**NEWS**

**PCN Networking Event**

A big thank you to everyone who attended our PCN networking event at the Town Hall last week.

Special thanks to our speakers Paul Blythin of Active Lancashire and Rob Larcombe of Preston City Council who spoke on the fantastic Preston Place Partnership programme which focuses on promoting physical activity in the city, Kayleigh Robinson of Lancashire County Council who described the new social prescribing strategy, Jenny Hanley of Preston City Council who explained the provision of social value in council contracts and the real living wage initiative and Rachel Coupe of Green Rose CIC who spoke on the group’s schemes to keep people warm this winter.

To view copies of the slides and presentations, please click below.

**PCN Benefits and Poverty Consultation Group**

The next meeting of the above group takes place at 10am tomorrow, Thursday, November 20 at the Town Hall and there’s still time to sign up if you wish to attend.

We have made great progress so far and will be continuing our round table discussions, but we are also pleased to say Adam Kenny of the Policy and Practice group will be in attendance to explain the fantastic Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) resource which many of you have expressed an interest in learning more about.

If you wish to attend, even if you have not attended any previous meetings, please let me know via email - [glennm@prestoncn.org](mailto:glennm@prestoncn.org?subject=Benefits%20%26%20Poverty%20Group).

**Preston Community Network AGM**

Our annual AGM will take place at 11am on Friday, December 5 in the Function Room at Preston Town Hall.

After the formal business, we are delighted to welcome Chief Inspector Bevan of Lancashire Constabulary who will talk about the Prosper Partnership and other issues where policing affects the VCFSE sector.

In addition, we will also welcome representatives from Spring North who will update on the many initiatives they are engaged with in the area.

Booking is essential and you can do so via this link.

**Living Wage event**

We were delighted to be invited to the Living Wage City Celebration event last week at The Harris last week.

Preston City Council have led the project to recruit and accredit as many employers as possible as Living Wage Employers.

We learned that no less than 12,000 jobs in the Preston area pay below the real living wage which from December 1 is £13.45 per hour.

If you are an employer and want to be accredited, the council have set up a grants scheme to cover the costs, and to access the application form, just click [here](https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/11109/Living-Wage-Foundation-Accreditation-Grants-Form).

**Help with Accounts**

A reminder that Community CVS which is based in Blackburn but covers most of the Preston area are launching a great new scheme intended to offer a helping hand to small charity or community organisations who may be struggling with such issues.

The group are planning to offer affordable, tailored bookkeeping services designed specifically for those who may be struggling to keep up with issues such as year end accounts reporting, regular bookkeeping issues or simply need someone to take the pressure off.

The scheme is set to launch in January and if you think your group may be interested in this service, drop an email to Tony at [tonyd@prestoncn.org](mailto:tonyd@prestoncn.org) and we will contact you when we have more information.

The group have stressed that the aim is to provide direct help rather than training in accounts matters.

**Cost of Living Support**

Please advise your service users that Preston City Council’s Cost-of-Living Targeted Support scheme, which aims to help families with children affected by the benefit cap with a one-off payment, has now been launched.

For more details on eligibility and payment scale, click [here](https://www.preston.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport) and to access the application form, click [here.](https://www.preston.gov.uk/costoflivingsupportapplication)

Payments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

All applications will be processed strictly in the order received and applicants must reside in the Preston area.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Holiday Activities and Food - Winter Programme 2025**

Preston City Council has been allocated [Department of Education funding from Lancashire County Council](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities/) to provide a free holiday activity and food programme for children and young people on benefits-related free school meals (FSM) and vulnerable children, for 24 days in total over the year.

This is split into 4 days at Easter, 16 days in summer and 4 days at Winter.

The delivery dates for the winter programme are:

* Monday 22 December 2025
* Tuesday 23 December 2025
* Wednesday 24 December 2025
* Monday 29 December 2025
* Tuesday 30 December 2025
* Friday 02 January 2026

About the scheme:

HAF is for children and young people who are:

* In the reception class to year 11
* Entitled to beneﬁts related to Free School Meals
* Not on FSM, but those who have another kind of vulnerability, inquire at your school for more information.

To find out more and to inform families that you support please use the website below  
[Winter Holiday activities and food venue lists - Help in Preston](https://www.helpinpreston.com/youngpeople/winter-holiday-activities-for-kids?pref1=&pref2=&pref3=&pref4=517&q=&Submit=Search#eventsearch)

**Shape Your Space – Have a Say in Your Community**

Community Gateway Housing are running involvement events across Preston over the next 6 months, for their tenants to have a say in improving their communities. You need to register to attend, [follow the steps in the flyer attached to register.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/db8df465-2afe-5f42-7060-d5e0efeb20d1.png) [Page 2](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/61ceb2b7-bd33-000e-c08c-476672181ce1.png)

**Preston** **Residents** **Card** – **Cheaper** **Leisure** **Access**

The Preston Resident Pay-As-You-Go Card is a FREE annual membership available exclusively to Preston residents. It gives you access to a range of discounted activities across Fulwood Leisure Centre and West View Leisure Centre.

As part of our soft launch for the Residents Card, starting Saturday 1st November, you can sign up online by following the steps below - or speak to a member of staff.

Powered by Levelling Up, you can enjoy discounted access to Fulwood and West View Leisure Centres with the following benefits:

* A 20% discount on Swimming, Gym, Fitness Classes
* A 20% discount on Hot Drinks
* Advance, easy online booking and payment
* Discounts on select seasonal programs and other offers

Terms and conditions apply. Full terms and conditions are available at the point of sign up.

*Are you eligibile?*

As long as you are a Preston resident you’ll be eligible for the PAYG Residents Card. Young people under the age of 18 are eligible to and can get a junior card.

Read more about it and sign up here - [Preston Resident Card](https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/preston/news/preston-resident-card)

**Launch of Reducing Reoffending Fund – Applications Open 1st December**

We’re pleased to announce the upcoming launch of the **Reducing Reoffending Fund**, part of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s commitment to supporting community-led initiatives that tackle the root causes of repeat offending across Lancashire.

 The fund opens for applications on Monday 1st December 2025 and will close on Monday 12th January 2026.

About the Fund:

This thematic fund supports innovative, targeted, and collaborative projects that:

* Address key factors such as substance misuse, mental health, housing, and employment
* Provide mentoring, education, training, or rehabilitation-focused support
* Strengthen partnerships between criminal justice agencies, local organisations, and communities

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for eligible organisations, including charities, voluntary and community groups, and Parish/Town Councils.

 Key Dates

* Launch Event: 1st December 2025
* Application Window: 1st December 2025 – 12th January 2026
* Decision Notification: Week commencing 16th February 2026
* Project Completion Deadline: February 2027

 Support Available

 We’ve attached the Reducing Reoffending Fund Guidance document, which outlines eligibility, application requirements, and FAQs. Please review this carefully before applying.

A launch event will be held on 1st December 2025, bringing together partners, applicants, and stakeholders. The session will introduce the fund, outline key details, and offer guidance on applying. [Click here to register: [Launch Event Registration](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/022dab82-6e4c-4d81-8886-5af23bd09598@9f683e26-d8b9-4609-9ec4-e1a36e4bb4d2)]

Further details and access to the application portal will be available via the OPCC’s grant funding page: [www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/grant-funding](http://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/grant-funding)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your project idea, please contact us at [funding@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:funding@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk). Early engagement is encouraged.

We look forward to receiving your applications and working together to support safer, stronger communities across Lancashire.

**Child Criminal Exploitation Lunch and Learn - SafeCall**

SafeCall Child Criminal Exploitation Lunch and Learn, in partnership with No Whispers Community Interest Company

*Agenda*

 This 1 hour session is designed to inform professionals through the following agenda:

* Introducing the SafeCall service, who the service is for and the different types of support offered
* Understanding the impacts and needs of CYP and family members who have been impacted by CCE and County Lines exploitation
* Discussion around how SafeCall can support young people and families in your area, this will also involve the use of case studies and feedback from those who have accessed the service
* Explaining SafeCall for professionals, how we can support you and your organisation, and how to make a referral into the service
* How to access SafeCall promotional resources and signposting materials
* Missing People’s services – an Introduction to Runaway Helpline
* Opportunity for Q+A and offer of 121 follow up discussions with professionals

Booking link: [Thursday 11th December 12.30-1.30pm](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/acac1d12-9c3d-4059-b4c0-c78474cccd41@87861127-15de-494e-a8cf-70218b7760a7)

Contact us for more details about training, resources, networking and guest speaker events. [info@no-whispers.co.uk](mailto:karen@no-whispers.co.uk)

**SURVEYS**

**Vision for Volunteering**

The Lancashire Association of CVSs (LACVS) operate a Volunteering for Health programme which is currently gathering insights for the upcoming Vision for Volunteering which will be developed for Lancashire in 2026.

To do so, they have developed two surveys which are live until December 31.

The first one, which you can access [here](https://forms.office.com/e/HsD5aDdds5?origin=lprLink), is for any resident within Lancashire, whether they have volunteered or not.

The second survey is for volunteer managers and those who work with volunteers. This can be accessed [here.](https://forms.office.com/e/xLi4LGf4Xe?origin=lprLink)

As part of the initiative, the group have also developed a Volunteer Managers Forum which meets monthly to share information and discuss challenges.

**Services Survey**

More than £24 billion worth of financial support goes unclaimed each year, and to try to address this issue, the Lancashire Anti-Poverty Network is collecting information about the services and organisations who offer money guidance, advice and/or activity to households experiencing poverty across the county.

By completing the survey [here](https://forms.office.com/e/cv34bU0eJ9), you can support the Network to target these groups and help the fight to lift people out of poverty.

Those who complete the survey have the opportunity to be entered into a raffle with a chance to win a £50 Love2Shop e-Gift Card.

**TRAINING**

**Lunchtime Child Criminal Exploitation Webinars**

Our friends at No Whispers CIC are hosting two lunchtime webinars in partnership with Safecall.

Details are as follows:

*Understanding County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation*

This focuses on understanding what child criminal exploitation and county lines means, recognising the signs and indicators that young people may be experiencing exploitation and information about the SafeCall service and how it can support parents, carers and young people in these situations.

The webinar takes place on Tuesday, December 9 from 12.30pm-1.30pm and booking link is [here.](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d4fa5e5a-9ef9-44e2-958c-e58e7a076a9e@87861127-15de-494e-a8cf-70218b7760a7)

*Child Criminal Exploitation Lunch and Learn*

This session is designed to introduce professionals to the SafeCall service and the support and resources it offers.

It takes place on Thursday, December 11 from12.30pm-1.30pm and booking link is [here.](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/acac1d12-9c3d-4059-b4c0-c78474cccd41@87861127-15de-494e-a8cf-70218b7760a7)

**Spokesperson Training**

Do you want to learn more about better representing your group in the media or at public events?

Click the link [here](https://neweconomyorganisers.org/trainings/spokesperson) for details of a Spokesperson Training scheme which is suitable for representatives of VCFSE groups.

**FUNDING**

**1001 Critical Days funding**

Grants are available to charities delivering work that supports babies during the 1,001 critical days – from pregnancy to the age of two.

For full details and application form, click [here.](https://www.1001criticaldays.com/charities)

The deadline is 5pm on Friday, December 19.

**Help NEET Young People into Work**   
The CABWI Lifelong Learning and Development Fund is now open for applications, offering grants to charities supporting young people and adults not in employment, education or training.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted from January 5–26 January and there is an information webinar on January 7 at 10:30am,   
More details [here.](https://cabwi.org.uk/application-guidelines/)

**Rosa’s Voices from the Frontline Fund**   
Rosa has opened its Voices from the Frontline Fund 2025, offering grants of up to £10,000 to women’s and girls’ organisations leading campaigns for change.

The fund supports grassroots work tackling issues from period poverty to workplace inequality and domestic abuse.

Deadline is Tuesday, December 9 and for more details, click [here.](https://rosauk.org/2025/11/04/applications-open-for-rosas-voices-from-the-frontline-fund-2025/)

**David Riddell Memorial CIO**

Grants to groups for suicide awareness and prevention programmes are available from the David Riddell Memorial CIO.

There’s no deadline as grants are made on a rolling basis and for more details, click

[here.](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=a37be0f1fc&e=f105be099a)

**Ford Britain Trust**

Grants to groups for work benefitting communities are being made through two schemes operated by the Ford Britain Trust.

Deadline is January 31 and there are more details [here.](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=60bc61cbb6&e=f105be099a)

**NatureSave Trust**

Small grants to groups for environmental projects are available from the NatureSave Trust, but please hurry as deadline is next Thursday, November 27.

More details [**here.**](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=9c17cbf1a8&e=f105be099a)

**EVENTS**

**The State of The VCFSE Sector in Lancashire.**

The State of the Sector Survey is a major project with which Preston Community Network was involved, and was created to understand the work the VCFSE sector does, and to celebrate the positive contributions it is making here in Lancashire.

The survey is now complete and all groups in the VCFSE sector in Preston are welcomed to the launch event which will be an opportunity to network and discuss the survey, and potential future of the sector, with peers and stakeholders.

The launch takes place on Monday, December 1 from 1:30pm–4pm at the University of Lancashire’s Darwin Lecture Theatre, Marsh Lane PR1 8NL.

Book your place by clicking [here.](https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FOUL)

**Care Workers Wellness Day**

This Friday, November 21, a Care Workers Wellness day is taking place at Preston Masonic Hall, Ashlar House, Preston.

There are workshops, goody bags and a raffle will be held for the Care Workers Charity. [Details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/6ae34ee6-2861-d2d2-91aa-4112f38c881a.jpeg)

**Winter Vaccination Pop-up Clinics**

If you or your service users would like a free flu or Covid vaccine, blood pressure and BMI checks or general health advice, you can access these at a series of free pop-up clinics in the area.

Forthcoming clinics take place at these locations and times:

Tomorrow, Thursday, Nov 20 – Tesco Deepdale, 89–91 Blackpool Rd PR2 6BX.

Friday, November 21– Preston North End (Matchday clinic 5pm-8pm), Deepdale Stadium, Sir Tom Finney Way, PR1 6RU.

Saturday, November 22 – Preston Bus Station, Tithebarn Street PR1 1YT.

All clinics run 10am–4pm

You can get a free NHS flu vaccine if you’re 18–64 and have certain long-term health conditions, are pregnant, a registered carer, live with someone immunosuppressed or are frontline health or social care staff.  
For more information, click [here.](http://www.nhs.uk/flujab)

**White Ribbon Campaign**

On White Ribbon Day, November, people around the world stand up against violence against women and girls.

In Preston, the event is being marked by a collection of activities and key days to bring awareness and recognition to the importance of White Ribbon.

If yourself or your organisation will be taking part in the campaign and marking through an activity alongside the 16 days of action and would like it to be promoted please email [b.smith@preston.gov.uk](mailto:b.smith@preston.gov.uk)

**Winter Holiday Activities**

Preston City Council have confirmed details of their fantastic Winter Holiday Activities programme.

To view the range of activities and food venues, click [here.](https://www.helpinpreston.com/youngpeople/winter-holiday-activities-for-kids?pref1=&pref2=&pref3=&pref4=517&q=&Submit=Search#eventsearch)

**Preston Community Development Network**

Preston City Council and Preston Community Development Network (PCDN) are working with Kind Communities to provide a weekly targeted business advice and support programme for Prestonians wishing to establish or grow their business or co-operative.

The sessions are taking place each Tuesday at the Catherine Beckett Centre and you can access the booking form [here.](https://forms.gle/fMLrxiGiFwEXrkfWA)

**Lancashire Affordable Warmth Forum**

Cosy Homes in Lancashire are hosting the Lancashire Affordable Warmth Forum and have invited VCFSE groups who play a part helping residents to stay warm and well at home to come along and join workshops to tackle fuel poverty and cold homes.

The event takes place at 9.30am on Tuesday, January 13 at The Savoy Suite

County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XB and you can register by clicking [**here.**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lancashire-affordable-warmth-forum-tickets-1934410125759?aff=oddtdtcreator)

For any enquires about the event, please email [Cosy.Homes@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:Cosy.Homes@blackpool.gov.uk)

**Parkinson’s and Dementia**

There is still time to attend the University of Lancashire’s series of events around Parkinson’s and dementia, exploring topics such as early onset dementia and the power of dance for people with Parkinson’s and dementia.

The events are as follows:

*Shifting the Narrative: The Story of Lorenzo’s House*

Tonight, Wednesday, November 19, 5pm – 7pm, Foster Building, Preston Campus

A short film of how one family’s journey with younger-onset dementia led to a sanctuary of hope and light for families everywhere. Free, no registration needed.

*Our Dancing journey: living with Parkinson’s and Dementia*

Thursday, November 27, 5pm – 8pm, Harrington Lecture Theatre, Preston Campus

Explore the question of ‘What can dance offer to people living with Parkinson’s and dementia?’ through a screening of the short film ‘Dance Like No One is Watching.’

Please book for free [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/our-dancing-journey-living-with-parkinsons-and-dementia-tickets-1746709668639?aff=oddtdtcreator).

*Empowering Voices*

Friday, November 28, 3.30pm – 5.30pm, Media Factory, Preston Campus

This performance event brings together dancers living with Parkinson’s from the UK and Romania to share their creativity and performance skills.

Please book for free [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/empowering-voices-tickets-1734420601709?aff=oddtdtcreator).

**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, November 20**

*10am-4pm:* **Free NHS Health Checks**

Location: St Bernards, Larches and Savick Community Hub PR2 1NT.

Full checks with NHS clinical staff

**Saturday, November 22**

*10am:* **Adoption Information Event**

Whether you’re in the early stages or have been thinking about adoption for a while, our events will give you valuable information and a feel for what it’s like to adopt with Caritas Care.

To book online click [here](https://www.caritascare.org.uk/event/adoption-information-event/2025-11-22/) or ring 01772 732313 or email [recruitment@caritascare.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@caritascare.org.uk)

**Tuesday, November 25**

10am-3pm: **Lived Experience Careers Fair**

The event takes place at Preston North End FC’s Deepdale stadium.

If your organisation would like to host a stall at the event, or if you would like to nominate/invite some volunteers with lived experience to attend for free, please email [P.griffiths@preston.gov.uk](mailto:P.griffiths@preston.gov.uk)

[More details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/473a6935-772e-651f-a447-378f22d56ed5.png)