**Weekly News Update – May 21st, 2025**

**NEWS**

**PCN Networking Event**

Registration is now open for our next networking event. Taking place on June 19th, it promises to be a great morning with plenty of time for networking and collaboration. Full details of speakers will be confirmed next week. If you wish to join us at Preston Town Hall from 10am-1pm, please register via the following link, or drop me an e-mail on glennm@prestoncn.org.

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/prestoncommunitynetwork/pcnnetworkingeventjune19th2025>

**PCN Venue Database**

The venue list page on our website has had a little bit of an update, it now features an interactive map which shows the location of each venue, so you are able to pinpoint where you would like to hire. If you know of any more venues we can add to this list, please let me know (glennm@prestoncn.org).

I am also working on a similar map layout to show the locations of all our member organisations. <https://prestoncn.org/venue-database/>

**Benefit Calculator/Income Maximisation Tool**

Preston City Council now have a Benefit Calculator/Income Maximisation Tool available which should be very useful to many members’ service users.

The project was launched in Barnet on the outskirts of London and proved a great success and initial analysis of use since the Preston resource was set up show a very high percentage identified additional support they were entitled to.

The resource can be found by clicking [here](http://www.preston.gov.uk/benefitcalculator).

**Chairs Available**

Our friends at The Foxton have a number of chairs available for free to any group who may be able to utilise them.

There are 49 in total and they are available to collect from the group’s St Mary’s workshop.

Please contact Gina on 01772 555925 ext 507 if you are interested.

[Picture of chairs attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/5e62d5be-20dc-0ad5-4ad4-0f6b24222f12.jpg)

**DENW**

Our friends at Disability Equality NW are settling in nicely at their new premises and have issued a May bulletin on latest updates and events, [which we attach.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/74f19552-1e5b-d50f-36e8-59bfaacdb70e/DENW_May_bulletin.pdf)

**YOUTH NEWS**

Marc Dunne (Preston City Council), who supplies the youth news weekly, is currently on paternal leave. The weekly column will be back to normal when he returns next week.

**Through Our Eyes**

Dave Clayton from our member group Wot Wud U Do has advised of an exciting new project which involves co-producing powerful, interactive films with young people in Preston.

Following up on the success of the group’s First Impressions Photography Project, ‘Through Our Eyes’ is a bold new project which also aims to create a teaching resource to help parents and professionals engage and open conversations with young people about subjects that affect them daily.

The group need help to make the project become reality and if you can assist with a donation, click this [link](https://www.spacehive.com/through-our-eyes?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBEwTmlSN29vUmxGQ09LWGViVQEe54oMdRy9U69IBNxBHO8rSpnw-skRBQUHrDkQbmSa2EkWvlLl6MQPEdaYwQo_aem_scQbD-1WbrGUmuIhnBy-Nw#/idea) for details of how to donate.

**FUNDING**

**FAM Big Local Funding Opportunity**

A reminder that The Big Local group are now accepting applications for projects in the Fishwick and St. Matthews area with grants of around £500 available.

For more information contact famcommunitychest@gmail.com or call 07886 032502 between 1pm and 5pm Monday to Friday.

**Asda Foundation Local Community Spaces Fund**
The Asda Foundation has launched a new £1.25 million Local Community Spaces Fund offering grants to VCFSE groups of £10,000–£20,000 to support essential repairs, renovations, new spaces and accessibility improvements.

Closing date is May 28 so please hurry if you wish to apply, and you can find more details [here](https://asdafoundation.org/our-grants/local-community-spaces-fund/).

**Creative Funding Offered for Education, Communities and Individuals**Applications are being accepted by the Hugo Burge Foundation for funding to support creative projects including special events and festivals.

Grants of up to £15,000 are available for projects under the Creative Education and Creative Communities strands.

Deadline for applications is May 31 and you can find more details [here](https://www.hugoburgefoundation.org/grants).

**Lloyds Bank Foundation Racial Equity Programme**Small, local and specialist charities and CICs can now apply to the Lloyds Bank Foundation’s Racial Equity Programme, which offers £75,000 in unrestricted funding over three years, along with tailored development support.

The programme supports organisations led by and working with racially minoritised communities experiencing economic disadvantage.

Applications close on May 29 and you can find more details [here](https://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/).

**A B Charitable Trust**The A B Charitable Trust is inviting applications from supporting marginalised groups and defending human dignity.

Grants of £10,000 to £30,000 are available for one to three years and priority areas include migrants and refugees, criminal justice reform, access to justice, and the human rights framework.

Deadline is July 25 and you can find more details [here](https://abcharitabletrust.org.uk/).

**TRAINING**

**Community Leaders’ Training Course 2025**

As part of the Connecting People And Nature Project, The Ernest Cook Trust are hosting a Community Leaders’ training course in the Autumn and are looking for community leaders in the Preston area who already have a group they regularly engage with.

The course is open to paid staff or volunteers and is a great opportunity to build confidence and skills within the outdoors and is also a fantastic opportunity to connect with others in the space.

[Full details attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/4a31fe90-9c1c-14ca-13c5-f7ed290288db/Community_Leaders_rsquo_Training_Course.pdf)

**Active Lancashire – MECC, HC, PAM Training**
Active Lancashire is offering a series of free and accredited training courses designed to support professionals and volunteers in making positive health and wellbeing conversations part of everyday life.

Courses include Make Every Contact Count (MECC) familiarisation, specialist sessions for physical activity and mental health.

Full course details and booking links can be found [here](https://active-lancashire-learning-zone.thinkific.com/collections/courses) and contact workforcetraining@activelancashire.org.uk if you have any queries.

**SURVEY**

**State of the Sector**

In these tough times, the contribution of the voluntary and charity sector to communities across the North West region is hard to underestimate.

In order to recognise and celebrate the wonderful work of the thousands of people employed in the sector, a major survey has been launched with the aim of detailing this fantastic work and letting the whole community know about it.

And if you take part, you could win a £500 donation for your group as all those completing the survey will be entered in a free prize draw.

The survey has been organised jointly by LACVS, Community CVS, the LOCAL project, Cumbria CVS and the Lancs and South Cumbria VCFSE Alliance, and has appealed for anyone running a not-for-private profit group or organisation, or who is involved with such a group in any capacity, to complete the survey.

Once completed, it’s hoped a clear picture will be established of all the wonderful work currently taking place.

In order to access the survey, all you have to do is click this [link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C6LQR8X).

If you know anyone who wants to complete the survey but doesn’t have web access, please contact us at PCN and we will arrange for you to be sent a hard copy.

**EVENTS**

**Disability Pride Celebration**

Make a note in your diary about a fantastic forthcoming event which will see Moor Nook Family Hub/The Zone host a Disability Pride Celebration from 1pm-4pm on Friday, July 25.

This FREE event is open to everyone aged 11–25 who is part of the SEND and/or LGBTQ+ community and will see entertainment, fun-filled activities, stalls, refreshments and more to celebrate pride, disability, and diversity in a safe space.

**Friends of No Whispers CIC Guest Speaker Event**

Coming up on Monday, June 9 at OneCoWork on Winkley Square, Preston is the Friends of No Whispers CIC Guest Speaker Event.

[See attached for more information](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/ee30ae55-7eac-af5f-70f2-839fe9e0a356/Friends_of_No_Whispers_guest_speakers_evening_June_2025.docx) including registration details, but please note places are limited so call first to confirm availability.

**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.

**Friday, May 23**

*10:30am-Noon: Consultation Event – Community Roots and The Harris*

Location: Preston Town Hall.

All welcome.

When the Harris reopens, Community Roots will be running a range of health and wellbeing related activities/workshops/support groups. They want to hear from members of the public what kinds of sessions they’d be interested in attending and use their feedback to create a co-produced programme that meets the needs of visitors.

**Thursday, May 29**

*10:30am – 2:30pm: Sight Loss Day*

Location: Pukar Disability Resource Centre, PR1 3XP

[Event Poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/07ca2496-a2ab-83d8-95ef-e0ce1f2a873e.png)