.

Full details [here](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england).

**Funding to Support Children with Disabilities & Life-Limiting Conditions**Grants of up to £10,000 are available for registered charitable organisations to deliver projects that work to improve the lives of disabled children, young people under 25 and those with life-limiting conditions and their families via the True Colours Trust Small Grants Programme.

Applications can be submitted at any time and priority will be given to organisations operating in areas of high deprivation.

More details [here](https://www.truecolourstrust.org.uk/uk-small-grants).

**Small Grants for Summer Projects to Support Families**   
Warburtons is offering grants of up to £500 for not-for-profit organisations and charities through its Community Grants programme.

Funding supports projects that improve health, community spaces, and life skills for families in need.

Deadline is May 5. More details [here](https://www.warburtons.co.uk/goodstuff/financial-giving/).

**Cycling UK Big Bike Revival**   
Cycling UK has launched the Big Bike Revival Summer Grants 2025, offering up to £3,500 for voluntary and not-for-profit groups across England.

The funding supports cycling projects aimed at adults who are not currently cycling or cycling less frequently, using the ‘fix-learn-ride’ model to boost confidence and participation.

The focus is on reaching underrepresented groups, including women, people on low incomes, and those with barriers to cycling.

Apply by clicking [here](https://www.cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival/delivery-partners).

**TRAINING**

**Leadership and Management Training**

Community CVS are offering training to Health and Social Care and VCFSE organisations and individuals across Lancashire.

The 10 week course offers learning in Leadership and Management tailored to the sector including project management and leadership styles and skills.

The course begins next Wednesday, April 23 at 9.30am and continues each Wednesday until July 9.

Contact [leah.harrison@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:leah.harrison@communitycvs.org.uk) for registration details.

**EVENTS**

**Sahara Jobs Fair**

Our member group Sahara are hosting one of their always popular jobs/volunteering fairs at their base at 48 Fishwick Parade PR1 4XQ from 10am-1pm on Wednesday, May 21.

[Details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/5d1be72e-a2f2-f88b-9b25-c007145f2030.png)

**Free Health Checks**

There’s another day of free NHS Health Checks at Mill Bank next month. All members and service users welcome. [Details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/eff93bea-db5c-76d9-b0d8-2585f1f669b7.jpg)

**Preston Volunteers Week**

The hard-working team at Preston Volunteers have invited members to send representatives of their organisation to the annual Volunteers Celebration event at Preston Town Hall on Friday, June 6.

Part of Preston Volunteers Week 2025, the event will be a wonderful chance to celebrate the VCFSE sector here in the city in the historic council chambers alongside the Mayor of Preston.

As part of the invite, the group would appreciate if you sent them photographs of the work you have been doing over the last year which will be made into a showcase video to be shown on the day.

Please RSVP to confirm attendance to [prestonvolunteers@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:prestonvolunteers@communitycvs.org.uk) as places are limited.

During a week of events, Preston Volunteers are also taking over OneCoWork, a new working space in Winckley Square, to create a unique ‘Volunteers Festival Marketplace’ from 1pm–4pm on Thursday, June 5.

The event is supported by Preston City Council and you can book a stall by emailing

[callum.henry@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:callum.henry@communitycvs.org.uk).

**Community Fest**

A heads up about the Community Fest in June which is aimed a bringing together and celebrating communities across Lancashire.

[More details on attached flyer](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/b13783bf-7513-838a-302d-e41e74fce4c5.png) and if anyone wants a stall or information stand or to deliver a workshop or perform at the event, there’s a form you can access via the link [on the attached poster.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/dccc6cfd-ee20-08f2-7303-1d9ebf3c8792.png)

**Weekly Round Up**  
Below you will find a summary of events happening this week. Registration is not required unless stated. Please also keep an eye on the weekly events in Section Two of the Events section of our website [here.](https://prestoncn.org/events/)  
As always, please check with the event provider to make sure that the event is still running.

**Wednesday, April 16**

***7.30pm: Lancashire Decides: Election Debate. Leading figures from all major parties in attendance***

*C*o-hosted by the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS), Blog Preston, Lancashire Post and The Lancashire Lead.

At the Tickled Trout Hotel, Preston New Road, PR5 0UJ.

All welcome.

Register via this [link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetHs903wuwX9aw9UC44HUVoyD3_8N4_W0C1gwLTQBE92jsGw/viewform).

**Good Friday, April 18**

***12.30pm – 1.30pm: Meet the Easter Bunny***

Location: St Bernards Community Hub. All kids receive a free egg, while stocks last.

All welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Tuesday, April 22**

***10am – 1pm: Building Confidence and Resilience***

Location: Catherine Beckett Centre

[Please find information attached](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/6d7ab88d-7185-6a8d-22f6-da9085669c58.jpg)

For further details, please email  [catherinebeckettscentre@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinebeckettscentre@hotmail.com).