**Weekly News Update – September 24th, 2025**

**NEWS**

**Sir Mark Hendrick MP’s column**

We are delighted to include this week Preston MP Sir Mark Hendrick’s latest column for the VCFSE sector, [which you can read attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/files/4a791b0f-488a-84f6-83bc-26687c512985/Sir_Mark_Hendrick_MP_Column_24_September.docx)

**Congratulations to The Foxton**

We were delighted to hear that our friends at The Foxton have this week been named Lancashire’s Community Business of the Year.

It’s just reward for all the hard work which has been put in by Cath Coffey and her team and it’s great to see recognition of their efforts.

You can find a full report and pic on Blog Preston’s site via this [link](https://www.blogpreston.co.uk/2025/09/foxton-scoop-lancashire-community-business-of-the-year-among-preston-winners-at-bibas-2025/).

**Cosy Homes Advice Team**

One of our newer members Green Rose CIC are running a very useful scheme to assist the vulnerable and those in low income homes.

The Cosy Homes Advice Team operate an advice line for Cosy Homes in Lancashire where any group or individual can check eligibility for grants or free home visits to assess needs, energy saving advice etc.

[More details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/3a0d647b-a78e-c243-dfdf-36296fc0633b.png)

**Kind Communities Information Videos**   
Are you working with people from a diverse range of cultures and languages?

A series of videos from the Kind Communities group can be invaluable for speakers of Dari, Farsi, Urdu, Cantonese & Arabic.

They deal with a range of issues including dealing with loneliness, what to do in an emergency or if you are feeling unwell.

Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRaRUJeh179np_9J_I5_eAQ) to access the videos.

**Microsoft 365 for Charities**

I recently discovered that non profits are able to get Microsoft 365 accounts for a 75% discount. Many organisations may even be able to just use the free version. Definitely worth thinking about if you are looking at your changing your current systems.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/enterprise/nonprofit-plans-and-pricing>

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Terry Mattinson – Outstanding Leader of the Year**

The Preston Youth Forum Network extend our congratulations to Terry Mattinson from Impact Youth Group who has been voted the National Association of Boys & Girls Clubs ***Outstanding Leader of the Year***.

This is a fantastic achievement for Terry and one that is well deserved from his years of dedicated support for young people in Preston and beyond. Terry will be attending an awards ceremony on Sunday the 28th September to be presented with his award.

Well done Terry, the Preston Youth Forum hope you have a great night on Sunday!

**Spear Employability Programme**

🎉 Exciting news - our next Spear Programme launches on Tuesday 30th September! 🎉

As you know, the programme helps 16-24-year-olds who are struggling to get into work or education. Over 4 weeks, they’ll grow in confidence, discover what they’re capable of, and learn the practical skills they need to land (and keep) a job.

We’d love your help spreading the word and connecting us with young people who could benefit. Spaces are *completely free* but limited - so the sooner they’re referred, the better!

👉 [Refer someone to Spear](https://resurgo.org.uk/spear-programme/find-out-more/) 👈

Thanks so much for your support in giving young people the opportunity to turn things around and step confidently into their future.

**The Triangle Trust – Funding Opportunity**

**\*Funding Round Now Open\***

Our focus for 2025/26 is on young women and girls who are already in contact with the criminal justice system or who are at high risk of being drawn into it. Organisations applying need to be led by women and the total beneficiaries of the organisation need to be 80% young women and girls. Also open is a Small Grants Programme for organisations whose income is below £50,000 and only work with women and girls.

Applications will be accepted up to midnight on 20 October 2025 for the main Grants Programme, but may close earlier for the Small Grants Programme subject to demand. For more information about our grants, see our criteria in [Funding](https://www.triangletrust.org.uk/apply-funding/apply-now/) or [Small Grants Programme](https://www.triangletrust.org.uk/apply-funding/small-grants-programme/) and use our eligibility checker below to start your application.

More information about the criteria and how to apply can be found on our website: <https://www.triangletrust.org.uk/>

**Kings Trust – Funding For Young People to Train and Learn**

Our Development Awards are grants to help young people overcome financial barriers to training, employment or education. They can cover the cost of accredited course fees, tools or equipment, ID, uniform, and other barriers to achieving their goals.

The award amount varies based on individual needs and goals, but typically range from £175- £200.

To be eligible, young people must be:

* Aged 16-30 and living in the UK
* Studying less than 14 hours a week or not in compulsory education

Unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week

[More info on the poster attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/814e400c-4e06-5edd-33ce-0d3d3b1cbbe9.png)

**FUNDING**

**TNLCF Awards for All**

The National Lottery Community fund are looking to fund more community projects that:

* Bring people closer to nature
* Support people to take climate action
* Make a positive difference to local green spaces

These grants are for up to £20,000 and you can find more information on the [attached poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/4c0a83ed-9968-aa67-274d-55260988e1d5.png) and on [their website.](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england-environment#section-2)

**Warm Spaces Grant**

Lancashire County Council have launched their new Warm Spaces grant programme.

This is aimed at organisations and groups within the VCFSE sector to support them in creating warm and welcoming spaces for residents, focussing on those most in need.

You can find more details [here](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/grants/community-team-support/lancashire-warm-spaces-grant-scheme/) and closing date is October 19.

**Grassroots Grants**   
Funding of up to £2,000 is available from Grassroots Grants for organisations making a positive difference in their communities.

Funding can be used for core organisational costs and is unrestricted and therefore flexible.

Click [here](https://www.groundwork.org.uk/grassroots-grants/) for more details and note deadline is October 14.

**Comic Relief Community Fund**

**G**rants of up to £5,000 to grassroots organisations tackling the urgent impacts of poverty such as food insecurity, homelessness, and health inequalities from the Comic Relief Community Fund.

Deadline is October 6 and you can find out more [here.](https://www.groundwork.org.uk/comic-relief/)

**Our Local Nature Grants**   
The Linnean Society is offering grants 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.

Grants of up to £1,000 are available.

Deadline is October 25 and click [here](https://www.linnean.org/the-society/medals-awards-prizes-grants/our-local-nature-grants) for more details.

**Allen Lane Foundation**

Grants to mental health organisations for projects working with people experiencing moderate to severe conditions are available from the Allen Lane Foundation.

The fund is ongoing and for more details, click [here](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=a4a7f85ea8&e=f105be099a).

**SURVEYS**

**The Conversation Around Cancer**

Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance is developing a campaign to change the conversation around cancer, raise awareness of the early signs and symptoms and encourage positive action to seek early support and is looking to gather the views of people across the region to help develop this campaign.

If you are interested in taking part please click on [this link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCYTP2T). The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete.

If you opt in, you can be entered into a prize draw to win one of three £25 shopping vouchers as a thank you for your contribution.

Please note the closing date for the survey is Thursday, October 2.

**Genomics Community Cafe**

Those members who attended our recent networking event will have heard a very informative talk by Barbara Coleman of the NHS North West Genomic Medicine Service Alliance on the increasingly important subject of genomics.

Barbara is now collating feedback from any groups who have hosted a presentation on this and if you have done so, she would be very grateful if you could complete a short survey which you can access [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WH33F7V).

**EVENTS**

**Health & Wellbeing Event**

There is an event taking place at Longridge Civic Hall tomorrow (September 25th) around health & wellbeing. Could be a great chance to meet the local social prescribing team and other community groups providing support.

[More details attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/26a879ff-88d4-dcda-1195-a68aae3ad5b8.png)

**Veterans’ Coffee Morning**

Our member group Recycling Lives are hosting a new monthly coffee morning for veterans.

Run by fellow veterans, it takes place on the last Friday of every month, with plans to increase it to a weekly event in the future.

Alongside a warm brew and breakfast, attendees can access food parcels, hygiene packs, and the usual tents and sleeping bags.

[More details on attached flyer](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/66c8fe25-c731-b81d-3708-65a4a3ebce4d.png) and please contact [Katrina.walmsley@recyclinglives.org](mailto:Katrina.walmsley@recyclinglives.org) for more information.

**Free Public Talks - University of Lancashire**

The new term is now underway at The University of Lancashire and they are shortly hosting two public talks on campus which you and any of your service users are very welcome to attend.

‘A Small Unregarded Yellow Sun’ looks at how our Solar System formed and how unusual it is, and takes place next Tuesday, September 30 at 6.30pm in the Darwin Lecture Theatre, Darwin Building.

Please book for free [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-small-unregarded-yellow-sunhow-did-our-solar-system-form-tickets-1609752516109?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&_gl=1*xnnxh6*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTQwNzc1MDc4OC4xNzU3MzI4NzQz*_ga_TQVES5V6SH*czE3NTczMjg3NDMkbzEkZzAkdDE3NTczMjg3NDMkajYwJGwwJGgw).

‘Growing Up Human’ looks at why humans take longer than any other species to ‘grow up’ and will take place on Wednesday, October 8 at 5.40pm at the Mitchell and Kenyon Cinema, Foster Building.

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

Finally, the university’s Korea Day 2025 takes place onWednesday, October 8 from noon to 3pm in the Foster Social Space, Foster Building, where you can enjoy a range of cultural experiences and informative talks, followed by a documentary screening based on the memoir of a North Korean defector.

No need to book and all welcome.

**Friends of Deepdale Enclosure Testing Event**

Led by The Friends of Deepdale Enclosure, a range of groups are looking to transform Deepdale Enclosure.

To this end, they have arranged an event this Saturday, September 27 to look at Prototype Testing on the project as well as being a Community Celebration.

If you'd like to get involved and help shape the future of this valuable space, please feel free to drop into the Catherine Beckett Community Centre.

**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 25**

*10am-1pm:* Health & Wellbeing Event

Location: Longridge Civic Hall, 1 Calder Ave, Longridge, Preston PR3 3HT

[Event Poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/26a879ff-88d4-dcda-1195-a68aae3ad5b8.png)

**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!

**Thursday, September 25**

*1pm-4pm:* Arts & Crafts

Location: St. Stephens Church Hall, Bird Street, Broadgate, PR1 8DY.

Please find information [attached](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/5557366d-d19e-c94c-ebe5-e36a8c5da273.png),   
For further details, please contact Greg Smith, [preston-city-of-sanctuary@googlegroups.com](mailto:preston-city-of-sanctuary@googlegroups.com)

**Friday, September 26**

*10am:* PCN Benefits and Poverty Consultation Group Meeting

Location: Online only.

Contact glennm@prestoncn.org for Teams invitation

**Tuesday, September 30**

*6.30pm:* Free Talk hosted by the University of Lancashire.

‘A Small Unregarded Yellow Sun’ looks at how our Solar System formed and how unusual it is.

Location: Darwin Lecture Theatre, Darwin Building.

Please book for free [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-small-unregarded-yellow-sunhow-did-our-solar-system-form-tickets-1609752516109?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&_gl=1*xnnxh6*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTQwNzc1MDc4OC4xNzU3MzI4NzQz*_ga_TQVES5V6SH*czE3NTczMjg3NDMkbzEkZzAkdDE3NTczMjg3NDMkajYwJGwwJGgw).