**Minutes of the CVS Peer Network Meeting**

**Thursday 22nd May 2025**

Donna Talbot – CVS [donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk)

Paul Walker – BwD Diabetes Peer Support Group – [BwDdiabetesgroup@outlook.com](mailto:BwDdiabetesgroup@outlook.com)

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Mubashar Khaliq – NSPCC - [Mubashar.Khaliq@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:Mubashar.Khaliq@NSPCC.org.uk)

Jack Riggs – Spectrum Inclusion - [info@spectruminclusion.co.uk](mailto:info@spectruminclusion.co.uk)

Jennifer Simpson-Hoyle – Leeds GIS (NHS) - [jennifer.simpson-hoyle@nhs.net](mailto:jennifer.simpson-hoyle@nhs.net)

Tony Dawber – Preston Community Network - [tonyd@prestoncn.org](mailto:tonyd@prestoncn.org)

Hafiza Patel – Lancashire Council of Mosques- [admin@lancashiremosques.com](mailto:admin@lancashiremosques.com)

**Apologies:**

Faxi Assi (Lancashire Fire & Rescue) Didier Muller (Lancs LGBT) Gill Moloney (DWP)

Nancy Kinyanjui (Kairos Housing) Nina McCallion (Renaissance)

**Jack from Spectrum Inclusion**

* Spectrum inclusion was set up as a constituted group in Rossendale in February 2023 to provide support and a social group for the LGBTqia+ community in the area.
* Spectrum inclusion is an LGBTQIA+ organisation dedicated to connecting communities and creating safe spaces for all to find acceptance for who they are
* WE have a number of social groups – offering craft etc in: -
  + - * + Burnley
        + Darwen
        + Hyndburn
        + Accrington
        + Ribble Valley
* These groups are more important than ever in the current climate
* We also have an East Lancs LGBT network meeting – once a quarter, usually on the last Monday and its on teams
* We also have a newsletter that you can sign up to

[Home](https://www.spectruminclusion.co.uk/)

**Olu from BwD Climate Change Team**

* We want to raise the profile of Community Energy Groups
* Resident/community owned energy networks and projects
* Social enterprise in nature, all profits is used to develop the community, and tariffs are usually cheaper if applicable
* Usually aimed at delivering green energy at affordable cost to the community and clinics for household energy related issues
* What community energy groups do?
  + - Renewable energy generation
    - Energy advice services
    - Community heat generation
    - Community energy efficiency & retrofit services
    - Retaining profits for community development in response to needs
* Impacts: -
  + - Cheaper and greener energy for the community
    - Boosts local economy, creating jobs and improved livelihoods
    - Warmers homes at affordable rates reducing fuel poverty
    - Building community trust, corporation and cohesiveness
    - Smart and ethical investment
    - Energy related advice and support
* How to start a community energy group: -
  + - Get inspired! See what is happening around you
    - Know your project options
    - Find and get all the support you need
    - Connect with other community energy groups and national bodies
* Funding & advice: -
  + - Northwest Net Zero Hub
    - Ashden
    - Centre for Sustainable Energy
    - Community Energy England
    - BwD BC Climate Team

[**climatechange@blackburn.gov.uk**](mailto:climatechange@blackburn.gov.uk)

**Mubashar from NSPCC**

* New Campaign – Listen up Speak up community sessions launched last February
* Safeguarding Children – child protection – training, awareness etc is available to those who work directly with children.
* What about those who do not work in a sector that isn’t directly working with children, but they come into contact them on a daily basis – it could be in the supermarket, football match – what do you do if you see something?
* We now have a new campaign to ensure that all adults are aware of safeguarding and what to do where to go if they witness something
* There is a 10 min online training then you will be sent 10 emails bitesize info to consolidate the initial training
* We have a second offer of community sessions – 1 hour long for any community groups
* Looks at how to judge situations and what to do about them – it could be a parent and child or peer on peer situation that you are faced with – the training helps you to assess what you are seeing and who to report it to
* We recently did the training with United Utilities engineers – they aren’t the usual suspects for this training, but they do go into domestic situations on a daily basis
* Stats 1 in 5 children suffer Abuse, 1 in 5 children are subject to Domestic Abuse and 1 in 10 children are neglected
* The training offers 12 different scenarios and talks you through them – what to do help you risk assess the situation.
* At the end of the training, you will have an idea of what to do, where to go, and who to speak to

Q: Is it Free?

A: Yes

[Listen up, Speak up | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/listen-up-speak-up/)

**Jenny from Leeds Gender Identity Service**

* I’m a Gender Outreach Worker for Leeds Gender Identity Service; we offer advice and support to those waiting to access our service
* Most individuals are on the waiting list for 6 years during that time they struggle with mental health, isolation etc
* All the staff who work on the project have lived experience – some established some just at the beginning, we are not medical staff, but we do know what we are talking about and can offer support and advice
* We have partnered with Lancs LGBT and that’s we are based – there are usually 2 of us but we are waiting to employ a new member of the team
* Gender Outreach Worker Information & Advice Line - The phone line is open to anyone under the care of the gender identity service (or on the waiting list). It is also open to family members, friends and professionals for information and signposting.
* 1-2-1 support with a gender outreach worker - we run one to one support sessions by online video, by telephone or in person for those living in Lancashire. They can provide practical advice and discuss your individual needs and support available.
* Gender outreach drop ins - we run monthly drop-in services across Lancashire on behalf of the GOW service, including at Uclan and in Blackpool at the Central Library. This is an opportunity for people in the local area to receive advice on gender care from people with lived experience, and accessing support from the gender outreach service
* Groups for Trans and Non-Binary people we also run several support groups for trans and non-binary people, including a monthly in-person trans and non-binary support group which meets in Preston at Uclan.

[Gender Outreach - Lancashire LGBT - Happier, healthier and better connected](https://lancslgbt.org.uk/gender-outreach-service/)

**Nazia – Macmillan /Spring North**

* We are the Blackburn with Darwen Cancer Champions a new project with Spring North, IMO and One Voice working together
* The Blackburn with Darwen Cancer Champions project is a three-year initiative designed to transform how South Asian communities in the borough engage with cancer awareness, diagnosis, and care.
* This project draws on local insight, lived experience, and cultural understanding to address some of the most deeply rooted barriers to cancer awareness and early diagnosis.
* Together, we are working at the heart of communities to grow a network of trained volunteer Cancer Champions who reflect the diversity, languages, and cultural values of the people they support.
* Nationally cancer screening uptake and early diagnosis rates remain lower in minority ethnic communities. Locally, data indicates that South Asian communities in Blackburn with Darwen are more likely to experience delays in diagnosis and face higher mortality rates
* With guidance from our Volunteer and Community Engagement Coordinators, Champions are helping to:
  + - * Raise awareness about cancer risks, screening, and early signs
      * Break down stigma and challenge myths through open, culturally sensitive conversations
      * Signpost individuals to local healthcare services
      * Offer emotional and practical support to people affected by cancer
      * Co-deliver awareness events, drop-ins, and outreach sessions tailored to community needs
      * Translate key information into community languages and deliver it in accessible, respectful ways

[Blackburn with Darwen Cancer Champions - Spring North - Funding & Support for Charities in the North West](https://springnorth.org.uk/projects/blackburn-with-darwen-cancer-champions/)

**Tony from Preston Community Network**

* Preston Community Network is an umbrella organisation which represents and assists a wide range of voluntary, community and faith groups which operate within the city of Preston.
* PCN is a registered charity and after being formed back in 2002, proved successful in uniting voluntary groups, playing vital part in setting up a range of bodies such as the Health and Wellbeing Forum and the Children’s Trust Forum
* New Lottery funding was secured early in 2021 and after a period when for various reasons, many of which were pandemic related, the organisation was largely dormant, PCN came back into action in September 2021.
* A host of new members have since been recruited, and a very successful relaunch event took place in November 2021 in the lovely setting of St Cuthbert’s Church Hall on Lytham Road, Fulwood.
* Through our website, and our hugely successful weekly newsletter, we share information on news, events, training courses, funding opportunities and vacancies for the sector.
* Email list includes UCLAN, Lancashire Pollice, Lancashire Fire & Rescue and Lancashire County Council
* We have a small community newspaper
* We hold a network meeting every 2 months we hold the event in a different venue, and it starts @ 10am we have guest speakers and networking – it works well for the small group members
* We offer training for our members around Media – I’m from a media background
  + - Press Release
    - Photos
    - When to send
    - Who to send it to
    - Develop your social media
    - Technical
* We are developing a new AI course – AI is moving at a fast pace, and people are not familiar with it – the basic training will be on line
* We exchange course across LACVS
* We off one to one support for small groups – how to set up, open bank accounts etc
* We are open Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

[About – Preston Community Network](https://prestoncn.org/about/)

**Becca from Chip in**

* We offer volunteering placements for 16- to 30-year-olds in Blackburn with Darwen
* National Festival of Making is now partnering with Chip In and we are working closely with the festival team to develop the volunteering programme.
* There are a number of different opportunities
* The National Festival of Making will return to Blackburn town centre, Lancashire on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th of July 2025
* Lots of things to do for all ages, including both bookable and drop-in making workshops, art and industry commissions, artisan craft and local food producers’ marketplaces, community embedded projects, curated maker’s markets, celebratory music and performances plus much more – it’s a great event
* So, anyone looking for something to do that weekend – please contact me

[Volunteer | Festival of Making](https://festivalofmaking.co.uk/about/volunteer/)

[Chip In](https://chipinbwd.co.uk/)

**Tim from BwD BC Prevent team**

* Since Southport riots last year, it’s vital that all staff and volunteers complete the prevent training
* People are being radicalised through religion, Christianity – White Supremacy, Islam
* Freedom of Speech has gone way over the line with certain groups taking pride in being as racist as possible
* Our training is free and last 1 hour to 90 minutes – very interactive
* The topics and issues we cover include radicalisation, extremism and terrorism. It is extremely important that those who work with the most susceptible and vulnerable in our communities are aware of these issues and have the tools to recognise the signs,
* When a person recognises that someone is being radicalised it’s important that they are aware how to refer someone into prevent, or to get advice and help. We are more than happy to come along and do training for staff and volunteers.

[Lancashire Prevent Partnership – Working together for safer communities](https://www.lancashirepreventpartnership.org.uk/)

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday 26th June 2025**

**9:30am – 11:30am**

**The Boulevard Centre**

**45 Railway Road, Blackburn BB1 1EZ**

**For more info, please contact Donna Talbot 01254 583957**

[**Donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk**](mailto:Donna.talbot@communitycvs.org.uk)

**Parking is now free for 2 1/2 hours on Morrisons Carpark**