**Weekly News Update – April 23rd, 2025**

**PCN NEWS**

**PCN Networking Event - TOMORROW**

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>

**The Harris – Visually Impaired Survey**

The grand reopening of The Harris is drawing ever nearer, and a huge range of events for al the community will be hosted at the revamped facility.

As they prepare for opening, organisers would like to know what access requirements the visually impaired might need to be able to come along to these events.

In particular, The Harris would like views on general provision of access support rather than those specific to you or your group.

If you can help, please contact Kyra at the Harris on [k.milnes@preston.gov.uk](mailto:k.milnes@preston.gov.uk)  or by calling 01772 905412.

**LACVS Response to Lancashire Growth Plan**

You may be aware that the Lancashire Economic Growth Plan has recently been published by the Lancashire Combined County Authority.

It’s very important that the VCFSE sector gets its views across as the plan becomes finalised and the Lancashire Association of CVSs, of which PCN is an associate member, have now issued their response, [a copy of which is attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/files/21fdbc7a-7e42-c4bb-6e0e-d9561a584e15/LACVS_LGP_Response_Summary_Version_2.doc)

If you have any comments, please email them to us on [admin@presotncn.org](mailto:admin@presotncn.org) and we will pass on.

**Volunteer Marketplace**

As part of National Volunteer Week, Preston Volunteers are 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).

**No Whispers Social Value Report**

Our member group No Whispers CIC continue to do fantastic work in delivering quality training on sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation.

The organisation have produced a social value report detailing the work they do and the contribution it makes to society in the area.

[Report attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/files/a9bb0ae4-a0b8-f141-392e-ef86977b209c/No_Whispers_CIC_Social_Value_Report_V2.pdf)

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Kings Trust – Get Into Hair & Make Up Course**

The Kings Trust are running a new Hair and Make Up Course for any young people aged 16-15 who are NEET. The course will be in Blackburn and will start on Monday the 12th May.

**PNECET – Kickstart**

Kickstart is designed to tackle unemployment, digital skills gaps and social isolation among anyone aged 18 and over.

Through personalised one-to-one mentoring, engaging group workshops, and physical activity sessions, this programme aims to enhance employability, build self-confidence, and foster stronger social connections.

**FUNDING**

**National Lottery Funding Priorities**

Following on from our article last week, The National Lottery Funding Priorities changes are now highlighted on this webpage: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/about/our-strategy/community-led-missions>

It highlights the newly developed missions framework that describes what community outcomes we expect projects to contribute towards.  Groups will need to demonstrate how their project idea meets at least one of these missions.

Also as an aside, there will be a call from The National Lottery’s Awards for All fund to request more environmental themed projects shortly, so this would be perfect for some of our groups who do great work in that area.

**Masonic Charitable Foundation**

The above is currently offering funding to registered charities in four main areas. For more information and application details, click this [**link**](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=14c3100d5e&e=f105be099a)**.**

**Funding for Christian Charities and Organisations**The Benefact Trust’s Brighter Lives Mental Health Programme is offering grants to Christian churches and charities to help tackle the growing mental health crisis.

Funding will support services like counselling, training, mental health awareness and wellbeing support for vulnerable people and church leaders, especially in the wake of Covid.

Applications are open on a rolling basis while funds remain available.

More details and how to apply are available via this [link](https://www.benefacttrust.co.uk/).

**Triangle Trust for Women & Girls**The Triangle Trust 1949 Fund is now offering funding for projects supporting vulnerable young women and girls who have been involved with, or are at risk of entering, the criminal justice system.

Applications open to registered charities, not-for-profit social enterprises and CICs led by and for women and girls.

For more details, click [here](https://www.triangletrust.org.uk/apply-funding/apply-for-funding/).

**Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust**The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust is offering grants of £1,000 or £5,000 to registered charities depending on their income.

In the first two rounds, funding will support Access to the Arts, while Refugees and Asylum Seekers will be the focus for rounds three and four.

But please hurry as the next application deadline is next Wednesday, April 30. More details via this [link](https://austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk/).

**SURVEYS**

**ICANN**

ICANN are currently conducting a few surveys to help shape their future services. [One is aimed at the general public](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=_ibeadGUCEKnaDgv6RYbswr-EpGlDP9DvdlEzF-6bUhUMFAwME03Njg5Nk1BMjUxQkNZWkVYMUcxNy4u&route=shorturl) and another one is [aimed at any organisation who refer clients to ICANN’s services](https://forms.office.com/e/HwQdiAgCBL). All responses are completely anonymous and should only take a few minutes to fill in.

**Resolve Poverty**

You may recall we recently distributed a survey from our member group Resolve Poverty, who work to tackle poverty by delivering a series of research and training programmes.

The survey is intended to help gather invaluable information from people working in the VCFSE sector across Lancashire.

If you haven’t already responded, the group would be grateful of your reply before the imminent closure date for the survey, which you can access [here](https://forms.office.com/e/zLxaxEaDV1).

**EVENTS**

**Preston Opera**

Please see attached for Preston Opera’s latest production – A *celebration of our 60th Anniversary with Verdi's masterpiece La Traviata, packed with drama, heartbreak and the most beautiful music.  
This fully staged production with fabulous Principals, the famous, full bodied Preston Opera Chorus and accompanied by the LIVE and brilliant Preston Opera Orchestra. This takes place at Fulwood Academy, PR2 9YR. The dates for the shows are as follows:*

*Friday 30th May 7.15pm  
Saturday 31st May 2pm  
Saturday 31st May 7.15pm  
Sunday 1st June 2pm.*

**Community Chess**

Preston Community Chess is an informal chess club designed to improve your wellbeing and meet new people in a relaxed and supportive way. There is a session every weekday at multiple venues across Preston – [see poster attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/b52012fa-ed2a-d7de-29ff-66c113eeb7e4.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.

**Thursday, April 24**

***10am – 1pm: Employability Application Support***

Location: Catherine Beckett Centre, Deepdale Road, Preston PR1 5AR.

[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).

**Thursday, April 24**

***10am – 1pm: PCN Networking Event***

Location: St Cuthberts Church, Lytham Rd, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3AR

Registration: [Link](https://www.cognitoforms.com/PrestonCommunityNetwork/PCNNetworkingEventApril24th)

**Friday, April 25**

***10am – 1pm: Employability – Interview Techniques***

Location: Catherine Beckett Centre, Deepdale Road, Preston PR1 5AR.

[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).

**Saturday, April 26**

***6.30pm: Adoption Information Event.***

Ever thought about Adoption?  Join this online event and find out if this is for you. Experienced staff members in attendance.

To book, click [here](https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/71447?), ring 0800 652 6955 or email [recruitment@caritascare.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@caritascare.org.uk)

**Tuesday, April 29**

***1pm-4pm: Bicycle checks and fix workshop***

Organised by Preston Pedals.

Location: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 44 Beech Grove Ashton-on-Ribble PR2 1DU

To book, click [here.](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bicycle-checks-fix-workshop-tickets-1333240721889?aff=oddtdtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawJ1hY5leHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETB5cGdVajFRdVUwaDB4Z1pLAR7p5nZ6MVUIJy60NCydpQjC7eo_9AyM-oF1OjpHjkN0_zNPPAXZYADS8OmRSQ_aem_HhabMe2_kOZJpc4AsCEPNA)