**Weekly News Update – September 3rd, 2025**

**NEWS**

**PCN Networking Event**

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our forthcoming PCN networking event which takes place on Thursday, September 11 from 10am-12.30pm at Preston Masonic Hall in the centre of the city.

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.

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

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pcn-networking-event-tickets-1561972986249?aff=oddtdtcreator>

**Two opportunities for People with Sight Loss**

1. Help Shape NHS Talking Therapies for People with Sight Loss!

This is for blind and partially sighted people. They are after 15 people to take part as soon as possible.  The practice guidance needs to be written and presented to the NHS by November, so we need to get responses as soon as possible. They want people who have accessed the Talking Therapies service ideally within the last two years. Responses by 11 September 2025.

Interested? Fill out the quick questionnaire <https://forms.office.com/e/RKMAXBahH5> or email [craig.dunlop@rnib.org.uk](mailto:craig.dunlop@rnib.org.uk) for more information.

1. Focus Group: Your Experience with Community Eyecare Services

We’re looking for people in England with an eye condition to take part in our upcoming focus groups exploring how community eyecare services are working for you.

Under the NHS 10-year plan, community services are going to play a bigger role in looking after our eyes. We want you to tell us what’s currently working well – and what needs to improve.

What’s involved:

• Two online focus groups held via Microsoft Teams

• Each session will last 2.5 hours

• Sessions will take place in Autumn 2025

Interested? Click link below to register your interest:

<https://forms.office.com/e/uYJ5M2MEXP>

**Free Chairs Available**

Our member group Tanterton Christian Fellowship have more than 80 chairs available free to any VCFSE group who could utilise them. Picture attached.

You must be able to collect and if you are interested, please contact [paul.earnshaw@gmail.com](mailto:paul.earnshaw@gmail.com) to arrange a timer for a pick up.

**Disability Equality NW**

Our friends at DENW are as busy as ever and fully open at their new premises.

Their latest bulletin detailing all their latest news and activities at the group can be accessed [here.](https://disability-equality.org.uk/bulletin-39-september-2025/)

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Youth Strategy Delivery Fund**

I am excited to share with you a new community grant funding scheme from Preston City Council for organisations who want to deliver innovative and creative projects supporting the Enabled & Empowered outcome of the new Preston Youth Strategy 2025-2035.

The Youth Strategy Delivery Fund is now open for applications and will close on Sunday the 21st September 2025 at Midnight.

Click on the link below to apply for the funding and to learn more about the fund and its eligibility criteria.

[Youth Strategy Delivery Fund (Enabled and Empowered) - Preston City Council](https://www.preston.gov.uk/youthstrategydeliveryfund)

Preston City Council is committed to supporting the success of the Preston Youth Strategy and after speaking to partners we feel that creating a Youth Strategy grant funding scheme will be a great way of supporting project delivery in the city that will directly impact young people in a positive way focussing on a strategic outcome that young people and partner organisations feel is critical in helping the development of young people in Preston.

If you have any questions about the grant funding scheme, please e-mail [m.dunne@preston.gov.uk](mailto:m.dunne@preston.gov.uk)

There is some time set aside on the agenda at the Youth Forum meeting on the 18th September to discuss the grant funding scheme more and answer any questions that Youth Forum partners might have.

**Wot Wud U Do – Grand Games Event @ Encounter Festival**

Professionals and young people are invited to join Wot Wud U Do celebrating accomplishments of young people in Preston who have created a mental health book and will be showcasing it at the Encounter Festival on the 20th September from 12pm-4pm. More details on flyers attached – [Flyer 1](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/439a6b65-ecb5-1211-0e90-e70f96016151.png). [Flyer 2.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/eaf764c7-37b1-ac84-1ee3-ac1450e43610.png)

**Networking Event for VCFSE Youth Sector**

Here at Youth Focus North West, we are inviting leaders and decision makers of youth provision within the North West Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sectors to a new networking event on the 2nd October 1pm-3pm at the Foxton Centre, Preston.

**I’d welcome you to share this with colleagues and organisations who may also be interested in attending the Network.**

**You can read more information about this event and book your place by clicking on this** [**link**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1616978258499?aff=oddtdtcreator)**.**

For any further queries please contact [training@youthfocusnw.org.uk](mailto:training@youthfocusnw.org.uk)

**Educate Preston**

[Educate Preston](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/4fbfba9c-93cb-e8e9-70c6-d66efc71d50b.png) is a new partnership between Cardinal Newman College, Preston College and the University of Lancashire. Educate Preston is your one-stop-shop for information, guidance, and support on all the education and training opportunities available right here in Preston. Whether you're looking to boost your career, or are thinking about your next steps in education, we're here to support you. Educate Preston will support young people aged 16+

**FUNDING**

**WA Handley Charity Trust**

Grants of up to £5,000 are available from the above to support welfare for those who are disadvantaged.

No website available but contact [davidmilligan@ryecroft-glenton.co.uk](mailto:davidmilligan@ryecroft-glenton.co.uk) or call 0191 281 1292 for further information.

**Barchester’s Charitable Foundation**

Grants to groups for projects that tackle loneliness among older people and people with disabilities are available from theBarchester’s Charitable Foundation*.*

For more details, click [here.](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=815cc9b1e7&e=f105be099a)

**TRAINING**

**De-Escalation/Conflict Resolution**

Following several requests, we have looked at providing a training course in de-escalation/conflict resolution and 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.

This a great opportunity and will be a very useful tool for so many of our groups.

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

**Co-Operative Crash Course for Artists and Creatives**

A free six week Co-Operative Crash Course for Artists and Creatives is shortly to begin and promises to offer anyone in the Preston creative sector full guidance on cooperatives from the Preston Model to the wider solidarity economy.

Sponsored by Preston City Council and conducted by Jonny Cosmo of our member group Pressed Town, the coursed will be held each Monday evening from 6pm - 8pm starting on September 15.

Please only sign up if you can commit to every session as there are limited places.  
Each session will be followed by a digital resource pack with tools, reading material and signposting to further learning and upon completion, participants will be awarded a certificate by the Preston Mayor.   
To apply, please email [admin@prestoncoopdevelopment.org](mailto:admin@prestoncoopdevelopment.org) by September 8 with a cover letter stating why you would like to join the course and your previous experience in culture and/or cooperatives.

**Qlic IT Webinars**

Qlic IT offer free webinars around the charity sector, their next one is on September 24th: [**AI Adoption in Charities: Tools, Policies & Best Practice:**](https://charitydigital.org.uk/MessageAgent.cfm?msgCode=5772&type=1&mtype=4&scode=BB9DF6AB-B8DC-4A64-AA62EF441D299AD2&requestedURL=https%3A%2F%2Fevents%2Eteams%2Emicrosoft%2Ecom%2Fevent%2F6789f061%2D12cb%2D4664%2Dabc8%2D6f89d9261d11%405b7ed571%2D18c1%2D4418%2D8548%2D8290059d4c80%3Futm%5Fsource%3Dnewsletter%26utm%5Fmedium%3Demail%26utm%5Fcampaign%3DExchange%2520Email%2520Campaign%2520Template%253A%2520Active%252C%2520Tuesdays)A practical session exploring how to introduce AI responsibly.

**SURVEY**

**Future of Social Prescribing Survey**  
The National Academy for Social Prescribing has launched a survey about the future of social prescribing in England to help inform their new strategy.

Community organisations are already doing incredible work and this survey will help in the quest to ensure they’re supported, visible, and central to the future of social prescribing.

To take part in the survey, click [here.](https://socialprescribingacademy.org.uk/resources/the-future-of-social-prescribing-in-england-survey/)

**EVENTS**

**Free Fostering Information Day**

Beacon Fostering, a local fostering agency based in Preston, is holding a free information event tomorrow, Thursday, September 4 at Costa Coffee, Deepdale Shopping Park, PR1 6QY.

There is real shortage of foster carers locally across Preston and Lancashire to support children and young persons and you can find out more about becoming a foster carer at this informal discussion.

To register for attendance, click [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1617758141149?aff=oddtdtcreator)

**Encounter Festival**

Please make a date in your diary to attend the Encounter Festival, a fantastic youth led event which will take place on Saturday, September 20

The day kicks off with the Grand Games, two hours of fun at The Guild Lounge for all ages including an assault course, football darts, an art competition and the crowd favourite ‘Tug of War, which you can sign up for [here.](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GM7RHCP)

Following this, the Showcase event will present a mental health book ‘A Deep Dive Into a Kid’s Mind’ offering valuable insights into children's mental health and an interactive film tackling the impact of bullying on mental health and behaviour.

Organisers are hoping as many VCFSE sector and youth professional as possible will attend and you can confirm your attendance [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F9YTKC3).

There are more details on the attached flyers.

Later, a torchlight procession will be led by a large scale puppet of Arthur Wharton, the iconic and groundbreaking former Preston North End footballer.

In preparation for the procession, PNE Community Trust are holding two days of textile workshops to create one large banner and small flags featuring the North End crest over the years to be held during the procession..

The sessions will be held next Tuesday, September 9 and Thursday, September 11 at Creativity Works, each day’s sessions running from 9.3am0-11.30am and 12.30pm-2.30pm.

Participants will also be given the opportunity to be in the parade as well.

Please contact [Michael.Barrett@pne.com](mailto:Michael.Barrett@pne.com) for details.

**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 4**

**2pm-3.30pm: Free Fostering Information Event**

Beacon Fostering, a fostering agency based in Preston, is holding a free information event tomorrow.

There is real shortage of foster carers locally across Preston and Lancashire to support children and young persons. Please join Beacon Fostering for an informal discussion and you can find out more about becoming a foster carer.

Location: Costa Coffee, Deepdale Shopping Park, **PR1 6QY**

To register for attendance, click [**here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1617758141149?aff=oddtdtcreator)

**Sunday, September 7**

***11am-4pm: Preston Muslim Forum Community Fun Day.***

Location: Hamara Centre, rear of 158 Castleton Rd, PR1 6QH

Stalls, food, fairground rides and attractions for all the family.

Free. All welcome.