**Weekly News Update – October 1st, 2025**

**NEWS**

**PCN Benefits Poverty Consultation Group**

A big thank you to all our groups and contacts who attended the second meeting of our Benefits Poverty Consultation Group on Friday.

There was plenty of useful and informative discussion and we will be following up on all points as soon as possible.

New members are very welcome and if you would like to join the group, please drop us a quick email on [tonyd@prestoncn.org](mailto:tonyd@prestoncn.org) and we will provide more information.

**Blog Preston – Offer to PCN Members**  
There’s still just time to take advantage of Blog Preston’s offer of a 15 per cent discount to PCN member groups and individuals on their new paid membership which allows ad-free use of the newly revamped site.

To take advantage of this offer, click [here](https://www.blogpreston.co.uk/memberships/) and enter **pcnmember** in the section where it says 'Add coupon'. The offer is open until October 15.

**Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire’s Report**

We have been contacted by Gulab Singh, liaison officer for the Mrs Amanda Parker JP who is the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire.

He is compiling his six monthly report of activities in the VCFSE sector in the Preston area and has asked if any key milestones have taken place or if any new initiatives have been launched which he could include in the report.

Obviously, there are always new projects being launched and anniversaries being marked but if there is any particular landmark in your group which you think needs noting, please let us know and we will pass details on to Gulab.

Responses by October 17 please.

He has also asked for nominations for volunteers who should be consider to be put forward for King’s Garden Party 2026.

If you have anyone in mind, please send contact details and a short citation on the person in question to Gulab at [gsb241955@gamil.com](mailto:gsb241955@gamil.com).

All applications will be treated as confidential.

**Markel Third Sector Care Awards**

Nominations are now open for a prestigious award ceremony celebrating those working in the not-for-profit health and care sector.

The Markel 3rd Sector Care Awards recognise individuals and organisations that bring about significant impact in their communities within the not-for-profit sector.

The closing date for nominations is November 7 and all those shortlisted will be gifted tickets to the awards ceremony at Birmingham Town Hall next April.

For more details and to submit a nomination, click this [link.](https://care.uk.markel.com/care-awards/?utm_source=https://www.wpragency.co.uk/&utm_medium=paid-media&utm_campaign=MC3SA&utm_content=pressrelease&utm_term=nominations)

**Local Government Reform**

As many of you will know, a major reform of local government is taking place.

Tony represented the VCFSE sector at a recent conference on the matter organised by the North & Western Lancs Chamber of Commerce.

[Following this, the CoC has led a consultation on the issue and have now issued the attached update.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/files/b8bf2815-8a43-a438-0a3d-cb2e15399dd3/Local_Govt_Reform.pdf)

If you have any feedback or concerns, please let us know and we’ll pass on to the Chamber.

**Blog Foxton**

Two of our member groups, The Foxton Centre and Blog Preston, have joined up to launch a new project called ‘Blog Foxton.’

The project will see young people who use the Foxton Centre to produce their own news blog on the Bog Preston site to write about stories in the local community which affect them.

For the full story, click [here](https://www.blogpreston.co.uk/2025/09/blog-foxton-is-here-to-give-a-new-voice-to-the-city/)

**LANPAC**

Lancashire Partners Against Crime have produced the attached new double-sided A5 card signs that may be of interest for more vulnerable families. One side displays a ‘[No Trick or Treaters’](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/files/00137bcc-7c47-ece1-2699-0ceadb086f29/Front.pdf) message, ideal for use around Halloween, while the reverse features a ‘[No Cold Calling](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/files/2108fa2e-498d-4028-2281-b3f05468b274/Back.pdf)’ message, making it suitable for display throughout the year.

These signs are clear, durable, and easy to place in windows or on doors. If you would like to receive one, simply send an email to [lanpac@lancashire.police.uk](mailto:lanpac@lancashire.police.uk) to receive one via post.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Cancer Help – Support Service for Children & Young People**

I’m reaching out to let you know that our [children and young people’s therapeutic service at Vine House in Preston](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/90e9af14-bb39-5316-3eb1-bc7ea3721164.png), is accepting referrals for children and young people ages 5–18 who have experienced bereavement, are living with a cancer diagnosis, or are living with cancer themselves.

We offer therapeutic support (play therapy, talking therapy, and art therapy) to help children process experiences, emotions, and feelings.  All our therapists are qualified and specialise in child and adolescent psychotherapy, art therapy, and play therapy.  Individual sessions last 50–60 minutes, using a combination of play, conversation, and creative activities.

Email: [l.lunny@cancerhelppreston.co.uk](mailto:l.lunny@cancerhelppreston.co.uk) for more details

**Creative Workshop For Young People About Addiction**

An exciting opportunity for young people to take part in a performance about addiction is available to people aged 16+ in Preston. Chris at Soundskills in Brookfield (a community centre for youth music) to develop a theatre show and workshops around the theme of addiction. There will be a three-day event in Preston in November. It'll be a performance workshop with young people ages 16-25 who might be considered at risk and culminate with a performance for friends and family.

It would be free to attend. It’s in collaboration with an organisation called The Mighty Creatives who provide art to young people at risk nationally. <https://themightycreatives.com/>

If you want to get involved email Chris at [soundskills@outlook.com](mailto:soundskills@outlook.com)

**Preston Wellfest Event**

Preston Wellfest is taking place this Saturday, 4th October, from 10.00am to 4.00pm, on Preston Flag Market. Lets Grow Preston and host of other organisations will be doing activities on the day, [please see information attached about Bulbs of Hope.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/bf165f89-25d0-6424-fc17-cf0a90bd6e12.png)

**FUNDING**

**Lancashire Red Rose Responding Fund**

Grants of up to £5,000 are available from the Lancashire Red Rose Responding Fund for projects supporting vulnerable people

For more details, click [here](https://locallancashire.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=52977ac6da2879df478f345ff&id=4f06ea116e&e=bbd87df89e). Deadline date is October 17.

**Capital Grants for Homelessness Recovery**The Help the Homeless group is offering capital grants for projects supporting people moving beyond homelessness through recovery, stability and reintegration.

Funding is aimed at practical projects such as training initiatives and residential facilities but will not cover core running costs or IT equipment.

The next application deadline is December 15 and you can find more details [here.](https://www.help-the-homeless.org.uk/applying-for-funding)

**Building Happier Futures Fund**   
The John Lewis Partnership Foundation is inviting applications for its Building Happier Futures Fund, dedicated to supporting care-experienced children and young people to achieve brighter, more secure futures.

The fund provides grants and bursaries to organisations that focus on education, skills, training, and employability.

Applications are open until September 25 and you can find more details [here.](https://www.johnlewispartnership.co.uk/foundation0/building-happier-futures.html)

**Bernard Sunley Foundation**

Grants to groups for capital projects improving quality of life are available from the Bernard Sunley Foundation.

The Foundation offer grants in four main categories, which are community, education, health and social welfare.

The next Trustee Meeting is in November and you can find more details [**here.**](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=24edf51abd&e=f105be099a)

**TRAINING**

**Free Child Exploitation Training**

Bookings are now being taken for two free lunch time webinars on child exploitation which are being presented in partnership between No Whispers Community Interest Company and Missing People.

The Webinars are part of the ‘Right Here, Right Now’ contextual safeguarding project backed by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Please find below the booking links.

Child Criminal Exploitation Lunch and Learn - [Tuesday 7th October - 12-1pm](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/157c2b07-af96-41ab-a64a-4f036dd6cb56@87861127-15de-494e-a8cf-70218b7760a7)

Understanding County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation, Webinar for Families  - [Tuesday 14th October - 12-1pm](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/fd2df530-a5bd-416f-a232-aa5c769a45fd@87861127-15de-494e-a8cf-70218b7760a7)

**Breaking Down Barriers**

DanceSyndrome are delighted to be co-delivering a 'Breaking Down Barriers' Workshop online on Monday, 10th November from 10am - 430pm. This is designed for Dance and Art Professionals who are looking to ensure their delivery and facilitation of sessions is inclusive.

This will be an interactive session, and provide experiential learning, and there will be plenty of screen breaks.

All the details and how to book on to this workshop are here:  [Breaking Down Barriers Online Course | DanceSyndrome](https://dancesyndrome.co.uk/breaking-down-barriers/)

**VACANCIES**

**Preston Domestic Violence Services**

Our member group PDVS have an opportunity for a Domestic Abuse Triage and Sanctuary Scheme Co-ordinator.

Full details via the link [here.](https://uk.indeed.com/job/domestic-abuse-service-triage-and-sanctuary-service-co-ordinator-b0e2f40ef628cf30)

**EVENTS**

**Let’s Grow Celebration**

Make a note in your diary for our longstanding member group Let’s Grow Preston’s *Our Big Thank You!* party which will take place on Friday, November 14.

It will be a celebration of the group’s volunteers and work and a chance to see big plans for the future. All are welcome!

To RSVP, please email [sunflower@letsgrowpreston.org](mailto:sunflower@letsgrowpreston.org) with your name and dietary requirements. See attached flyer for more details.

And you can also join Lets Grow Preston at Preston Wellfest on the Flag Market this Saturday, October 4 when they will be holding a ‘Bulbs of Hope’ events. [See flyer for details.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/cf320524-68e6-a07d-978c-fa979b919cb3.png)

**One Voice Community Choir Concert**

Two of our members have come together with the One Voice Community Choir putting on what sounds like a great concert on Wednesday, October 15 with all proceeds going to St Bernards Ashton’s Food Aid Group.

The venue is the St Bernards, Larches and Savick Community Hub and there’s more [details on the attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/691c31e8-e0eb-53c4-eaf6-4189b6cf2444.jpg)

**Men’s Health Event**

Preston Muslim Forum & PMGHS collaboration.

This session will be delivered by NHS professionals who will be talking about cancer awareness and screening. Free health checks will also be available on the day. You will be able to have an open, safe and non-judgemental chat on Men’s health.

**Jobs Fair at the Intact Centre**

[Please find the attached flyer](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/57850078-59c6-71f8-cef2-5135a1b0345a.png) with details of an upcoming **Jobs Fair** at the Intact Centre in Preston:

📍 **Venue:** The Intact Centre, 49 Whitby Avenue, Ingol, PR2 3YP  
📅 **Date:** Wednesday, 22nd October 2025  
⏰ **Time:** 10:00am – 2:00pm

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

Feel free to share this widely with anyone who might be interested in attending!

**DENW in October**

Our friends at Disability Equality NW are busy as ever and are putting on a busy programme of events in October. [Details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/files/b97b2b7b-74f4-2a54-6a12-98863f281886/DENW_Dates_Sep_25.pdf)

**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.

**Saturday, October 4**

10am-4pm: Preston Wellfest event to mark World Mental Health Day

Location: The Flag Market.

Includes Let’s Grow Preston’s ‘Bulbs of Hope’ stall.

**Wednesday, October 8**

5.40pm: Free Talk hosted by the University of Lancashire.‘Growing Up Human’ looks at why humans take longer than any other species to ‘grow up’ and will take place on  at 5.40pm at the Mitchell and Kenyon Cinema, Foster Building.

Please book for free [**here**](https://growinguphuman.eventbrite.co.uk/).