**NEWS**

**Preston Community Network AGM**

There’s still time to book a free ticket for our annual AGM which will take place from 11am-1pm this Friday, December 5 in the Function Room at Preston Town Hall.

After the formal business, we are delighted to welcome Chief Inspector Bevan of Lancashire Constabulary who will talk about the Prosper Partnership and other issues where policing affects the VCFSE sector.

There will be other speakers too as well as a chanced to network and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day.

Booking is essential.

[Booking is essential and you can do so via this link.](https://forms.office.com/e/ntJrp9iiYh)

**PCN Benefits and Poverty Consultation Group**

Those members who attended our recent PCN Benefits and Poverty Consultation Group meeting at the Town Hall will recall we discussed collaborative working between the Adult Social Care and Welfare Rights Services.

Members of Preston MP Sir Mark Hendrick’s team were present and one of the actions we resolved to take was to request he send a letter to Lancashire County Council leader Mark Wynn regarding this.

We are pleased to say Sir Mark has quickly actioned this and the letter has now been sent.

Please let us know if you would like to see a copy of the letter.

We will of course advise as soon as a reply is received.

**PCN Potential Training Sessions**

We have an opportunity to put on some new training sessions, these would be free of charge for all PCN members. If any organisation has any interest in the following sessions, please let me know via [glennm@prestoncn.org](mailto:glennm@prestoncn.org) and we will organise a session or two:

* Change management – This session can be adapted to any kind of change that your team are going through. Both in the workplace and at home.
* Emotional resilience and regulation
* Team Dynamics
* Confidence and Resilience
* Customer Service
* Mental Health Awareness

**Blog Preston Award Nomination**

Our member group Blog Preston in the running to be crowned best website in the North of England.

The site, which is enjoying record hits and growing swiftly in popularity, is in the running for the gong at the Northern Digital Awards.

More details [here.](https://www.blogpreston.co.uk/2025/11/blog-prestons-new-website-in-the-running-to-be-crowned-best-in-the-north-at-northern-digital-awards/)

**Preston Domestic Violence Services**

[Please find attached](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/files/8fd69c63-9d99-7c43-dd00-ca92e313b1c8/PDVS_Newsletter_Nov_2025_1_.pdf) the December newsletter from our longstanding member group PDVS which details the latest updates on their wonderful work.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Kings Trust TEAM Programme Preston – Recruiting Now**

Good morning, Lancashire Fire and Rescue’s next King’s Trust Preston Team is due to start on the 12th January 2026. After the success of this year’s Teams including ongoing volunteering opportunities, offers of work and some fantastic work experience opportunities, we are now looking for Team Members for our next cohort.

Applicants must be aged 16-25 and not in any current education or employment. Those over 19 must be on universal credit. The course runs for 12 weeks and involves:

A 3-night 4-day residential trip to do outdoor activities, a 2-week community project, the chance to work with fire crews at Deepdale fire station, 2 weeks of work experience, help with CV writing and interview practice.

To get in touch to enquire about a potential learner for our course, please contact [johnjenkins@lancsfirerescue.org.uk](mailto:johnjenkins@lancsfirerescue.org.uk)

**Timpson’s – Free- Interview Clothes Dry Cleaned for Unemployed Young People**

If you are supporting an unemployed young person who has an upcoming job interview [Timpsons will dry clean their outfit](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/8b5b17c6-a20d-6519-ee16-cc7661ca9b25.png) free of charge to give them a helping hand. Use the link below to find your nearest Timpson shop and let young people know about this great support offer. [Dry Cleaners Near Me | Timpson](https://www.timpson.co.uk/services/dry-cleaners)

**Calling all Young Creatives – Design for Good Preston**

Design for Good Preston is providing great opportunities for young people to develop their graphic design skills, computer skills, photograph skills and social media skills. They will get training, mentoring and an opportunity to earn while they learn. [See more details on flyer attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/b07b19ad-d458-cda1-7293-ef58abebcd7a.png)

**Help In Preston – Winter Support For Young People & Families**

The Help In Preston website now has a dedicated page for winter support for young people and families in Preston. Feel free to use this to signpost young people you work with and if you have further support from your organisation that you want to share send it to [B.Smith@preston.gov.uk](mailto:B.Smith@preston.gov.uk).

Please access the support page here <https://www.helpinpreston.com/winterwellbeing25>

**Wot Wud U Do – Organisation Update**

Wot Wud U Do have got three fantastic new projects starting, see details below

The **All Sorts** Arts and Creativity project will be taking place every Thursday 5pm-7pm at the Number 9 youth space in the Harris Museum.

[The **Level Up** project](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/098f18da-5425-649d-c854-1e7dd2e30231.png) will be taking place every Friday 5.30pm-6.30pm at the Newman College Sports Hall. A space for young people to level up their sporting performance, take part in games and meet new people. This too will be running every week until September 26, however venue may change as we are looking for a more suitable, youth friendly venue to host these sessions in the future. These sessions are hosted by John Pilkington, a team GB athlete, European triathlon champion, physical training instructor and nutrition sports specialist.

Finally [the **Reindeer Games**](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/e1eddbb2-4fa6-9746-a82d-9f371cf40c6e.png), following on from the success of last year's Guild get Together, young people have designed a series of Christmas themed mini tournaments, games and activities for young people to win some fantastic prizes, whilst promoting positive mental health

If you want to get involved or have ideas and could support with a future venue, then please get in touch with Dave - [dave@wwudes.co.uk](mailto:dave@wwudes.co.uk).

**VOLUNTEERING**

**Reading Coaches/Volunteers**

Our friends at Pukar are looking for [reading coaches](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/59134e96-156f-921d-c977-f2a1ac344d99.png), volunteers and language interpreters.

For more details, please see [the posters attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/72483f29-ca6f-62e7-d25b-71557db3d72a.png)

**VACANCIES**

**DENW**

Our friends at Disability Equality NW have two vacancies at present, one for a receptionist and one for a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.

More details on our website at <https://prestoncn.org/job-vacancies/>

**St Bernards Community Hub**

The above group are looking for a new operations manager to help shape the experience of those who walk through the door. [Full details and job spec are here.](https://prestoncn.org/job-vacancies/)

**FUNDING**

**Arts for Impact and Earth Raise**   
The Big Give has launched two major match funding opportunities.

Arts for Impact 2026 supports arts and culture charities delivering positive social change, while Earth Raise 2026 backs groups tackling environmental challenges.

Each programme offers two funding streams, enabling charities to raise between £7,500 and £100,000 in matched donations depending on campaign size.

Arts for Impact application deadline is December 17 and Earth Raise application deadline January 16.

For application details, click [here.](https://biggive.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2dc027ba3f5f54fdc7633f2b6&id=ef83fdfcc2&e=534fd98f80)

**Community-Led Cancer Projects**   
Macmillan Cancer Support has launched the new CARE (Culture Agency Respect Equity) Grants Programme, offering funding for innovative community-led projects that tackle inequalities in cancer care.

With grants between £50,000 and £150,000 available to VCFSE groups for one- or two-year projects, this pilot aims to explore new ways to make cancer care more inclusive, culturally responsive and dementia-friendly.

There are information webinars on December 11 from 6pm–7pm and January 8 from 3.30pm–4.30pm.

Deadline is January 23 and there are more details [here.](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/macmillan-funding-grants/care-grants)

**Aviva Community Fund**   
The popular Aviva Community Fund, delivered in partnership with Crowdfunder, will close to applications on December 15.

The fund currently provides match funding of up to £50,000 for projects supporting financial wellbeing or climate action, helping small charities and community organisations create positive local impact.

For more information and application form, click [here.](https://www.aviva.co.uk/services/more-from-aviva/aviva-community-fund/)

**‘Seldom Heard’ Armed Forces Communities**   
The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust has launched a new funding opportunity offering up to £25,000 for projects that improve mental health and wellbeing support for underrepresented members of the UK’s armed forces community

The fund aims to amplify the voices of those often overlooked, such as carers, ethnic minority groups, people with disabilities and LGBT+ members, while encouraging collaboration and shared learning among support organisations.

Deadline is January 21 and for more details click [here.](https://www.find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/grants/armed-forces-covenant-fund-hidden-voices-programme-1)

**Wolfson Foundation**

Grants to groups working with older people and people with disabilities are available from the Wolfson Foundation.

Deadline is January 5 and for more details, click [**here.**](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=8c68fad884&e=f105be099a)

**MacMillan Cancer Support**

There are grants to community-led projects tackling barriers to cancer care from Macmillan Cancer Support’s CARE grants.

Details [**here**](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=a46a71dda7&e=f105be099a) and deadline is January 23.

**EVENTS**

**Good as New Sale**

Unfortunately, Disability Equality NW’s Good as New Festive Fundraiser scheduled for today at their Community Hub has been postponed.

A new date in January will shortly be advised.

**Foxton Men’s Group**

There’s a busy programme of events being run by the Men’s Group at The Foxton in the lead up to Christmas. [More details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/e7ed5a16-049c-ff6a-8aa3-08a658adeacd.jpg)

**Active Lancashire**

December's edition of Active Lancashire’s Club & Community Noticeboard, which includes a review of the year, is now available to read by clicking [here.](https://activatenoticeboard.my.canva.site/activate-noticeboard)

**University of Lancashire Events**

There are two free events coming up which are being hosted by the University of Lancashire.

Tomorrow, Thursday, December 4 sees ‘Sun, Stones and Stars: Exploring Ancient Sky Knowledge’ which takes place from6.30pm–8pm in the Darwin Lecture Theatre.

Join Professor Clive Ruggles as he dives into the ancient secrets of the sky with Sun, stones, and stars.

Please book for free [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sun-stones-and-stars-exploring-ancient-sky-knowledge-tickets-1952101310569?aff=oddtdtcreator).

On Tuesday, January 27, 5.40pm–8pm, ‘Weight Loss Jabs – What Do You Need to Know?’ takes place at the Mitchell and Kenyon Theatre.

Learn more about weight loss injections like Mounjaro and Wegovy.

Please book for free [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/weight-loss-jabs-what-do-you-need-to-know-tickets-1974667039271?aff=oddtdtcreator).

**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, December 5**

*11am – 1pm:* PCN AGM

Venue: Function Room at Preston Town Hall.

Registration: [PCN AGM – December 5th – Fill in form](https://forms.office.com/e/ntJrp9iiYh)

**Sunday, December 7**

*Noon-4pm:* Christmas Afternoon Tea Party for the over 50s.

Food, singer, raffle, bingo

Location: St Bernards, Larches & Savick Community Hub.

Tickets £5

<https://forms.gle/HSqkxzsermoX4yPV8>

**Tuesday, December 9**

**7pm-9pm: Let’s Grow Preston Christmas Concert.**

Location: Lostock Hall Con Club, Brownedge Rd, PR5 5AA

Tickets £5 via Eventbrite or at the door.