**NEWS**

**The 2025 Lesley Finley Award**

Our friends at Disability Equality NW have advised that it’s time to get your nominations in for this year’s Lesley Finley Community Award 2025.

The award is in memory of Lesley who was a true hero at DENW and is always a very popular and prestigious award.

The award will be presented at this year’s DENW AGM, which will be held at their Community Hub on **Thursday, November 27.**.

The nomination form can be completed online using the link [here.](https://www.surveyhero.com/c/LFaward25)

DENW as a group are as busy as ever and for more details on events this month, click [here.](https://disability-equality.org.uk/bulletin-40/)

**Briefing Paper**

As we mentioned last week, an issue we discussed at the recent meeting of our Benefits Poverty Consultation Group was the idea of a ‘briefing paper’ which Tony can refer to when he attends the various meetings of committees and other groups on behalf of the sector.

If you have any issues or points you wish to be raised, please drop us a quick email on [tonyd@prestoncn.org](mailto:tonyd@prestoncn.org).

**Preston Digital Co-operative**

Tony had an excellent meeting this week with David Carter who is piloting much of the work on the Preston Digital Co-operative.

The project is progressing really well and the network is coming ever closer to reality.

It will offer to members efficient high speed broadband and wifi and should be a wonderful addition to the sector.

If you would like more details and are interested in joining the co-operative, please email [tonyd@prestoncn.org](mailto:tonyd@prestoncn.org) for more details.

**High Sheriff of Lancashire’s Young Citizen of the Year Award 2026**

Nominations are now being accepted for the  High Sheriff of Lancashire’s Young Citizen of the Year Award 2026.

You are encouraged to nominate young people who are making a positive difference across Lancashire.

[See flyer for more details and how to nominate.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/96baa08b-c96f-c3a9-a580-06dec713da95/High_Sheriff_of_Lancashire_039_s_Young_Citizen_Award_2026.pdf)

**The Changemaker Academy**

If you are not aware of the Changemaker Academy, check out this online resource.

It’s described as a special ‘learning’ place created for people who want to explore how to make a positive difference to people and communities and deliver impact through their work.

Click [here](https://d337dm04.eu1.hubspotlinks.com/Ctc/OS+113/d337DM04/VW-c9r6sS30zW81fdfg8nFRS4W2dmkKk5DBYfSN1qZLsP3qn9qW95jsWP6lZ3kBW7dXJGN5fP61HW7KjmZg1Xr_Q4W5blBBF1q5Fw_W4HDm0j8GV5h6W11BFv68JgvjgVX-JTS2wyjCdW8p1L_c1DQ7WNW1Wy5VB1ZSD3GW6TMRwM2XnQYPW3hXLyM2gpK5YW5l4Jg73zYhtZW1zfmb47r6TvFW6sMBjK2tlnRyN8l2DJDXwYcWV54RbV50zslhW2BVh-D4PfDlSW8n5vkl6Qh-hLW28CMQ23B0cgLW9bKPl32V1Nm6N5ymRJ416tKGV5Ynmx3NG9vxW42byWM1qx56MW4JWt7W2g1hQlN44h73KNBz9SW6NYDCY586Zv2W7yrSwn3cPSQJF7JbD9MbzPgW2KDMnl4XQpKQW5-7PCD1C0hrcW8qXXxD8tbfvwd2NrDq04) to access the resource.

**Lancashire Women Energy Support Offer**

Lancashire Women’s Handywoman Energy Advisors offer the following:

✅ Free home visits  
✅ Free Energy-saving measures installed (LED Bulbs, Draft excluders for doors, keyholes, letterboxes, radiator foils and much more)  
✅ Real solutions from real women who understand your home and your needs

✅ Referral to Lancashire Women's Money Advice team for extra financial support.

✅ Discussions about other support within the community if needed, i.e. employment help, therapy and much more.

If your service users are on a low income or struggling with the cost of gas and electricity, they could qualify for a visit. Call 0330 330 1354 or complete an online referral [here.](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=YvQClyHjN0y1SgoJWi-ZcXBkRPB5AFpJv_HVhHU5OfBUMzlZUTFEUTIwRU9BSUxUR0dKRkg2TjlHVCQlQCN0PWcu)

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Golfstarz – Introduction to Golf Opportunities for Young People**

At Golfstarz we coach the basics of golf - putting and chipping, using specialist equipment it can be played indoors or outdoors safely.

We use oversize clubs and tennis balls to help beginners and for safety. Golf is a non contact sport which is great for developing hand eye coordination and other functional skills. It helps with mental wellbeing and is an active sport without feeling like exercise.

It appeals to all abilities and is great for those not wanting to do the mainstream contact sports like football.

I am looking to bring some sessions to the Preston area for youth groups or in schools. If you would like more information or to book in a session email Chris - [blackpoolgolfstarz@gmail.com](mailto:blackpoolgolfstarz@gmail.com)

**Lived Experience Careers Fair 25th November 2025**

Lancashire Skills Hub and Changing Futures Lancashire are hosting a careers fair for people who have previous lived experience of difficult issues such as: Homelessness, Addiction, Domestic abuse, Prison, Mental Health problems, people who have faced and overcome such difficulties in their lives can make outstanding employees, especially in careers that support other people. [See more details on the flyer](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/cea0c81d-96bd-81ea-309c-dc9e291b03a7.png).

**Level 2 Support Work in Schools and Colleges**

Just wanted to let you know about a course we have available in the Preston area; this will be the [L2 Support for Schools and Colleges qualification](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/a3a01d10-33c3-a3a1-f9db-18cdad5fb6b6.png) starting Wednesday 5th November 9.30am-2.30pm for a total of 6 weeks including the induction.  The course will be delivered from Intact Centre, 49 Whitby Ave, Preston PR2 3YP.

To be eligible for full funding, learners will need to be:

* Over 19 years old
* Live in the Lancashire areas
* Be unemployed or employed earning below £25000 per year.

**VACANCIES**

**The Vault Youth Zone**

It’s getting ever closer to the opening of The Vault Youth Zone which promises to be a fantastic asset for the city.

And the facility are now inviting applications for 50 part time vacancies at the site.

Please see the vacancies page on our website at <https://prestoncn.org/job-vacancies/> for more details.

**TRAINING**

**Free** **Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines Training**

Our friends at No Whispers CIC are offering a free training course on the topic of Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines Training.

The course will take place over two sessions starting tonight, Wednesday, October 15th and concluding next week October 22 from 6.30 – 8.30 pm each night.

The address is Valley Church Conference Centre, Bamber Bridge PR5 6GS

Please note the training will take place on the first floor, which is accessible via stairs as there is no lift in the building.

There is parking available.

There may be content that you find disturbing or upsetting and there will be time to share and discuss during the session and 1:1 at the end of the evening

If you wish to attend, [please complete the application form](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/ffab9617-b4f1-0d15-276e-f86dbf1d8c22/Child_criminal_exploitation_amp_County_lines.docx) and send to

[info@no-whispers.co.uk](mailto:info@no-whispers.co.uk) or contact Karen on 07713 129242.

**Engaging with 'Hard to Reach Communities' Free Webinar**  
[Click this link for a webinar](https://vimeo.com/1126200837?utm_campaign=Work-break%20Webinars&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--tLOa5M4-04A2mpizuVz3ZWUKThAokiFIPTGem7VchL0VqLMjzN7s6rbSlNbO842UCH3reI6X5UlnQsPQCA9CJfqc8BoJXpzUUfgfchDkwf4huUl0&_hsmi=119500143&utm_content=119500143&utm_source=hs_email) from Changemaker Academy around Engaging with 'Hard to Reach Communities'.

**Selnet Skills Bootcamp**Please see attached poster for information regarding a skills bootcamp from Selnet.  
It's a good opportunity for people who are self employed or those looking to go into self-employment.  
Please contact Yvette Holden if you would like more info.  
[yvette@selnet-uk.com](mailto:yvette@selnet-uk.com)  
07958 432165  
[A white card with black text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/ababb7a7-c028-482a-8cf9-0195359b0f79.png)

**FUNDING**

**Warm Spaces Grant**

As we have previously advised, the Lancashire County Council Warm Spaces The Grant Scheme is open until this Sunday, October 19, and groups can apply for up to £750 to set up or improve their warm space offer. Further details on eligibility including the link to the online application form can be found [here.](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/grants/community-team-support/lancashire-warm-spaces-grant-scheme/)

LCC also have an online directory showing all registered warm spaces which you can find by clicking [here.](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/cost-of-living/warm-spaces/) You can also add your own warm space to the list.

**Active Travel Innovation Fund**

Organisations and businesses can bid for a share of £1 million in funding to help them deliver bold and innovative initiatives that enable more people to walk, wheel or cycle.

The Active Travel Innovation Fund is designed to help develop new ideas or to expand on successful initiatives such as community projects that help under-represented groups make more active travel choices, projects that work alongside local councils to enable and promote sustainable travel, or that use digital tools to improve safety and accessibility.

For more details, click [here.](https://activetravelengland.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=665126c79f1ac0ded4a4bfdaa&id=2818173d04&e=a86023563c)

**Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation**The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation has reopened its General Fund, offering grants for projects tackling key social issues including homelessness, domestic abuse, modern slavery, and substance misuse.

Applications are open now and you can access the online eligibility form [here.](https://www.albertgubayfoundation.org/applications/)

**Small Grants to Tackle Loneliness Among Older People**Home Instead Charities is inviting applications for its Winter Activity Grants, designed to reduce social isolation and promote wellbeing for adults aged 55 and over. Funding is available for local events and activities that help older people stay connected, active, and engaged in their communities — from lunch clubs and day trips to yoga sessions or guest talks.

Closing date is October 31 and to apply, click [here.](https://www.homeinstead.co.uk/charities/how-we-do-it/apply-for-a-grant/)

**Common Ground Resilience Fund**VCSE organisations in England can now prepare to apply for the Common Ground Resilience Fund, a new £1.7 million Government initiative designed to strengthen community cohesion and resilience.

The fund will offer capital grants of up to £10,000 to support projects that build social connections through improved facilities, spaces, or essential equipment.

Closing date is November 21 and for more details, click [here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-ground-award-prospectus/common-ground-award-prospectus#timeline)

**Leeds Building Society Foundation**   
Small grants are available from the Leeds Building Society Foundation for projects supporting people in need of a safe and secure home.

Projects must align with themes such as tackling financial stress, providing security and refuge, improving housing quality, or offering wraparound health and wellbeing support linked to homelessness.

Closing date is November 3 and there are more details [here.](https://www.leedsbuildingsociety.co.uk/your-society/about-us/foundation/)

**EVENTS**

**Deafway**

Our friends at Deafway have a busy programme of events lined up over the coming weeks, including a sign language course, craft fair, Halloween party and Christmas Brunch along with regular events such as a tinnitus group, Lego club etc.

Full details of all these in the events section of our website at <https://prestoncn.org/events/>

Flyers attached (kept to two as she sent 10)

**Intact Centre Jobs Fair**

Next Wednesday, October 22, The Intact Centre are hosting a Jobs Fair at their base at 49 Whitby Avenue, Ingol, PR2 3YP.

This event will feature a range of employers, as well as information on volunteering and apprenticeship opportunities**.**

**Weekly Round-up**

**Saturday, October 18**

6pm: Halloween Party. Spooky grotto, music, crafts.

Location: Deafway, Brockholes Brow, Preston PR1 5BB.

Admission £15 inc two course meal. To book, email events@deafway.org.uk

**Monday, October 20**

2pm-3.30m: Monday Group Walk. Around Moor Park.

Meet at DENW, Sedgwick St.

Free. all welcome.

**Tuesday, October 21**

Premier of a short documentary entitled “Remembering the Battle of Bamber Bridge

This Premier is being shown at the Media Factory at the recently renamed University of Lancashire in Preston. An Eventbrite booking site will follow.

The Media Factory. University of Lancashire. Kendal Street. Preston. PR1 2HE

**Wednesday, October 22**

10:30am: Wheels for All

There are a number of events for the city’s ever growing cycling community coming up with our member group Preston Pedals involved with the programme.

Preston City Council have teamed up with Wheels for All charity for an accessible riding event with the charity providing a range of adapted cycles for those with additional needs.

The events takes place on Wednesday, October 22 at the Let’s Grow Preston walled garden on Ashton Park where sessions will start at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm and 1.30pm.

To book your place or register your email for future sessions, just e-mail your name/s and which sessions you would like to attend to [**stuart.lockton@wheelsforall.org.uk**](mailto:stuart.lockton@wheelsforall.org.uk)

**Wednesday, October 22**

10am – 2pm Jobs Fair.

Location: The Intact Centre, 49 Whitby Avenue, Ingol, PR2 3YP

This event will feature a range of employers, as well as information on volunteering and apprenticeship opportunities.

**Wednesday, October 22**

10am – Noon: Benefit Advice Drop In.

Location: The Foxton Centre, Knowsley St,  PR1 3SA.

Free advice from fully qualified advisor. All welcome.

**Wednesday, October 22**

6pm: Sign Language Course.

Location: Deafway, Brockholes Brow, Preston PR1 5BB.

Six week course beginning on above date. Pre Level 1 BSL.

Cost £50. Register by emailing events@deafway.org.uk