**Weekly News Update – September 10th, 2025**

**NEWS**

**PCN Networking Event**

We hope to see as many of you as possible at tomorrow’s PCN networking event at Preston Masonic Hall in the centre of the city.

As usual, it’s absolutely free and as always there will be plenty of time for the relaxed, informal networking we know so many of you appreciate.

The event runs from 10am to 12.30pm but you’re free to come and go whenever you wish if your time is limited.

Our speakers are:

* Kayleigh Robinson, who is Outreach Manager for Lancashire County Council Public Health Team.
* Barbara Coleman of the NHS Genomic Medicine Service Alliance.
* PC Hussain of Lancashire Police’s community team.

If you haven’t already done so, please register on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pcn-networking-event-tickets-1561972986249?aff=oddtdtcreator> to confirm attendance.

**Real Living Wage Accreditation**

Preston City Council is backing fair pay with the launch of a new grant scheme to help local micro, small and medium-sized voluntary sector employers based within the Preston District to become Living Wage accredited employers**.**

We are sure any of our members who employ full or part time staff will relish the chance to gain Real Living Wage Foundation Accreditation, and to check your group‘s eligibility, simply complete a brief form which you can access by clicking [here](https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/11109/Living-Wage-Foundation-Accreditation-Grants-Form)

Preston City Council will then get back to you with further information on how to achieve your accreditation and secure reimbursement of your accreditation fee.

**Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire**

We would like to inform you of an important development regarding the future structure of local government in Lancashire.

As you may be aware, the government has announced its intention to simplify governance in areas with two-tier systems, such as Lancashire, by creating new unitary councils that deliver all local services through a single authority.

Currently, Lancashire County Council provides services such as social care, education, highways, and libraries, while district and borough councils deliver services including waste collection, planning, housing, and leisure. Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen already operate as unitary authorities.

All 15 councils in Lancashire are working collaboratively to develop proposals for new unitary arrangements with options ranging from between two and five new unitary councils.

The business case proposals for new unitary councils must be submitted to Government by 28 November 2025 and must demonstrate:

* Stronger local leadership
* Improved service delivery and outcomes
* Financial sustainability and value for money
* Economic growth and prosperity
* Community identity and effective local partnerships

To inform this process, we are seeking views from key stakeholder organisations across Lancashire.

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey before 28 September at the link below and share it within your networks for others to complete.

[Give My View](https://www.givemyview.com/lancashirestakeholderlgr)

**Handyman Services**

We have had a message from Neil Roskell of the Cosy Home organisation who

have a ‘Little Van of Warm Service’ which installs free energy saving measures to low income households.

The group are looking to find organised groups who meet regularly who may enjoy receiving a talk from their service provider Chris and will then hopefully sign up to the service on the day.

Chris will then visit properties and carry out a quick energy saving audit and install the measures.

The group are particularly targeting groups whose service users are the elderly, vulnerable and veterans.

If anyone is interested in finding out more, please email [tonyd@prestoncn.org](mailto:tonyd@prestoncn.org) and we will link you up with the group.

**Know your Numbers Week**

This week is Know Your Numbers week. The numbers are referring to our blood pressure and there are a few pop-up sites whereby members of the community can get their numbers checked this week, please see below:

*10 September 2025, 10am - 4pm -* Blood pressure testing at the PHIL (Promoting Health in Lancashire) van, Pitt Street, Preston.

*12 September 2025, 9am - 1pm -* Blood pressure testing at the PHIL (Promoting Health in Lancashire) van, Pitt Street, Preston.

For organisations that already deliver health checks, this week may present an opportunity to really push the importance of knowing our numbers. Please click on the link for more info on [How organisations can get involved](https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/application/files/5417/5559/9150/Know_Your_Numbers_-_awareness_poster_V2.png) .

**Chairs at Tanterton**

You will recall in last week’s news update that our member group Tanterton Christian Fellowship offered a number of chairs to any VCFSE group who could utilise them.

The group have confirmed that the chairs have now been snapped up and are n longer available.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Preston Youth Forum Meeting**

Everyone is welcome to attend the next Preston Youth Forum network meeting which takes place next Thursday, September 18 from 1pm – 3pm at the Foxton Centre.

[An agenda for the meeting is attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/feae3858-acc8-f26c-a9b4-9ec06f825c04/Preston_Youth_Forum_Network_Meeting_Agenda_September_2025.docx)

**Heritage Open Day – Intact – Saturday 13th September**

The Intact centre are holding a Heritage open Day for families on Saturday the 13th September, [see flyer attached for more details.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/e4189034-2467-4177-f081-7735ed945de6.png)

**Onward Community Fund – Now Open**

The Onward Community Fund is now open and is inviting local organisations and community groups in Preston to apply for a grant of up to £2,500 in the next round of funding which focuses on the theme of Winter resilience.  It would be great if you’d be able to let the groups in your networks know.

We’re keen to support initiatives that will help our communities stay warm, connected, and supported during the colder months. So, whether you’re tackling food poverty, reducing isolation, or boosting wellbeing, we want to hear from you!

Applications for this round open on the 1st September and close on the 15th October. Please email [socialinvestment@onward.co.uk](mailto:socialinvestment@onward.co.uk) for more info on how to apply or complete the form in the link below.

[Onward Community Fund | Onward](https://www.onward.co.uk/community-fund/)

**Millbank – Places for People – Plea to Partners**

Living Plus is on a mission to break the world record for the most sleeping bags lined up (and yes, that’s a real thing 😊) for World Homeless Day on 10th October 2025.

We need 1,300 sleeping bags so we’re going to need *everyone’s help*!

So, here’s the deal:

* Got an old sleeping bag gathering dust in your loft? Donate it!
* Got one that smells like your last festival in 2012? Still donate it!
* Got none? Share this email or our social media posts with colleagues, friends and family.

We’ve already got charities lined up to take the sleeping bags after the record attempt, so your donation will go straight to someone who genuinely needs it. No sleeping bag will be left behind.

If you’ve got one, please contact me, Mel, or Rory and we’ll sort out a drop-off point close to you and at your convenience.

Let’s break a record, raise awareness, and maybe finally clear out that loft 😊

Email - [rebecca.mayman@placesforpeople.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.mayman@placesforpeople.co.uk)

**FUNDING**

**Arnold Clark Community Support Fund**   
Grants of up to £1,000 are available from Arnold Clark’s Community Support Fund to charities and community groups within 50 miles of an Arnold Clark branch.

Funding can support a wide range of causes, from mental health and disability support to arts, sustainability, youth groups, and community enhancement. With no set deadlines but high demand, early applications are encouraged.

For more details, click [here.](https://www.arnoldclark.com/community-fund)

**WCIT**   
Grants of up to £15,000 are available for not-for-profit organisations to support IT projects and activities.

The WCIT Charity will support activities within the themes of education, inclusion, IT for charities, understanding of IT or accessibility features/hardware.

Deadline for applications is October 22 and for more details, click [here.](https://wcitcharity.org.uk/)

**Better Youth Spaces**

Grants to youth organisations to enhance youth facilities are available from Social Investment Services’ Better Youth Spaces scheme.

More details [**here**](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=4cf067ea29&e=f105be099a) but please hurry as deadline is September 21.

**Ford Britain Trust**

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

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

**TRAINING**

**De-Escalation/Conflict Resolution**

As mentioned last week, in the light of a number of requests from members re de-escalation/conflict resolution training, we are pleased to advise that we now have an offer of a free three hours course for PCN members.

Among other issues, the course will explore:

* How to recognise your own attitudes to conflict
* Understand the reasons why people initial conflict
* Be aware of solutions to resolve conflicts
* Look at real situations to resolve conflict.

We will confirm a date and time shortly but if you could confirm your interest by email to [tonyd@prestoncn.org](mailto:tonyd@prestoncn.org) we would be very grateful.

**Digital Training Workshop**

The LOCAL organisation have teamed up with North West Construction Hub to host a **free** two-hour workshop tailored for Lancashire charities and VCFSE groups in which private sector professionals will offer insights into their services.

The online event takes place from 10am – Noon next Wednesday, September 24 and there are [full details on the attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/6193e3a0-332f-9b2f-534d-73915ecda0b6.png)

**JOB VACANCY**

The Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, imaginative, experienced and suitably qualified Administrator and Finance Officer for Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit and West Preston Methodist Church (based at Fulwood Methodist Church)

[You can find the full job advert here](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/9d0c9bd3-cb2b-2fda-afaf-bbf920fb5c2b/Administrator_Finance_Officer_2025_Advert.pdf) and the [person specification here.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/9be5a14f-058c-f778-a7ef-de4cb3d5f203/Circuit_Administrator_person_spec_Aug_2025.doc)

**SURVEYS**

**Cancer Study**

We have been contacted by Lena, a researcher at Liverpool University, who is working on a study funded by North West Cancer Research called UNITY.

The study is aimed at helping to understand the barriers and facilitators to accessing cancer care for people with co-occurring conditions.

Study organisers are especially keen to speak to people of minority ethnic background about their experiences of accessing cancer care.

The interview can be conducted over the phone, video call or in-person and each participant will receive £25 as a thank you for their time.

[See attached flyer for more details.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/b2083274-9a8e-4492-2979-079d6b0e34e4.png)

**RNIB Eye Condition Survey**

You may recall earlier this year, the RNIB ran a survey asking people living with sight loss, their family and carers, about their experiences and ideas to improve support.

There was a great response and the RNIB are now seeking help to prioritise which ideas they should explore further with a second survey, which can be accessed [here](http://bit.ly/4251Rt5).

Please note you don’t need to have completed the first survey to respond to this one.

[Flyer attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/206ea293-3a68-5394-bf8e-cef00e5e48ed/RNIB_psoter.pdf)

**EVENTS**

**Suffering with Migraines Sessions**

[Please find attached](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/3f93da14-3b8e-ba05-6cd2-faea5546586a.png), a flyer outlining some sessions during September and October to support those who suffer migraines. These sessions are in person, and will be delivered by Beanstalk CIC.

**Diverse Heritage Day**

Our friends at DENW have teamed up with Lancashire Teaching Hospitals to host a Diverse Heritage Day in the Casual Cafe at DENW from 2pm-3.30pm tomorrow, Thursday, September 11.

In addition, ‘Jubiloso’ music sessions return each Friday from 2pm-3pm at the same venue.

All are welcome and if you have any access needs which you would like to register in advance, please call 01772 55 88 63 with a message for the Community Hub Team, or email [matthew@disability-equality.org.uk](mailto:matthew@disability-equality.org.uk)

**Spoken Word Workshop**

Our member group Lancashire Women are hosting an exciting one-off ‘Spoken Word’ workshop on Friday, October 3 form 10:30am-2:30pm at Fedcap, Guildhall Street, Preston, PR1 3NU.

The workshop, to be delivered by performance artist Martha Pailing, will explore how repressed anger can impact women’s mental and physical health and how writing and performance can be a healthy way to express and process anger.

You can find more information [here](https://lancashirewomen.org/project/spoken-word/) and to reserve a place click the ‘Register’ button, complete the details and select ‘Spoken Word Workshop’ at Q.18.

**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, September 10**

***10am-12:30pm: PCN Networking Event***

Location: Preston Masonic Hall, Saul St PR1 2QU

Free. All welcome.

[**https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pcn-networking-event-tickets-1561972986249?aff=oddtdtcreator**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pcn-networking-event-tickets-1561972986249?aff=oddtdtcreator)

**Saturday, September 13**

***10am-4pm: Full guided tour of Preston Masonic Meeting Rooms.***

Includes free art and photography exhibition.

Location: Preston Masonic Hall, Saul St PR1 2QU

Free. All welcome.

**Wednesday, September 17**

***11am-1pm: Ambulance Awareness Day:****See the people, learn the skills, join the service. Interactive event.*

Location: Crossgate Church, St Mary’s Street North, Preston, PR1 5LG.

There is an AGM meeting from 10.00am and the event starts at 11.00am.

For further details, please contact Kairen Smith – [**Kairen.Smith@nwas.nhs.uk**](mailto:Kairen.Smith@nwas.nhs.uk)