**NEWS**

**PCN Networking Event**

We’ve now finalised details of our forthcoming networking event and it would be great to see as many of you as possible on the day.

The event will take place on Thursday, January 29 at Preston Masonic Hall, Saul Street PR1 2QU with the usual running time of 10am-12.30pm. The venue is by the Law Courts next to the ring road and all city centre car parks are close by as is the bus station.

The theme for this event is **training** as we know from feedback our members welcome any chance to upskill and increase the knowledge of staff and volunteers.

We have speakers form the following organisations:

* *Lancashire Adult Learning:* LAL have a fantastic range of training resources and have already staged courses for us based on the requests of PCN members.
* *Beanstalk CIC:* Beanstalk are already working with many groups across the sector and have some excellent courses available.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 29th and to confirm attendance, please click this link: [PCN Networking Event - January 29th – Fill in form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=j4zU2SvpykSbbNbeaBOFLhMaEwpg-ddEr_sfC04eOutUQ0UxVlE2VEU3Q1pGVUFTM082S1pIVUpGOS4u)

**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)

**Preston Domestic Violence Services Have a New Name**

Our longstanding members Preston Domestic Violence Services have advised that they are now known as Hope Prevails Preston.

The new name was created in collaboration with the group’s Survivor Forum and reflects a commitment to being more inclusive of the diverse experiences of people affected by domestic abuse.

Alongside the name change, the group have refreshed their values and mission to mark a new era while building on more than 30 years of experience as PDVS.

The helpline number remains the same - 01772 201601 – but email is now [enquiries@hopeprevails.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hopeprevails.org.uk) .

**Cervical Cancer Prevention Week**

The annual and very important initiative Cervical Cancer Prevention Week is currently running and ends this Sunday.

It’s aimed at raising awareness about cervical cancer and its prevention and encouraging women and people with a cervix aged 25–64 to book their cervical screening.

The week also emphasises the importance of the HPV vaccination programme and the role of cervical screening in preventing cervical cancer.

[Flyer attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/1fecacd0-74c9-44e8-639c-6b301d6ee265.png)

**Third Sector Trends Report**

The third set of results from Third Sector Trends has been released this week and you can read it by clicking [here.](https://www.stchads.ac.uk/research/third-sector-trends-in-england-and-wales/)

The report looks at the funding mix to analyse which types of income are currently perceived to be of the greatest importance to voluntary organisations.

There's also quite a lot of detail on grant funding and financial wellbeing so it’s well worth a read.

**Disability Equality NW**

For the latest monthly bulletin on news and events from the team at DENW, click the link [here.](https://disability-equality.org.uk/bulletin-43-january-2026/)

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Kings Trust – Get Into Engineering at BAE**

Kings Trust and BAE are linking up to offer a get into engineering course, the taster day is on the 22nd January 2026 with the course starting on the 9th Feb 2026. More details on how to apply are on the [poster attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/8ed497bb-4794-5215-f5c6-17812aab192a.png)

**Free Drug Awareness Training – Lancashire County Council**

Please see below some **free** Lancashire County Council funded training for partners to get involved in.

* Let's Talk Ketamine - 22nd January 2026 - 1pm-2pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-ketamine-tickets-999161698537?aff=oddtdtcreator>

* Let's Talk THC and Cannabis - 27th January 2026 - 2pm-3pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-cannabis-and-thc-vapes-tickets-1145661407109?aff=oddtdtcreator>

* 2 Hour Drug and Alcohol Awareness session - 29th January 2026 9:30am-11:30am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-cannabis-and-thc-vapes-tickets-1145661407109?aff=oddtdtcreator>

* Service Awareness Talk - 28th January 2026 - 3pm-4pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/service-awareness-talk-tickets-1980547659364?aff=oddtdtcreator>

**Intact Centre – New Employability & CV Clinic**

The Intact Centre has an employability & CV clinic every Wednesday from 10am-2pm. The service is by appointment only, call 01772 760760 to make an appointment. More information is on the [flyer attached](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/6138f93d-ab06-185d-f4ce-9d35cd6ec129.png).

**Safeguarding in a Digital Age – Conference – 13th February**

Safeguarding in a Digital Age – Tackling COM Groups and Emerging Online Threats Together

This event, funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Lancashire, will bring together partners from across agencies to strengthen collaboration and share best practice in safeguarding and education. We will explore emerging threats such as harmful online networks known as COM groups, which are linked to serious offences including child sexual abuse, cybercrime, and extremism.

The session will provide:

* Awareness of current risks and early identification indicators.
* Guidance on multi-agency responses to complex online threats.
* Opportunities to share strategies and strengthen partnership working.

There are still some places available on this conference around online safety and COM networks. Click below to register

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/safeguarding-in-a-digital-age-tickets-1980073027728?aff=oddtdtcreator>

**TRAINING**

**Charity Excellence Framework AI Training**

The above group have a great online training section of their website focussing on AI and the use of AI in funding bids, AI safety and understanding risks. All this is totally free and is a brilliant resource for charities looking to get into using AI.

<https://learning.charityexcellence.co.uk/>

**C.A.R.E Training**

Due to high demand for the Communities Against Racism & Extremism  (C.A.R.E) training we recently flagged up, 10 more places have been made available on a first come first serve basis.

The CARE programme upskills people to have a deep understanding of the Extreme Right-Wing and ways to challenge it.

It seeks to show how to challenge extremism and where to sign post people to for specialist support.

The free two session training will be held at Preston Town Hall on February 4th & March 17th  from 10am-12pm.

This training is aimed at professionals not young people.

To register, click [here.](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/communities-against-racism-extremism-care-preston-in-person-sessions-tickets-1977915433305)

**VACANCY/SURVEY**

**Let’s Grow Preston**

Our good friends at Let’s Grow Preston are recruiting a communications and marketing officer ad are taking applications now.

For full details on the job description and how to apply, click [here.](https://www.letsgrowpreston.org/contact-us)

**The Impact of Social Media on Young People**

Healthwatch UK have launched a new project aiming to identify how social media has affected people’s health choices, decision making processes and outcomes.

They also hope to identify people’s behaviour when using social media to inform their health choices and explore whether young people have encountered any positive or negative issues as a result of what they’ve found on social media.

The project will involve a series of meetings and focus groups and will initially feature a survey which Healthwatch would be grateful if as many people as possible could complete.

You can access the survey by clicking [here](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/0AY3VV/) and the survey is open until the end of March.

**FUNDING**

**Young People’s Support Fund**

Preston City Council has launched the Young People’s Support Fund to help groups in our sector to provide financial support to young people affected by the cost of living.  
This fund aims to remove financial barriers that prevent young people from accessing essential items, activities, and opportunities that support their wellbeing.  
Applications are now open and will close at midnight on Sunday, February 8, with awards of up to £5,000 available and one application permitted per organisation.

For full details and application instructions, click [here.](https://www.preston.gov.uk/youngpeoplecol)

**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 applications reviewed on a rolling monthly basis and decisions made within one month.

For more details, click [here.](https://lancschildandfamily.co.uk/lancashire-social-value-grants/)

**Blue Spark Foundation**

Applications are now open for grants of up to £5,000 to help deliver projects that strengthen the education and development of children and young people aged 6 to 22.

This is a rolling programme and there are more details [here.](https://www.bluesparkfoundation.org.uk/)

**Money Saving Expert Charity**

A limited number of grants are available to small to medium-sized UK not-for-profit organisations for projects which are focused on delivering activities which make a lasting impact on how people think, behave and manage their money.

For details, click [here.](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/site/mse-charity-fund/)

**Screwfix Foundation**

Grants to groups for projects improving facilities for vulnerable people are now available from the Screwfix Foundation.

Deadline is Tuesday, February 10 and there are more details [here.](https://communitycvs.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3754f6a136f6d39f017b95235&id=ab19ca352a&e=f105be099a)

**Affordable Warmth Lancashire fund**

Lancashire County Council's Affordable Warmth Lancashire Fund, which offers funding and interventionsfor people vulnerable to ill health as a result of not being able to keep their home warm, is now live.

People with long term health conditions are particularly vulnerable, although young and older people also experience ill health effects of cold homes.

Interventions include a wide range of measures for example: draught proofing, insulation, repairs to heating systems and boilers, energy and debt advice.

Social prescribers in particular are encouraged to make referrals and can email [enquiries@rheaprojects.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rheaprojects.co.uk) and sing ups can be applied for [here.](https://www.chil.uk.com/apply)

**EVENTS**

**One Billion Rising**

Preston’s annual [One Billion Rising](https://www.onebillionrising.org/) dance event to raise awareness of violence against women and girls will return on Saturday 7 February at the University of Lancashire. The One Billion Rising for Justice (VDay) campaign is a global event that brings people together to stand, sing and dance to demand an end to violence against women and girls. [More information here.](https://www.lancashire.ac.uk/news/one-billion-rising-2026)

**Crisis and Resilience Fund** **Seminar**

Resolve Poverty are hosting an online webinar looking at how to maximise the new Crisis and Resilience Fund.

The event will explore how the Fund can support a more strategic, preventative approach to crisis support, strengthen local resilience and align with wider anti-poverty priorities, including the national Child Poverty Strategy.

Click [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.tickettailor.com%2fevents%2fresolvepoverty%2f1981128&c=E,1,ec03Ib4BFei6rDj_pi7H9e8aXwgmESxvKm96_myJ5ZyVERImzY8qiLNDNgrNVt8WdnXLtl3ZG9OKq5Zi_sRMsllSO0cW3WBPcF1Ds4BNNr9RP8IoDeomZHyYKbBD&typo=1) to register attendance.

**Table Top Sale**

If you’re after a New Year bargain, there’s a table top sale at St Bernard’s Hub on Sunday, February 8. [Flyer attached.](https://mcusercontent.com/8f80d5c0d69f3e179cf8a467a/images/3a88b06a-87f1-fa70-dbac-548dd88f5453.jpg)

**Hope Blossoms: Navigating Feelings of Overwhelm Through an Islamic Lens**

Our friends at Preston Muslim Forum invites you to a reflective and supportive wellbeing session exploring emotional overwhelm through an Islamic perspective. Delivered by qualified professionals, the session includes interactive workshops, lived experiences, and practical guidance on supporting yourself and others.

It takes place on Saturday, February 7 at Preston Muslim Girls High School and is open to women aged 18+ only.

Full details on attached flyer and click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hope-blossoms-navigating-feelings-of-overwhelm-through-an-islamic-lens-tickets-1980550058540) to register.

**University of Lancashire Panel Discussions**

There’s still time to book for next week’s exciting panel discussions at the University of Lancashire at which all are welcome.

Next Tuesday, January 27, the discussion will feature the hot topic of weight loss jabs when a panel of experts will explore the science behind the stories and how weight loss injections are transforming the way we treat diabetes and obesity.

The event runs from 5.40pm – 8pm at the Darwin Lecture Theatre and you can book for free [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/weight-loss-jabs-what-do-you-need-to-know-tickets-1974667039271?aff=oddtdtcreator).

Then in Thursday, January 29 from 6pm-8pm at the same venue and following publication of his book ‘Galaxies in 3D’ with Brian May, Prof. Derek Ward-Thompson will deliver a lecture entitled ‘Islands in Infinity’ and will be describing and discussing galaxies across our Universe.

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.

**Wednesday, January 21**

**6.30 pm – Big Adoption Day Online Information Event**

Join voluntary adoption agencies (VAAs) across the UK for Big Adoption Day.

Everyone interested in adoption – now or in the future – is welcome to join us. We’re especially proud to work with families from diverse backgrounds, including [*LGBTQ+*](https://www.caritascare.org.uk/adoption/why-choose-us/) and global majority communities.

To book online click [here](https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/72344?) or ring 01772 732313 or email [recruitment@caritascare.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@caritascare.org.uk)