**Weekly News Update – September 17th, 2025**

**NEWS**

**PCN Networking Event**

We’d like to say a big thank you to all of you who attended our networking event at Preston Masonic Hall last week.

There was a great turnout and we hope you all felt it worthwhile attending, and we’d also like to thank our speakers Barbara Coleman and PCSO Mohammed Hussain.

The next event will take place in November and we’ll have a date, venue and theme for you very shortly so you can get it in your diaries.

**PCN Benefits & Poverty Group**

The second meeting of our Benefits & Poverty Consultation group is set for next Friday (26th September). This will be an online meeting and we already have confirmed there will be representatives from DWP and Preston City Council there. If you wish to be included in this discussion group, please let me know.

The teams meeting invite/link will be sent out this Friday to all interested parties.

**Real Living Wage Accreditation**

As we mentioned last week, Preston City Council is backing fair pay with the launch of a new grant scheme to help local voluntary sector employers become Living Wage accredited employers by reimbursing their accreditation fee**.**

The scheme is now officially up and running and you can find more details on the [attached poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/2b80271b-23a6-b523-feeb-e2e74fe39939.jpg).

To apply, please complete the brief application 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.

Just also to advise that unfortunately, if you have already registered and paid your fee, the scheme does not accept retrospective applications.

**Blog Preston – Offer to PCN Members**  
Our friends at Blog Preston have advised that their new look website is now live.

And to mark the launch, they are offering a 15 per cent discount to PCN member groups and individuals on their new paid membership which allows ad-free use of the site and for you to support valuable community reporting.

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'. This great offer is open until October 15.

You can read more about the new Blog Preston website [here.](https://www.blogpreston.co.uk/2025/09/blog-preston-has-a-new-look/)

**Little Van of Warmth**

As we mentioned last week, the Cosy Homes in Lancashire group have launched their ‘Little Van of Warm,’ a handyperson service offering face-to-face practical help and the installation of simple energy-saving measures in homes.

The service is available to anyone aged 70+ years, has a household income of less than £36,000 per year or is in receipt of a means tested benefit.

It offers draught proofing, radiator reflector panels, hot water tank jackets, LED light-bulbs, draught excluders and more.

To find out more or to book a free visit from the Little Van of Warm call 03306 061 488 or, visit [www.chil.uk.com](http://www.chil.uk.com/)

The group are also looking for organised groups, particularly those whose service users are the elderly, vulnerable and veterans, 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.

**Anti Poverty Programme Directory**

The Resolve Poverty Group have advised us that Glasgow Caledonian University have developed a directory of anti-poverty programmes from both local authorities and independent VCFSE organisations.

They are looking for submissions to the directory of innovative anti-poverty programmes, schemes and activities that organisations have tried and tested, including those which have not worked.

To submit your programme and access the resource, please click [here.](https://www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/academicschools/gsbs/research/spiru/directory)

**Active Lancashire**

The Clun and Community Noticeboard operated by Active Lancashire has been revamped for ease of navigation and you can access this very informative asset by clicking [here.](https://activatenoticeboard.my.canva.site/activate-noticeboard/)

**Supporting Disabled Older Workers**

Centre for Aging Better would like to invite you to join a webinar where they will share insights from the Supporting Disabled Older Workers (SDOW) research project.

Too many Disabled people in their 50s and 60s are being pushed out of work - not by their impairments, but by a lack of the right support. This webinar shares insights from the Supporting Disabled Older Workers (SDOW) research project - a collaboration between the Centre for Ageing Better and the Policy Institute at King’s College London, shaped by the SDOW Experts by Experience Steering Group.

Please register via this link: [Supporting Disabled Older Workers: From stories to solutions](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7fad92cf-e373-4a19-9d0d-ad41f931e2ef@0c99853f-9ae5-4485-8061-64d2e8fbb696)

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Amplify – Youth Voice Group For Lancashire Music Service**

We're looking for young people aged 14-18 from across Lancashire to join AMPLIFY Lancashire Music Hub's Youth Board, and be part of exciting opportunities as a team of young creative producers! If music education is important to you, AMPLIFY is for you!

Join the team to amplify the voices of young people which will help to shape music education in Lancashire.  Each session will be a creative opportunity to collaborate and advocate for young people and music education by being a part of exciting events, making distinctive multimedia content and connecting with music industry professionals. Joining Amplify is FREE and taking part will be a great addition to your personal statement for university/college applications.

Sign up via the Lancashire Music Service online portal here <https://uklancashire.speedadmin.dk/registration?signupSchoolID=2092#/Course/1057/0/6566/2092>

**Youth Support Drop-In Event – Thurs 25 Sept, Moor Nook Youth Hub**

[Youth Futures is hosting a Youth Support Drop in event](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/6d645398-e402-20bb-7cac-1a1170c0d11a.png) at Moor Nook on the 25th September.

This is an informal event to help young people explore their next steps. They’ll be able to chat with teams offering support around:

* Getting into education or training
* Finding work or volunteering opportunities
* Mental health and wellbeing
* Building confidence and skills

*Who will be there?*  
Youth Futures Team, Neighbourhood Communities Team, Targeted Youth Support, Lancashire Mind, DWP, and other local services. If you would be interested in attending the event to offer support please do get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Email [stephanie.kenyon@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.kenyon@lancashire.gov.uk) for more information

**Counselling Skills Level 2 – Training Course**

Just wanted to let you know about a course we have available in the Preston area, this will be [the L2 Counselling Certificate starting Friday 3rd October](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/682b07be-cce4-299b-4547-585566d925e9.png) for a total of 7 weeks including the induction.  The course will be delivered from Ashlar House, Saul St PR1 2QU.

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.

**Health and Wellbeing Event**

There will be a Health and Wellbeing Eventin support of World Mental Health Day taking place on **Saturday, 4th October**, **10:30am to 3.30pm on Preston Flag Market**. This year we will again have the whole of the Flag Market to ourselves, so let's fill it with stalls, activities and entertainment. If you wish to host a stall and have not yet returned a completed [booking form](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/42784adc-2bad-c0ad-ad88-7f0be94516b2/Booking_form_World_Mental_Health_Day_2025_002_.docx) please can this be done as soon as possible.

**FUNDING**

**Spring North & Cancer Alliance Small Grant Scheme**

A new scheme in which Spring North have teamed up with the Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance to provide grants of up to £10,000 has now been launched.

The grants are aimed at new projects increasing awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer, promoting uptake of screening appointments and HPV vaccinations and helping communities overcome barriers to seeking early help.

Small grants of up to £5,000 and large grants up to £10,000 are available.

You can apply by clicking [here.](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fform.jotform.com%2FSpringNorth21%2FEOICancerAlliance%3Ffbclid%3DIwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBEwT0dHdFJwc2lrd0tzem9JOAEeoL8HGzcQ64D_gV85-A84_lngrXKdnkREz7Tx6Vn6WXl3Gdb_HeLmB78iiA8_aem_yy6lpK5umng9aiDFYsQXNA&h=AT2BpLCrwiLOPPxRmDX8hPH5Uz1hDVsVUNH8v2laAyuUflu3_ynOt8oRxbshf51jc-ASYY-_n7e0NgyBpiVgEtub0R9yOHG2pRkDbILaRsVmXHcW0OhS6qxGvoN3bi7gQqJ9sTEKkxoMWess&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT0z68EFDaNukVdegeXGy4ALVDsdJBGYaRugpXRaD7yevu_iSjf5ts-0wexz6mHKmhx3lCuXcx593cSIFNL2_F3MVw5f608JCd3vePq-abAQBYcZTtqBpi5S-oz3FLDNCSWfX4q1y-1UhNv5nxVg88FMQp7IJDMl8QuJU94GCZUSUatj_-rM1f3aKG1EaA)

Deadline is October 3.

**Onward Community Fund**

Grants to groups for initiatives that will help our communities stay warm, connected, and supported during the colder months are available from the Onward Community Fund.

For details, click [**here**](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=c8edc404d2&e=f105be099a) an please note deadline is October 15.

**Our Local Nature Grants**   
The Linnean Society is offering grants of up to £1,000 for community organisations linked with young people to deliver projects and activities that engage young people with local nature and natural spaces and improve their understanding of local biodiversity.

Apply [here](https://www.linnean.org/the-society/medals-awards-prizes-grants/our-local-nature-grants) and note deadline October 25.

**Austin & Hope Pilkington Trust**   
Grants for charities working with communities helping those most in need are nopw

In 2025, Rounds 3 and 4 will accept applications for projects that focus exclusively on refugees and asylum seekers with grants of £5,000 available.

Apply by 30 September and details [here.](https://austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk/)

**TRAINING**

**Registering a Charity**

A free online training session from NCVO around registering a charity in England and Wales. This takes place on October 30th at 2pm.

[Event link.](https://booking.ncvo.org.uk/event/sessions?id=Registering_a_charity_in_England_and_Wales3363417010&utm_source=Dynamics%20365%20Customer%20Insights%20-%20Journeys&utm_medium=email&utm_term=N%2FA&utm_campaign=MKT%20%7C%20Training%20Bulletin%20%7C%20September&utm_content=MKT%20%7C%20Training%20bulletin%20%7C%20September%202025#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=a5bff6c8-8dd6-454e-b55f-7ad807f70100)

**SURVEYS**

**Ageing Well Without Families**

The Healthwatch group are engaged in a new project exploring what matters most to people about ageing well.

The group have launched a survey aimed at finding out what concerns they may have about ageing without a family support network and what barriers people may face around advocacy and consent in the event of an emergency or life changing/limiting condition such as dementia.

The findings will be shared with both public and private service providers to implement service improvement and create positive change.

You can access the survey [here.](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/LGVNAG/)

**EVENTS**

**Preston Youth Forum Meeting**

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

[An agenda for the meeting is attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/c9cd4cc6-004e-ff75-32eb-d08b128d792c/Preston_Youth_Forum_Network_Meeting_Agenda_September_2025.01.docx)

**Tanterton Community Lunch**

There will be a warm welcome to anyone in the Tanterton area for a community lunch on Sunday, September 28 where there will be good food, friendly company and an opportunity to connect.

[Details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/36318613-b811-23ff-d9ab-d9c205afa891/Community_lunch_1.pdf)

**Silver Steps Dance Class**

Our friends at The Catherine Beckett Centre are trying to recruit more members to their weekly ‘Silver Steps’ dance classes.

[All welcome and more details on the attached poster.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/b0ad4ce2-eb34-ce06-5c2b-bc7aee207bbd.png)

**Bereavement Walk for Women**

We have been advised by our member group Bloombysma of a Bereavement Walk for Women taking place next month. [Details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/01e593ef-bb3e-bb37-3f43-88453754b40f.jpeg)

**Family Workshop**

If you are interested in a workshop on supporting babies, children, young people and their families to navigate key transitions in their lives, make a date in your diary for Wednesday, December 10, 10am – Noon.

Organised by the National Lottery, the event takes place in The Conference Room, the Boulevard Centre, 45 Railway Road, Blackburn BB1 1EZ

Please email [tonyd@prestoncn.org](mailto:tonyd@prestoncn.org) if you are interested and we will register you.

**Selnet Support**

The county’s social enterprise network Selnet is currently offering free business support to Preston businesses and entrepreneurs and if any of your service users are considering setting up a small business, please contact [nina@selnet-uk.com](mailto:nina@selnet-uk.com) for more details.

Eligible participants just need to live in Preston or plan to base their business here.

[There is also an advice event coming up, details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/d393aa73-e0d7-c88f-13bb-69bebf7e5faa.png)

**Arts & Crafts**Please find information [attached](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/5557366d-d19e-c94c-ebe5-e36a8c5da273.png), regarding a free Arts and Crafts event taking place on Thursday 25th September [1pm to 4pm], at St. Stephens Church Hall, Bird Street, Broadgate, PR1 8DY.  
For further details, please contact Greg Smith, [preston-city-of-sanctuary@googlegroups.com](mailto:preston-city-of-sanctuary@googlegroups.com)

**Healthwatch Talk**

Healthwatch Lancashire will be giving a talk on their work on the 23rd September 10:00 - 10:30, please see the below Teams link to access the session.

Microsoft Teams - [Join the meeting now](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YThjOWI1ZWQtODNjNC00MGQ0LTk3ZmUtYWQyYTA1ZTYxYzky%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%229f683e26-d8b9-4609-9ec4-e1a36e4bb4d2%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2229ad42e4-67cb-4ab3-aeb6-c18838df220a%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 391 458 913 693

Passcode: ij92nL6H

**Preston City Mela Stalls**

Preston City Mela is a festival that celebrates South Asian culture, arts, music, dance and heritage. Our stalls are a huge attraction and this is an opportunity for stallholders to showcase their services to a diverse audience. In addition, community stalls will allow you to build lasting links with the local community.

They are in the process of organising the 2026 Mela and currently are seeking expressions of interest from Community/Voluntary organisations (first come first basis) who wish to have a stall at the Preston City Mela 2026.

The Mela Festival will take place in June 2026 (Exact date and location to be decided) **Preston.**

If you would like to register your interest for a stall please e-mail Suraya on: **suraya1pcm@outlook.com** with the following details:

* Name of organisation
* Address
* Contact Name
* Contact E mail
* Nature of Business (Please specify what you intend to use the stall for)
* Do you have public liability Insurance? (This is essential)

**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.

**Friday, September 19**

*5pm-10pm:*Blue Flamingo Variety Show Fundraiser

**Location:**St Michael & All Angels Church, Tulketh Rd, Ashton, Preston PR2 1AR

**Tickets £5/adults, children FREE**

This family-friendly event will feature a fantastic line-up of local talent, including live music, dance, and performance.

All proceeds support Blue Flamingo Community Hub, a not-for-profit organisation supporting older people and informal carers — especially those living with or caring for someone with dementia.

For more information, contact Erin at [theblueflamingocafe@gmail.com](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/blue-flamingo-variety-show-fundraiser-tickets-1546475211989?aff=oddtdtcreator) or 07462 320349.

**Thursday, September 25**

*1pm-3pm:* Free drop-in event for 16-17 year olds not in employment or training.

Location: Moor Nook Family Hub / The Zone

Come along to our drop-in event where you can chat with different organisations about training, opportunities, and support.

No need to book – just pop in.

Refreshments provided – come grab a drink and have a chat!