



Our Lancashire Newsletter 26th June 2020

Welcome to another edition of my newsletter. As my inbox seems to be calming down, I will be looking to send these fortnightly from now on, however if there is any urgent information, I will send this out as and when it arrives.

I hope until now people have been finding the newsletter helpful. If there is any other information/content you would like to see included, please let me know!

Project Updates

The [Bureau Centre for the Arts](#) in Blackburn has been awarded £30,000 by the National Foundation for Youth Music to develop Shared Sounds, a new programme of musical activity for young children from birth to the ages of 5 with their parents and carers.

The funding was to enable us to run weekly music sessions at the Bureau on Penny Street for twelve months from April 2020, led by our partners, Note Weavers CIC. The current socially-distanced world means that we are having to re-structure the project and develop new ways of supporting young families to take part in music activities.

We will be starting with weekly Facebook live sessions at 10am on Tuesday mornings from June 23rd with songs, rhymes and musical games for young children with their parents/carers. Families can take part live or check out our Facebook events page and the Bureau's YouTube channel after the event.

The funding will also enable The Bureau to

- offer music sessions to different community groups who are working with under 5s and their families
- to support music leaders and early years practitioners to develop their knowledge and experience to lead music activities with young children.
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For more information contact: sue@bureaublackburn.co.uk www.bureaublackburn.co.uk

[Accrington Stanley Community Trust](#) have been creating resources for children that can be downloaded at home and have also been sending these out in the post to children who have attended their projects so far this year. Later this week a new resource pack will be available and we are going to put a form online that can be filled in to have one sent in the post. I hope this way we will reach lots of new families who are struggling to keep their children entertained.

The Trust have also been keeping touch with the older people who they have engaged with through their walking football project, for many of these the weekly session was an opportunity to have a

natter and to socialize. The project lead has been phoning/texting to check everyone is OK and just having a friendly chat.

As things start to return to a new normal the trust intend to bring back sessions safely as well as add new provision to get people engaged again. They plan to use their new facility's cafe as a hub for such events.

Next week they are going to open up our 4G pitch for social distancing football. They are going to start with young people that they know to test how it works but are planning on have a maximum of 6 people on a pitch, non-contact etc..if successful they plan to use this as a diversionary activity to help with anti-social behavior over the 6 week holidays.

[YMCA Blackburn](#) celebrated Refugee Week from 15 to 21 June 2020, along with many other organisations in the UK. The nationwide lockdown, due to the COVID-19 outbreak meant that the Refugee Week events were celebrated using the online platforms.

Since people could not organise or attend events physically this year, we encouraged our community members to join the online meetings, workshops, and events, wherever it was possible. We kept in constant contact with our community members via email, WhatsApp, SMS, and Facebook pages.

We posted a message and promoted an activity regarding the Refugee Week celebration, on daily basis, so that people could take part in the RW festivities. Moreover, we encouraged the community members to share positive messages with each other during these testing times.

On Saturday, 20 June, we organised our Community Champions' meeting on Zoom.

The champions are from diverse backgrounds, belong to 18 different nationalities and four different religious faith groups: Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, and Sikh. Although, many people find it challenging to use the technology for online meetings, still, a good number of people attended the session, which was facilitated by one of our champion's, Anwar Ismael.

One of our guest speakers was Emily Churchill Zarea, the National Refugee Week UK Coordinator. Emily shared the importance of Refugee Week, and what was happening across the country as part of the celebration. During the meeting, she also shared a few interesting activities and videos created by various refugees and asylum seekers as part of the RW.

Another guest speaker was Derek Estill, the National Moderator of General Assembly of the United Reformed Church (URC), UK. He shared how the church is raising its voice on a national level to demand that refugees in the UK are given proper support, and how the church has become part of national campaigns and is working for the rights of the refugees in the UK.

YMCA has been working with the asylum and refugee community in Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council for many years through its NEW BEGINNINGS PROJECT. The aim of the project is to provide the refugee community with a sense of safety and belonging, support them to integrate into the local society, so they move forward independently with confidence. We greatly appreciated all our guests and participants who helped us celebrate Refugee Week.

Summer Holiday Provision Calendar

The Lancashire Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board and the Childrens Safeguarding Assurance Partnership are currently in the process of collating a list of activities which are being considered or already confirmed by partners to take place in Lancashire in the period

leading up to and to the end of the Summer holidays. The collated list will be available to Lancashire schools and partner organisations to signpost children, young people and families who are in need of support.

Could you please share widely with colleagues and partner organisations. Responses are to be sent to sarah.hargreaves@lancashire.gov.uk by Monday 29th June 2020 using the table attached.

There will be opportunity to update the information after this date.

Can you cope in a power cut?

Attached to the email is a useful poster from Electricity North West about what to do in the event of a power cut.

Home office funding – deadline 5pm today!

The Home Office has secured additional, emergency support funding from the Treasury for small/micro charities that are working with vulnerable young people at risk of being involved in serious violence.

Based on the existing 20/21 VRU funding formula, the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network has been allocated an additional £98,101 to provide to small/micro charities (defined as those having an income less than £100,000 per annum). Organisations eligible for funding must be registered charities, charitable incorporated organisations, or a social enterprise; this includes companies limited by guarantee and community interest companies.

The emergency funding can be used for charities who are experiencing:

- Immediate financial hardship as a result of Covid-19
- Significantly increased level of demand as a result of Covid-19
- Urgent need to adapt services to meet Covid-19 associated measures (e.g. social distancing)

The funding can be used for costs incurred or activity delivered between 1 April 2020 and 31 October 2020.

We are still awaiting a formal Grant Agreement from the Home Office which may result in a need to request further information.

The Home Office have set a deadline of **Tuesday 30th June** for the Violence Reduction Network to return applications to them so we would ask partners to complete and return the attached Information Template by **5pm on Friday 26th June**. This will enable the VRN to review these over the weekend and provide Monday to raise any queries that may occur.

Completed Information Templates should be returned to robert.ruston@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk

Please note that you do not have to be an organisation that has previously engaged with either the Violence Reduction Network or the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to apply as applications are welcome from any organisation working with vulnerable young people at risk of being involved in serious violence.

DARE (Darwen Asylum and Refugee Enterprise) have sent me through some links to their crowdfunding and youtube videos (all have been checked!) but no text to go with it! Feel free to have a look at their links though!

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wedareyoutogive?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20200619

https://youtu.be/tD_svTWoes

<https://youtu.be/mVI5GGJ5y6k>

Community Foundation for Lancashire (CFL) Funding

The CFL has now given out over £1 million worth of grants to groups and organisations across Lancashire and they still have more to give! Applications are really straightforward and most groups with a constitution, 3 members and safeguarding policies in place will be eligible to apply for a grant of up to £5000 to support your community during the Covid19 Pandemic.

Our Lancashire

If your group is not listed on Our Lancashire, then it needs to be! Visit www.ourlancashire.org.uk to find out more or contact myself, Rob Richards as the local community engagement officer for BwD & Hyndburn via email 14254@lancashire.pnn.police.uk