



## ***Welcome to our latest Community CVS update***

***We are a membership based organisation which exists to promote, develop and support voluntary and community action in the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen and across Lancashire.***

### **Our mission**

*To support individuals, organisations and communities to achieve their full potential*

### **Our vision**

*For CVS to lead positive social, economic and environmental change transforming how the VCFSE Sector works collaboratively with the public and private sectors.*

### **Our vision**

*For CVS to be a valued community partner, recognized as the lead local infrastructure support organisation for communities within Blackburn with Darwen and elsewhere.*



## Coming up at Community CVS



The next meeting of the **CVS Peer Network** will be held on **Thursday 27th February** from **9.30am** in the **Conference Room** at our **Boulevard Centre**, 45 Railway Road, Blackburn BB1 1EZ. We'd love to see you there!

[Find out more.](#)

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Do you have a good idea for a project to support the recovery community in BwD? Do you run or are you looking to start a community group to benefit people in recovery?



Our **Community Asset Fund Open House** is the place to come to learn about the grant fund we operate as part of Spark, which offers £500 to £2,000.

It's taking place at our **Boulevard Centre** on **Friday 28th February** between **11am** and **2pm**. Come along and find out more about how we can help you help others.

[You can learn more about the Community Asset Fund on our website.](#)

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Any volunteer-involving groups and organisations can get **FREE** training for their volunteers through our friendly, informal, face-to-face workshops.

The **Community Volunteer Training** consists of four sessions delivered at our **Boulevard Centre**, with the next tranche coming up in **March**: -

***Introduction to Volunteering***  
***Monday 3rd March***

***Volunteering in Practice***  
***Tuesday 4th March***

***Professional Practice in***  
***Volunteering***  
***Monday 10th March***

***Volunteering in Recovery***  
***Services***  
***Tuesday 11th March***

For bookings or any questions or queries please contact **Denise**: -

denise.hayhurst@commu  
nitycvs.org.uk

**07484 624659**

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The next **Boost Flying Start Business Advice Surgery** will take place between **9.45** and **11.45am** on **Thursday 6th March** at our **Boulevard Centre**.

This drop-in session is held every two weeks on a Thursday. It is for budding entrepreneurs interested in speaking to a business adviser to explore their ideas, seek guidance, or learn more about the Boost's offer.

Individuals will be able to have a one-to-one 30 min conversation with the business adviser on a first come, first served basis.

**Click here to book your place.**

We're also helping new start-ups in **Pendle** through our **Boost Flying Start: Help for New Businesses Drop-In** in the **Yates Room** at **Nelson Town Hall**. This session is for budding entrepreneurs or new businesses interested in speaking to a business adviser to explore their ideas, seek guidance, or learn more about Boost's offerings.

The next session will take place on **Thursday 13th March** between **1** and **3pm**.

**If you'd like to attend, please click here to book.**

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Do you manage volunteers on behalf of a group or organisation operating in the city of Preston? Would you like to come together with like-minded peers to discuss all aspects of volunteer managing?

Our **Preston Volunteers Volunteer Managers Forum** takes place on a quarterly basis and is tailored to your needs and aspirations.

The next Forum will take place on **Thursday 6th March** between **10am** and **12 noon** in **Room A** at **Preston Town Hall**.

**Click here to book your place.**

Volunteer managers in Preston can also join us for the next group of **Quality Mark workshops**, coming up in March and April: -

***Tuesday 18th  
March***

***Tuesday 8th April***

***Tuesday 29th  
April***

You can book your place here.

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"Being a part of these projects has put us in touch with a network of incredible local volunteers who work tirelessly to make our community as vibrant and successful as it can possibly be – they really are the backbone of our community."

"This is our second year supporting the awards, we do this to ensure a platform is there for all services to nominate their amazing volunteers. To celebrate the wonderful work, they all do. All winners in our eyes"

"Every individual who volunteers helps to improve the services that are available to our communities and in a time of austerity and increasing cuts it is so important to recognise and appreciate the difference our volunteers are making"

"The Community Volunteer Awards to reward and recognise the huge impact that volunteers in our borough have on their community. The Awards also serve as a great opportunity to showcase the fantastic work of our local voluntary Sector"

"The Community Volunteer Awards are a great way to support the community, thank our volunteers and all the other wonderful volunteers in Blackburn with Darwen for the amazing "work they do."

"We were thrilled to have the opportunity to support the awards. As a local, Blackburn based business, it's great for us to hear about the excellent work going on locally, and we felt this year of all years we knew it was so important to celebrate volunteers "

"We support these awards as we have seen first-hand the commendable work carried out across the Community and these groups/individuals deserve to be recognised. We will look to support them in any way we can."

"We are pleased to support the Community Volunteer Awards as they are one, very visible, way to say thank you to everyone who gives up their time to volunteer in Blackburn with Darwen."

"I believe it's important to support any initiatives that both recognise the exceptional contribution volunteers make, and to inspire others to take up volunteering themselves"

"The borough is fortunate to have so many wonderful people who contribute in so many different ways and it is right that this is celebrated".

**Community CVS and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council** are once again working together to celebrate and recognise the hard work, passion and dedication of our borough's volunteers through our **Community Volunteer Awards**.

To make the awards as successful as possible we are searching for sponsors to share the love and support their community and invest in the event.

[Get the full story here.](#)



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The **Boost Flying Start Business Network** is a fantastic monthly in-person peer network for Boost Flying Start business support clients. Whether you're a pre-start business entrepreneur or a new business under three years, this provision gives you an opportunity to network.

If you are eager to share industry insights or keen to develop your business idea, these sessions are a fantastic opportunity to forge new connections in business.

The event is also open to businesses that have not yet engaged with Boost to allow them to network with Flying Start businesses and learn about the Boost offer.

Each meeting will include an introduction from a Boost business adviser and guest speakers who will keep you up-to-date on the latest developments, both locally and beyond.

The next Network will take place between **9.30am** and **12 noon** on **Tuesday 18th March** at our **Boulevard Centre**.

**[Click here to book.](#)**

If you'd like to learn more, please get in touch with **Leah**: -

**[leah.harrison@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:leah.harrison@communitycvs.org.uk)**

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**Need a meeting room in Blackburn? Give us a call!**

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Our **Preston Volunteers** project also runs three-day **Volunteering Essentials Training**. The next intake is coming up in March and April: -

***Introduction to  
Volunteering  
Monday 24th  
March***

***Volunteering  
Safely  
Tuesday 25th  
March***

***Communication  
& Interpersonal  
Skills  
Monday 7th April***

**[Click here to access the booking form.](#)**

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Are you a trustee or member of a committee with oversight of a community organisation? Are there times when you would like more understanding of the roles and responsibilities of being a trustee?

Then our **Trustee Training**, delivered through our **Preston Volunteers** project, is the perfect space to develop your confidence and understanding of the role.

The next session is taking place on **Tuesday 25th March** from **6.30** to **8.30pm** at our Preston Volunteers offices at **The Vault, 46 Glovers Court, Preston PR1 3LS**.

The training will look at: -

*What is a Trustee  
& what do they  
do?*

*What are the  
responsibilities  
of Trustees?*

*What skills are  
helpful & what  
time commitment  
is expected?*

Please fill out this form if you'd like to book a place.

If you would like any further information about this session please call **Denise** or drop us an e-mail: -

07939 300652

prestonvolunteers@com  
munitycvs.org.uk

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We're delighted to announce that we're currently recruiting for the next cohort of our popular **Aspiring Leaders in Health & Social Care Skills for Life Bootcamp**.

The next cohort will start on **Wednesday 23rd April**.

To book, or to find out more, please get in touch with **Leah**: -

01254 503043

leah.harrison@communit  
ycvs.org.uk



# Volunteer with us

**Preston Volunteers** are working on a new project this year to **support sanctuary seekers into volunteering** in the Preston area.

We are specifically trying to find people to volunteer with the following bilingual language skills: **Arabic, Kurdish, Pashto, Persian** and **Tigrinya**.

Applicants will need to be able to commit a few hours during the week to the role as we are limited to 9am – 5pm working hours and can register their interest to apply via the link below: -

**Want to get involved?  
Sign up here.**

## Support into Volunteering Buddy

Can you give a few hours a week to support people from Asylum Seeking backgrounds to access volunteer roles?

*Full training & support provided.*

**Apply here:**

📍 Preston based

🕒 One morning or afternoon a week

Preston  
Volunteers

Preston  
City Council

Community



For more information, please contact  
**Joseph: -**

[joseph.cooper@communitycvs.org.uk](mailto:joseph.cooper@communitycvs.org.uk)

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We are also seeking volunteers to fill a number of exciting new opportunities here with our wonderful Community CVS team in **Blackburn**. You can learn more about these via the links below: -

Receptionist

Volunteer Admin

**BCSP Volunteer  
Champion**

Creative Media Volunteer



Event Coordinator

Social Media Volunteer

VOICE Breakfast Club  
Volunteer

VOICE Front of House  
Volunteer



## Our funding streams

We run the **BwD Community Fund** on behalf of the **Borough Council**, the **Brian Mercer Trust** and the **Eric Wright Charitable Trust**, offering **up to £1,000 per year** to groups. The next round - Round 15 - closes on **Friday 2nd May**.

**Find out more.**

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The **Community Asset Fund** offers grants of **between £500 and £2,000** to volunteer-led community groups for projects supporting **recovery in the community**. Applications can be made at any time, with applicants invited to present their project at the monthly **Roots Community Forum**.

**Find out more.**

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The **Infant Feeding Community Grants** offers **between £250 and £2,000** to groups for projects **supporting and promoting breastfeeding** among families within Blackburn with Darwen.

**Find out more.**



***Submissions? Feedback? Suggestions?***

***Please feel free to pass it along to me via  
[graham.aspin@communitycvvs.org.uk](mailto:graham.aspin@communitycvvs.org.uk).***

**- Graham**



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United Kingdom

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