**NEWS**

**PCN Networking Event**

We would like to announce our next Networking Event, taking place on January 29th at Preston Masonic Hall. The event will start from 10am with a couple of speakers and then plenty of time for relaxed networking afterwards. The event will end at around 12:30pm.

This session will be focussed on training – with speakers advising on their training opportunities for the VCFSE sector in Preston, and we will also advise on our own training opportunities over the next few months.

You can register for the networking event here: [PCN Networking Event - January 29th – Fill in form](https://forms.office.com/e/qYACKKn49w)

**PCN Training – Emotional Resilience & Regulation**

We have teamed up with Lancashire Adult Learning to put on a few training sessions free of charge for our member groups. The first of these sessions will take place on February 9th at Preston Town Hall and will be centred around Emotional Resilience & Regulation. The session will be 10am-1pm and is a great opportunity for our members to gain some valuable experience and coping mechanisms for handling difficult situations.

This is open to PCN members – both staff and volunteers. Places are limited so please register here - [PCN Emotional Resilience Training - February 9th – Fill in form](https://forms.office.com/e/2ENmvscppS)

**Free Warmth Support at The Intact Centre**

Our friends at The Intact Centre currently have Oxford throws and electric blankets available FREE for anyone who comes in and signs to the PSR (Priority Services Register).

They are also giving out free children’s hats and gloves to help keep our community warm this winter.

No appointment needed. Just pop into The Intact Centre at 49 Whitby Ave, Ingol PR2 3YP. Offer available while stocks last.

**Fulwood Dental accepting registrations**

We know many of our groups are based or are active in the Fulwood area and they may want to let their service users know Fulwood Dental are now accepting registrations for new NHS patients.

Please advise potential applicants registration is available online only and to do so, simply click the link [here](https://cz9j.sfd.co:300/) to book your first appointment.

Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible.

**Proud Preston Awards**

We previously advised about the new Proud Preston Awards which have now been launched, and a reminder that nominations are now open.

There are several categories which look tailor made for PCN member groups to be nominated and hopefully get some recognition for the fantastic work you all do.

For more details, please click [here.](https://www.blogpreston.co.uk/2025/12/from-caring-heroes-to-inspirational-young-people-the-proud-preston-awards-2026-are-open-for-entries/)

**Used Laptops Offer**

The Inclusive North group have a selection of used IT equipment including laptops for sale at reasonable prices to groups in the VCFSE sector.

These include two HP Pavilion laptops at £175 each.

All the equipment has been checked and in working order but you must be able to collect from the group’s Blackburn office.

If you are interested in any of the items please email [projects@inclusivenorth.org.uk](mailto:projects@inclusivenorth.org.uk) for more details.

**Cancer Awareness Champions Wanted**

Here at Preston Community Network, we have been involved with the setting up and launch of a region wide Cancer Awareness Champion project.

This a really positive initiative with the aim being to recruit ‘Cancer Awareness Champions’ from groups across our sector.

Basically, it’s all about raising awareness of cancer issues, and every volunteer signing

up will receive training via a free one off workshop.

If this sounds like a project you or anyone in your group may be interested in, please drop us a line on admin@prestoncn,org.

We’ll provide more information at our forthcoming networking event on Thursday, January 29.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Cost of Living Grant Funding Opportunity – Preston City Council**

Preston City Council now has a Cost Of Living Community Grant funding scheme open till the 30th January 2026.

The Council is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for all Voluntary, Community, Faith, and grassroots organisations.

This support is designed to help groups assist Preston residents who are affected by the rising cost of living.

Key Dates and how to submit an application

* Launch date: 22 December 2025
* Application deadline: Friday, 30 January 2026

Applications must be submitted through our online form, with organisations able to request up to £10,000 and limited to one application per organisation.

Anyone wishing to apply must read the [Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Grant Funding Policy 2025 - 2026](https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/11971/Voluntary-Community-and-Faith-Sector-Grant-Funding-Policy-2025-2026) to check eligibility criteria.

Apply here - <https://www.preston.gov.uk/grantfundingcostofliving>

**Applications for the GLL Sports Foundation are now open**

Talented athletes from 70 areas across the UK are invited to apply for support from the largest athlete support programme of its kind in the UK. Awards include financial bursaries, free access to gyms, pools and other sports facilities, physiotherapy, lifestyle mentoring and mental health wellbeing support.

 Celebrating its 18th Year, the GLL Sport Foundation (GSF) Awards 2026 are now bigger and better than ever. A record-breaking £2m of bursaries and 'in kind' support for 2026 will enable talented young athletes to take part in the UK's largest scheme of its kind.

 By April 2026, over 35,000 athlete awards and almost £20million worth of support will have been distributed to aspiring sportsmen and women since the scheme's first awards in 2008.

The innovative sports programme is provided by GLL, a charitable social enterprise and co-operative, which has for nearly two decades  proved a popular and essential support programme for athletes battling the high costs of training, travel and equipment needed for their sporting journey.

 All successful applicants will be given access to the 250 sport and leisure facilities across the UK operated by GLL under its “Better” trading brand.

 It has always been a core mission of the GSF programme to support young emerging talent on their sporting journey, with the majority of athletes aged under the age of 21 and the largest cohort under 18 years old. Across the programme, 88% of athletes who receive GSF Awards receive no other funding or athlete support, which underlines the importance of the scheme to its athletes - and to GLL’s social values.

 With the success of UK's athletes inspiring national pride as well as widening and deepening the positive impact of sport in local communities, the GSF makes a firm claim to be the most successful independent athlete support programme of its kind in the UK.

To find out more and to view the awards criteria, please visit *👉*[*https://www.gllsportfoundation.org/*](https://www.gllsportfoundation.org/)

*Please email* [*george.cookson@gll.org*](mailto:george.cookson@gll.org) *with any queries relating to the GSF.*

Applications open via the [website portal](https://www.gllsportfoundation.org/application-form)on**20 December 2025** and run until**20th February 2026** when the application window closes.

**Lancashire Changing Lives Fund – HCRG Care Group**

We’re pleased to let you know that the Lancashire Changing Lives Fund, delivered through the Lancashire Health Visiting and School Nursing Service, is now live on our website and it will be shared on our social media channels.

Charities and voluntary organisations can now access the Terms of Reference and application form and begin applying for grants of up to £3,000 to support projects that improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families across Lancashire.

You can find full details and apply via the link below:  
<https://lancschildandfamily.co.uk/lancashire-social-value-grants/>

As a reminder, applications are reviewed monthly, and applicants will receive a decision within one month of submission all application forms must be submitted to this email address for them to be triaged - [hcrg.019.engagementlead@nhs.net](mailto:hcrg.019.engagementlead@nhs.net)

If you would like to discuss a potential application or have any questions please contact the Community Engagement Lead for your locality:

* North Lancashire: Emily Burzacki
* Central Lancashire: David Evans
* East Lancashire: Claire Lord

We look forward to working with organisations across Lancashire to support local communities.

**Holme Slack Primary School – New Reception Places Available**

**Household Support Fund Preston City Council – Now Open Again**

Please note, that Round 7 of the Household Support Fund is now available, for a third time, until 31 March 2026, unless all funding has been exhausted**.**

Applicants must have a three-month gap between awards and customers who have had six or more applications will still be declined.  Further details are available, via the link below:

[Household Support Fund - Preston City Council](https://www.preston.gov.uk/householdsupportfund)

**TRAINING**

**Online Deaf Awareness Course**

Are you interested in learning more about deaf awareness and British Sign Language?

Lancashire Adult Learning are offering free online courses to learn more about BSL and effective communication with deaf people.

In this one-off session you will be introduced to deaf awareness and British Sign Language (BSL)

You can enrol via the link [here.](https://www.lal.ac.uk/course/online-introduction-to-deaf-awareness/BHSLZ012/)

**VACANCY**

**Sahara in Preston**

Applications are invited for two vacancies at Sahara in Preston

***Full Time Employment and Training Coordinator (37.5 hpw)***

***Part Time Health Improvement Coordinator (18.75 hpw)***

Rate of pay for both posts is £15 ph)

Application forms. job descriptions and employee specifications can be obtained from; Sahara in Preston, 48 Fishwick Parade, Preston, PR1 4XQ.

01772 702090

Email; [sahara.inpreston@btinternet.com](mailto:sahara.inpreston@btinternet.com)

Further information about both posts can be obtained from Centre Manager Zafar Coupland. Closing date for applications is February 9.

**FUNDING**

**Lancashire Changing Lives Fund**   
The Lancashire Changing Lives Fund is now live and inviting applications from charities and voluntary organisations to support projects that improve the health and wellbeing of children young people and families.

Delivered through the Lancashire Health Visiting and School Nursing Service the fund offers grants of up to £3,000 with decisions made within one month.

This is a rolling fund so no closing date and for more details, click [here.](https://lancschildandfamily.co.uk/lancashire-social-value-grants/)

**ACE-Focused Mental Health Support**   
A new funding programme offers grants up to £25,000 for charities supporting children, young people and parents affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences. Funding can support core delivery or specific evidence-based interventions that help families recover from trauma and break cycles of harm.

Closing date is February 6 and there are more details [here.](https://www.jamestudor.org.uk/mental-health)

**Another Way Women's Foundation**

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to support any type of project/initiative/service aimed at advancing and empowering women, sustainably impacting communities or indeed anything that makes the world a brighter and better place for women and girls.

Closing date is January 31 and there are more details [here.](https://click.mlsend.com/link/c/YT0yOTE4NDI2NDQ4MTY1MzQ1NzY4JmM9cDVnNSZlPTAmYj0xNTA5NDc3NzI4JmQ9dDJ5OHM2cQ==.4VDixvPSCvM3VYLTvPbVgkUNoxjUYm566G-TlAokb7Q)

**Wise Music Foundation**

Grants to groups for support of vulnerable people are available from the Wise Music Foundation.

Closing date is February 28 and you can find more details by clicking [**here.**](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=72bf019441&e=f105be099a)

**EVENTS**

**Preston Volunteer Forum**

Preston Town Hall is again the venue for the next Preston Volunteer Forum which will take on Thursday, January 22 from 10am.

The theme is ‘Inclusion  and Participation’ and how to make volunteering accessible for all.

If you are wanting to attend, please email [callum.henry@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:callum.henry@communitycvs.org.uk)

**Cups of Comfort**

Our member group B.L.O.O.M by SMA, which supports women dealing with bereavement are holding one of their ‘Cups of Comfort’ events next week.

Details on [attached flyer](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/b8e667b4-2b77-0cfe-a2f0-e586dabd1012.jpg) and to book, click [here.](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1980028751296?aff=oddtdtcreator)

**New Art Group at DENW**

Our friends at Disability Equality NW are trialling a new weekly Art Group which now meets at the group’s Community Hub at 23 Sedgwick Street, Preston, PR1 1TP.

each Monday from 11am-1pm.

Please feel free to join the sessions which are open to all of any ability.

A variety of art supplies will be available and there’s no need to book in advance.

If you have any queries or requests regarding access, please email [matthew@disability-equality.org.uk](mailto:matthew@disability-equality.org.uk).

**Join Caritas Care for Big Adoption Day 2026!**

Caritas Care is excited to take part in **Big Adoption Day 2026**, joining Voluntary Adoption Agencies (VAA’s) across the North West and the UK. This national event celebrates adoption, shares real-life stories, and gives you the chance to learn more about adopting a child and the support available.

What is Big Adoption Day?

A national event led by the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (CVAA) and Coram.  
Offers face-to-face and online events across the country.  
Provides honest conversations about adoption for anyone thinking about becoming an adoptive parent.

Join Our Free Adoption Information Events

Caritas Care are hosting two events for people in Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria, and Merseyside:

1. Drop-in Adoption Event (Preston)  
Caritas Care Head Office, 218 Tulketh Road, Preston at 12:00pm – 2:00pm

2. Online Adoption Information Event at 6:30pm

Both events are free and open to anyone interested in adoption. <https://www.caritascare.org.uk/events/>

**Employment Advice Sessions**

The Intact Centre are hosting employment support and advice and guidance sessions each Wednesday. [More details on attached flyer.](https://mcusercontent.com/ba0ae121ad89db52c97b1a711/images/93f282e7-c4b4-8e50-555f-77443bc8462d.png)

**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.