**NEWS**

**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.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day.

[Booking is essential and you can do so via this link.](https://forms.office.com/e/ntJrp9iiYh)

**PCN Benefits and Poverty Consultation Group**

A big thank you to everyone who attended our PCN Benefits and Poverty Consultation Group meeting at the Town Hall last week.

We had a really lively and informative discussion and everyone present made excellent contributions.

Special thanks to Adam Kenny of the Policy and Practice group wo came to address the meeting on the fantastic Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) and other resources available in the fight against poverty.

**Speaker Appeal**

Our friends at the Pukar Disability Resource Centre are involved in organising an event this Sunday, November 30 and are looking for a microphone and speaker/PA system.

If you have one which they could borrow for the day, they would be most grateful.

Please email [Younus.khan@pukar.org.uk](mailto:Younus.khan@pukar.org.uk) if you can help.

**Puppy Raisers Wanted**

One of our newer member groups Guide Dogs has issued an appeal for ‘puppy raisers’ in Preston.

You’ll provide an 8 week-old puppy with the vital foundation for its future role as a guide dog, and guide him or her through training.

You'll ideally have:

* A loving home with enough time to invest in raising a puppy and attending to their needs (e.g. toilet training). If you work from home or have hobbies, you'll need to be available to give the puppy regular attention alongside these.
* Someone at home who is physically able to handle large breed dogs.
* Access to a car, so that you can get your puppy used to travelling.
* The agreement of your landlord to have a dog in the property if you rent
* A safe secure area outside for your puppy to go to the toilet.

Puppies can happily live with other dogs or children.

You will receive support and guidance and any expenses will be reimbursed.

Get in touch at [volunteer@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@guidedogs.org.uk).

**Proud Preston Awards**

A new awards programme is soon to be launched to help celebrate the great work done by Prestonians across the city.

Proud Preston Awards is a partnership between the Lancashire Post, Preston City Council, Blog Preston and Central Radio.

With 14 categories recognising the outstanding achievements of Preston across the business, community and voluntary sectors there is a category for everyone.

For more details, click [here.](https://www.blogpreston.co.uk/2025/11/proud-preston-awards-launches-to-celebrate-the-people-and-organisations-making-our-city-great/)

**Spring North Awards**

The new Spring North awards programme, delivered as part of the prestigious One Voice Awards, has now been launched.

The programme has been designed to shine a spotlight on the individuals, organisations and community groups making a real difference in Lancashire.

Categories include Innovative Delivery Award, Impact Award, and Health & Wellbeing Award, and each winner will receive a professionally produced impact video, valued at £1,500.

There will also be a special overall award - Not-for-Profit of the Year. The winner of this will receive a £2,500 grant to support and expand their work.

All winners will be showcased at the One Voice Awards ceremony 2026, bringing together partners, leaders and community representatives from across the region.

Entries can be submitted online via [bit.ly/SNAwards26](http://bit.ly/SNAwards26) before the deadline on November 28.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Family Nurture Group – Millbank Wellbeing Centre**

Please find information on flyer, regarding Family Nurture Group sessions taking place on Thursdays at Mill Bank Wellbeing Centre, Edmund Street, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 1ED.

All families are welcome to attend.  For further details, please contact Lisa - [Lisa.Butterworth@placesforpeople.co.uk](mailto:Lisa.Butterworth@placesforpeople.co.uk)

[Event Poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/294fcf98-3cf7-938b-f576-3ff5ad1444be.png)

**National Communities Week – 1st – 7th December 2025**

The People’s Health Alliance are focusing on young people for their Connect The Dots Campaign for National Communities Week 2025.

National Community Week is a chance to celebrate the power of coming together. It’s about neighbours, families, local groups and organisations finding new ways to connect, share and strengthen the places where we belong.

At its heart is a simple belief: when we know each other, respect each other and gather in safe, welcoming spaces, our communities grow healthier, kinder and stronger. That’s why this week shines a light on our “third places” whether the cafés, libraries, parks, community centres and local shops outside of home and work where life happens and friendships grow.

More information can be found at [www.connectthedots.uk](http://www.connectthedots.uk) and if you would like to join the People’s Health Alliance Network click here <https://practitioners.the-pha.org/health-hub-sign-up/>

**Ketamine Awareness Poster From Frank**

Ketamine use is rising among young people. Please see the awareness poster below from Frank and feel free to share the message with young people and colleagues.

We are With You are providing training -Let's Talk Ketamine - Wednesday 19th November 2pm-3pm – register below

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-ketamine-tickets-999161698537?aff=oddtdtcreator>

**Foxton & Onward Homes Community Drop in Sessions**

Foxton and Onward Homes have partnered up to a weekly drop in starting on the 19th November 12pm-2pm providing housing and employability advice. More information on the [flyer attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/d31b7f03-2f91-ba10-78bd-98f48449f764.png)

**Understanding County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation, Webinar for Families**

In partnership with No Whispers Community Interest Company, SafeCall is running a free online session for parents, carers and family members who are worried about County Lines or Exploitation.

What you can expect from this online session:

* To understand more about what child criminal exploitation and county lines means.
* Recognising the signs and indicators that young people may be experiencing exploitation.
* The emotions and practical problems that exploitation can cause for young people and their families.
* Hear what support parents and carers have told us they need from services.
* Information about the SafeCall service and how it can support parents and carers and young people who are worried about child criminal exploitation and county lines.
* Information about our Missing People’s Counselling service and the support available through counselling.
* Information about how to access support from SafeCall for your child, a child you are worried about or for yourself.

Booking link: [Tuesday 9th December 12.30-1.30pm](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d4fa5e5a-9ef9-44e2-958c-e58e7a076a9e@87861127-15de-494e-a8cf-70218b7760a7)

**Spotlight on HAF – Moor Nook Youth & Community Centre**

The Moor Nook Youth team are providing some fantastic opportunities for young people during the winter HAF delivery[. See attached the variety of different activities on offer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/7849e8b1-62f5-ae89-985f-3e86535b69c5.png)

If you want to learn more about HAF and how to refer a young person see - [Winter Holiday activities and food venue lists - Help in Preston](https://www.helpinpreston.com/youngpeople/winter-holiday-activities-for-kids)

**Suicide Prevention Training – Tuesday 2nd December, Corpus Christi High School, Preston**

Suicide Prevention Explore, Ask, Keep Safe

An introduction to Suicide Prevention skills.

The key objectives are:

* To consider the attitudes, myths and stigma that surround suicide
* To recognise and explore the ‘signs’ that may indicate someone is having thoughts of suicide
* To encourage an open, safe and sensitive conversation about suicide with a person having thoughts of suicide
* To support a safety plan with someone thinking of suicide.

Delivery Time: 3.5 Hours

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/training/nw-speak-mogf-5/>

The session is being held at the Jack McLaughlin Centre at Corpus Christi High School on St Vincents Road, PR2 8QY

Please share my e-mail and if anyone needs more information they are more than welcome to contact me directly.

Places have to be booked before the 28th November.

**SURVEYS**

**Money Guidance and Advice Provision**

The Resolve Poverty initiative are stepping up their campaign and are now looking to map money guidance and advice provision across the county.

There are many established advice providers and many more organisations offer more informal support in community settings, but no extensive data exists.

To address this, the group are asking for organisations to report on the work that they are doing to support their communities on finance issues.

Anyone who works in this area or who comes into contact with people experiencing poverty throughout the course of their work can complete the survey by clicking [**here**](https://forms.office.com/e/cv34bU0eJ9).

All those responding will be entered in a raffle for a £50 Love2Shop e-Gift Card.

**Generative AI for the Visually Impaired**

Dr. Muhammad Abubakar Alhassan, Lecturer in Computer Science at the University of Lancashire, has issued a survey as part of his study into the use of Generative AI by Blind or Visually Impaired individual.

Anyone over 18 who has lived experience of blindness or a visual impairment can complete the survey by clicking [here.](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=UPs_KAujjEiQ9M2uT3rm0Yn7Ng688JtMl2XUJJfCHYdUQkJDN1dUNFozQkFVNVU4N0NTMUJKRkJVVS4u)

Any queries should be emailed to [maalhassan@lancashire.ac.uk](mailto:maalhassan@lancashire.ac.uk)

**VACANCIES**

**Preston Place Partnership - Secondment Opportunities**

Preston is one of 80 Sport England Place Expansion localities who will be bringing stakeholders and communities together to look to address the challenges of physical inactivity and support people to move more.

As part of the work to date the focus areas they have identified are Children and Young People, Places and Spaces to be Active and Health and Messaging related to physical activity.

And as they look deeper into how future work needs to be focused, the partnership are offering the following opportunities:

Health Workstream Lead - 2 days per week

Children and Young People Workstream Lead - 2 days per week

Evaluation and Learning Lead - 3 days per week

Communications Lead - 2 days per week

Further details regarding all of the roles can be found by following the link below.

<https://activelancashire.org.uk/jobs/>

**RNIB Network35**

As they tackle the next stage of their Network35 project, the RNIB are looking to recruit a panel of members to shape RNIB’s future direction.

They are aiming at people with different levels of vision, including those who are visually impaired but not registered, and correctable sight loss.

[See attached for more details.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/f7ffa254-b164-18b3-cb85-229131888eff/Network35_Newsletter_Advert.docx)

**FUNDING**

**Early Years Deaf Children** **Support**  
The National Deaf Children’s Society is inviting applications to its Community Grants Programme, which offers grants between £1,000 and £10,000 for projects that support deaf children aged 0 to 5 and their families.

The funding aims to strengthen early years development and family connection through play schemes, peer support networks and mentoring projects.

Applications are open on a rolling basis and there are more details [here.](https://www.ndcs.org.uk/about-us/news-and-media/national-deaf-childrens-society-launches-grants-drive-support-grassroots-efforts-deaf-children)

**Avanti West Coast**

Applications are invited for the latest round of Avanti West Coast’s Customers and Communities Improvement Fund for projects which benefit stations or address regeneration challenges and social needs across the region.

For more information and guidance on how to apply for a share of the fund, visit: <https://www.avantiwestcoast.co.uk/about-us/sustainability/community-hub/ccif>

The closing date for applications is Friday, January 9.

**EVENTS**

**Vault Partnership Event**

Following the success of Vault’s first partnerships event at Deepdale stadium earlier in the year. They have now announced their next event, but this time it will be at the Youth Zone!

If you or your organisation works with young people in Preston, and you are interested in finding out how you can collaborate to create positive change for young people then please register interest with Vault’s Partnerships Co-ordinator: [Ryan.Whittaker@vaultyouthzone.org](mailto:Ryan.Whittaker@vaultyouthzone.org)

The event on the 17th December promises to give you a first hand experience of some of Vault's activities and explore the spaces that will be available not only to young people, but to partner organisations too in the new year.

Attendees are to arrive at Vault Youth Zone, Tithebarn Street, PR1 1DN, from 12:45pm. [Event Poster.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/2a019fa0-e51a-110f-80b2-ffcd721f56b3.png)

**Community Action Week**

We were delighted to attend a meeting which saw the local launch of National Community Week.

Community partners and organisations were in attendance and there are more details on the [attached document.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/9703dd14-2205-0a84-fdb4-03cefe7e6ab8/Commumity_PL.docx)

**Good as New Sale**

Our member group Disability Equality NW are holding a Good as New Sale as a festive Fundraiser at their Community Hub next Wednesday, December 3 from Noon to 3pm.

[More details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/f0447898-9e47-2f47-3f62-07a419680423.png)

**HARRI Bus**

The HARRI Bus will be at West View Leisure Centre tomorrow, Thursday, November 27 to offer a range of free health checks, diabetes and weight management support, stop smoking help and general wellbeing advice.

[More details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/87d653c9-855f-d466-bffe-526636d1c640.png)

In addition, there is a Health and Humanity Event taking place this Sunday, November 30 at Catherine Beckett Community Centre from 1pm to 7pm.

Free entry with health checks, stalls, talks, and clinicians on site.

**PNE Fan-led Disabled Supporters’ Association**

Please find below the link for the Zoom meeting to help launch the above group, which takes place at 7pm tonight, Wednesday, November 26.

Liam from the Level Playing Field group will be in attendance.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4639438883?pwd=dFIvR2RPRGVFSVJjcDlPaWhIc3VSdz09>

**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, December 3**

**Noon-3pm: Good as New Sale**

Hosted by Disability Equality NW at their Sedgwick St Community Hub.

Free, all welcome