

**Faiths all
equal in
county
schools**
p7



A-Z PULLOUT

Inside, all the telephone numbers you need to contact us

School dinner chiefs feast on quality treat

SCHOOL dinners proved a really tasty treat when senior decision-makers called at a Leyland school.

There was not a turkey twizzler in sight when county councillors Anne Brown and Vali Patel checked out the food at St Mary's RC Primary School in Leyland.

The duo are both Lancashire County cabinet members with responsibility for finance and for Lancashire County Commercial Services, the county council-owned direct service organisation that provides school meals.

Both met teachers and dinner staff - and then sat in the children's tiny chairs to sample the food.

Councillor Brown, a Leyland county councillor and cabinet member for resources and performance, said: "We all fondly remember the old days of sponge and green custard. "Things have moved on - thankfully - and I enjoyed my roast beef dinner. The visit was a pleasure, but also to check on progress so far as 'healthy eating' goes."

Councillor Patel, Lancashire County Council cabinet member for organisational development, enjoyed the vegetarian option. He said: "We are one of the first authorities in England to re-establish full training for catering staff."

"We never ran down our catering service as happened elsewhere in the country."



●EAT your greens: from left, Sophie Blake (7), Anne Brown, Natasha Lee (10), Dylan Agnew (10), Becky McGrath (8), Vali Patel, Leah Crompton (7).

SERVICES to put children and parents on the right path for life are being brought together in the nation's largest programme to open children's centres.

Centres in Haslingden, Preston, Accrington and Skelmersdale won official children's centre accreditation last month alone and a total of 30 should be operating by the end of March.

While centre staff work with children, their parents gain experience and access to a range of courses and assistance in health and searching for work.

The £10m scheme's aim is to integrate education, health and family support to help parents support their children and set a good example for the future.

Centres are to unite services from the local authority, NHS, JobCentres and private and voluntary organisations.

"The welfare of children can't be seen in isolation from the well-being of their parents," said County Councillor Clive Grunshaw, cabinet member for children and young people.

"It is about providing the best start in life for children - and that means supporting their parents in things such as getting back to work and setting a good example to children."

"The very first centres were opened in deprived areas but the less deprived areas are now being given centres which will be tailored to local need."

A total of 15 centres are now designated by the Department for Education and Skills as children's centres.

Parts of Lancashire benefiting from the programme include Burnley (four centres), Chorley (one centre), Hyndburn (three), Lancaster (two), Pendle (four), Preston (six), Ribbles Valley (one), Rossendale (three), South Ribble (one), West Lancashire (three) and Wyre (two).

Some centres have been built from scratch while others are extensions or adaptations to existing buildings such as schools or Sure Start initiatives.

FAMILIES ON THE MARCH

Thirty children's centres across the county will be open by end of March

As well as teachers, staff include health and social workers and training staff.

The county council's Family Support Service is also involved in support packages that include behaviour management, life skills, child protection and support for looked-after children and carers.

Councillor Grunshaw added: "Partnership working is fundamental to the future provision of support services for children and families across Lancashire."

"Having children can mean getting left behind in a number of ways for some parents and these centres will break that pattern."

"Few things are more important."



●CLIVE Grunshaw: these centres are the best start possible for children.

Care cash: appeal goes to the top

HEALTH Minister Liam Byrne has been invited to Lancashire as part of a county council charm offensive to secure more help for vulnerable people.

Senior county councillors issued the invitation last month when they travelled to London to plead for extra care cash.

Hopes are now "reasonably high" that Mr Byrne will look favourably on the need to pay more money to care providers.

County Councillor Chris Cheetham, Lancashire County Council cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "We are now working in complete harmony with private-sector care providers so that they can provide the continuity and quality of care that people need."

We told the minister that the quality of care depends on the quality of staff - and those staff need training.

"It all costs a lot of money and Lancashire County Council is all in favour of paying care providers properly."

"It is in no-one's interest to do the job on the cheap."

"Mr Byrne seemed impressed by our case, although no one should expect extra money immediately."

Enter our 'rubbish' contest

NOW is the time to make a "rubbish resolution" - and win tickets to this month's Ideal Home Show.

All you need to do is visit Lancashire Waste Partnership's website and explain how you will help the environment and produce less waste.

The 10 best resolutions will each win a pair of tickets to the Earl's Court Show between 9 and 24 March. To enter visit: www.rubbishresolutions.co.uk

County council staff have another way to encourage children.

They have launched a recycling campaign in schools - and signed up 17,000 children.

Cash help to study

STUDENTS and their parents are being offered help to guide them through huge changes to the student finance system – and being reminded of looming application deadlines.

From this academic year, parents and students starting their course from 2006 need not worry about “upfront” tuition fees as such payments will be made by students themselves when they finish studying and start earning.

The 28 April deadline for non-means-tested financial support will soon be upon us while students from lower-earning families – those applying for means-tested grants – have until 30 June to make their applications.

Lancashire County Council's student service advisers are to visit most schools and colleges to

Aid for students as deadline looms

explain available cash support and how to get it.

Impartial and free advice is also available in person or by writing to Lancashire Student Services, PO Box 61, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ, or by telephoning 01772 530430 or emailing lancashirestudentservices@ed.lancscs.gov.uk

Tina Walmsley, service development manager, said: “These are very big changes that will affect thousands of new students this year.

“As well as advice on grants and loans, we can also advise students on the availability of university bursaries and specially targeted support for disabled people and students who are also parents.”

New students applying for non-means-tested financial support are those from families with

annual incomes above £37,425. Those below that need to apply for means-tested grants.

Advisers are reminding people, where possible, to return applications a few days before the deadline to allow for postage and processing.

Application forms are to be posted to existing students, who will need to return their forms by 26 May, while new students can get forms from their school or college or via Lancashire Student Services.

Advisers can help on a range of issues, such as childcare, support whilst on placement and telling people how much they could potentially be entitled to.

The service also has a website: <http://studentsupport.lancashire.gov.uk>

Schools' deal shows we listen

THE future looks bright for parents and pupils after closure threats were lifted at their schools.

A schools review was ordered for Rossendale last year to tackle a growing empty-desk crisis.

The latest stages of a long and exhaustive consultation have concluded that all county schools in Bacup should be saved – and a new school built to house pupils from Cloughfold Primary School and Waterfoot Primary School.

County Councillor Alan Whittaker, cabinet member for schools, said: “Parents do need to know that their views are important as these reviews are held periodically across all areas of Lancashire.

“It is in no-one's interest to be teaching empty classes. This exercise shows that we are genuinely open to alternative views and that Lancashire is a county in which everyone has their say.”

The latest set of proposals will go to a further public consultation with a final decision expected later this year.

Put Lancashire children FIRST

Accidental injury is the biggest cause of childhood mortality in the Western World – and that includes the United Kingdom!

It is also one of the largest causes of non-fatal injury and disability amongst children – seriously affecting their quality of life and often that of the whole family.

For Child Safety Week 2006, the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) has chosen the theme:

Avoid the worst. Put child safety first.

The charity has chosen this theme because they believe that in our busy personal and professional lives, it is all too easy to overlook child safety until the worst happens.



Cllr Veronica Afrin
Chair of Lancashire Children's Fund

They ask us all to put child safety on our priority list before another child is seriously hurt, or worse still, killed in an accident that could have been prevented. I'd like to think that in Lancashire, we will go one better and put child safety AT THE TOP of our priority list.

Many children's accidents can be prevented. They should be prevented, and I believe that we, as adults, have a duty of care to do our very best to make sure they are prevented.

Cllr Veronica Afrin

Chair of Lancashire Children's Fund

Child Safety Week 2006

In 2005, the Child Accident Prevention Trust reached an estimated 3.4 million children, young people, parents and grandparents through local activities and events. Important messages got through, and almost half the parents polled said that they had acted to make their children safer as a result.

Here are some of the comments received:

“I did not know that a baby's skin is 15 times thinner than an adult's or how long a hot drink takes to cool – so I have learnt” (Chorley mother)

“It learns people to wear seat belts in cars” (Emma aged 7)

“I've learnt all the rules to do before going out on my bike” (Jessica aged 11)

“It made me think about safety and how our actions can influence accidents” (Simon aged 14)

Child Safety Week 2006 is Monday 19 to Sunday 25th June, and there are lots of ways you can get involved. Check out the website www.capt.org.uk for factsheets, samples of leaflets and booklets, and some excellent quizzes and activity sheets that can help to keep Lancashire's children safe.

Stay Safe - Get Help

Following recent articles there has been a great deal of interest in GRIP – the Lancashire short-term intervention programme for children and young people on the threshold of becoming involved in crime or anti social behaviour, and you can contact them on **01772 531488**.

Other useful numbers:

Urban Exchange – Drop-in Centre.....01772 255300
Drugline Lancashire.....01772 825492
Safer Travel.....01772 261063
Preston Women's Refuge
(24 hour help-line)01772 201601

West Lancs Women's Refuge
(24 hour freephone help-line)0808 100 3062
West Lancs Women's Refuge
Ormskirk Info Centre.....01695 580049



Teaching Resource Pack



The Child Accident Prevention and Safety Scheme (CAPS) is a Preston Primary Care Trust initiative funded by the Lancashire Children's Fund.

The main aim of CAPS is to reduce accidents and raise awareness in all areas of activity including the home, at school, and on the roads and railways.

CAPS aims to reach all ages of children throughout Preston and works in partnership with Sure Start, the Healthy Schools Programme and other agencies including the Lancashire Road Safety Group, Police and Fire and Rescue services.

The comprehensive Teaching Resource Pack has been written by professional teachers with input and support from various agencies. It has been trialled and evaluated in a number of schools and CAPS will be making it available to all primary schools in the Preston area in March. The pack includes:

- relevant statistics and key facts
- lesson plans and resources for Key Stage One and Key Stage Two

- Information leaflet for parents/carers to consolidate the lessons and raise awareness of safety in the home
- assembly presentation to involve the whole school
- list of resources, websites and local contacts to support safety within the classroom.

The pack is designed for flexible use and to support schools in choosing the approach that best meets their resources and the local needs. Suggestions on how this can be achieved at local level include:

- incorporating it into the curriculum through the PSHE programme and science
- encouraging a safety themed day/week
- supporting the safety theme of the month as identified in the CAPS calendars already distributed to schools

If you are involved with safety in schools in Preston, and do not receive your pack by the end of March, contact Jeremy Scholey on 01772 645611. The CAPS website provides some excellent guidance for all schools and safety information for parents and children. www.prestoncaps.co.uk



the children's charity

Lancashire Children's Fund is administered by NCH - The Children's Charity (registered charity number 1097940).

If you are considering seeking funds from LCF please note that all Children's Fund monies are now allocated until March 2008. Any future announcements will be posted on our website.

www.lancashirechildrensfund.org.uk

Lancashire Children's Fund helps Lancashire's families to stay safe

The Lancashire Children's Fund is a partnership of statutory, voluntary and community sector agencies that is responsible for the strategic direction of the Children's Fund programme in the county council area.

A-Z GUIDE

PULL
OUT
AND
KEEP

Your handy *Vision* guide to **council services 06/07**

Visit us at www.lancashire.gov.uk



Welcome

WE all need to know who to ask for help – and this new A-Z directory will make finding out easier than ever.

It details the services you need. Lancashire County Council is your council and we want to make it simple for you to get help when you need it.

At some stage, everyone has queries about education, travel, museums, country parks, crossing patrols, social care. Turn this page – you will see the list is almost endless.

I hope you will keep this guide somewhere handy and feel free to give our services a ring. We can only help when we know what you need.

People often say they find local government confusing. I am sure this guide will be the map you need to get the help you want.

I'm very proud of our customer service centre, our latest venture. You will find its number at the top of the next page. Use it when you have a query ... and can't find out who to ring.

Lancashire County Council is changing... changing to better meet your needs.

Hazel Harding

HAZEL HARDING CBE

A 4-star council

Awarded top marks by the Audit Commission

If you know the service you require, use our A-Z to find the number.

Not sure who to call? Contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 053 0000.

A

Abandoned vehicles
.....see Local district council

Abnormal loads(01772) 534477

Adoption services

Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Burnley, Pendle,
Rossendale.....(01282) 423927
Lancaster.....(01524) 66246
Preston, Fylde, Wyre.....0800 195 1183
South Ribble, Chorley, West Lancs.....
.....(01772) 904650

Adult and community services

(including learning disabilities, physical disabilities,
older people and children and families)

Headquarters.....(01772) 534285
Accrington.....(01254) 398731
Bamber Bridge.....(01772) 904650
Burnley.....(01282) 425961
Chorley.....(01257) 516000 or (01257) 231585
Clitheroe.....(01200) 425146
Colne.....(01282) 866706
Kirkham.....(01772) 685318
Lancaster.....(01524) 66246
Leyland.....(01772) 904600
Lytham.....(01253) 738111
Morecambe.....(01524) 512000
Nelson.....(01282) 470500
Ormskirk.....(01695) 585800
Preston.....(01772) 533689 or (01772) 538700
Rishton.....(01254) 887124
Rossendale.....(01706) 211221
Skelmersdale.....(01695) 651200
Thornton.....(01253) 866130

After-school clubs - early years.....0800 195 0137

Air qualitySee Local district council

Alcohol abuse advisors
.....See Adult and community services

AllotmentsSee Local district council

Alston Hall.....(01772) 784661

Animals and nature in Lancashire
.....See Countryside service

Appeals against school exclusion
.....(01772) 533416

Archaeology and heritage.....(01772) 533404

Archives and local studies - Record office
.....(01772) 534709

Area education office

East.....(01254) 220500
North.....(01524) 63243
South.....(01772) 532719

Arts development service.....(01772) 531292

A/Z online - www.lancashire.gov.uk/a-z

B

Beacon Fell country park(01995) 640557

Benefit advice - Welfare rights
.....(01772) 533504

Best value performance plan.....(01772) 530547

Bins/wheelie binssee Local district council

Births/marriages/deaths - Registrars

Accrington.....(01254) 352589
Burnley.....(01282) 436116
Chorley.....(01257) 263143
Fleetwood.....(01253) 874580
Lancaster.....(01524) 65673
Lytham.....(01253) 737530
Ormskirk.....(01695) 585779
Preston.....(01772) 533800

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.....
.....(01254) 585585

Blackpool Borough Council.....(01253) 478415

Blind/partially-sighted support.....
.....see Adult and community services

Blue badge application service.....
.....0845 053 0049

Borwick Hall.....(01524) 732508

Bottle banks - Waste helpline.....0845 0500 957

Breakfast and after-school clubs -
Early Years.....0800 195 0137

Brussels - Lancashire involvement - By
email only assistant@lancashire-brussels.org

Building regulationssee Local district council

Bullyingsee Education welfare service

Burnley Borough Council.....(01282) 425011

Buses and bus stops - Traveline
.....0870 608 2608

Bus fares to college (16-19)
.....see Area education office

Bus passes - Traveline0870 608 2608

Bus timetables - Traveline.....0870 608 2608

Business advice for business start-up.....
.....(01772) 551888

Business directory(01772) 534147

Business grants.....(01772) 551888

C

Care services
.....see Lancashire county care services

Car parks (park and ride).....(01772) 533747

Cemeteriessee Local district council

Census of population(01772) 534147

Childcare direct - Early years0800 195 0137

Childminders' register - Early years
.....0800 195 0137

Child protection services
.....see Adult and community services

Children and family services
.....see Adult and community services

Chorley Borough Council.....(01257) 515151

Closed landfill sites - Waste management ...
.....0845 0500 957

Collegessee Alston Hall and Lancashire College

Common land searches0845 053 0000

Community car services
.....See Transport services in Lancashire

Community safety partnership teams
.....see Local district councils

Community use development
.....(01772) 531265/533834

Complaints/comments/compliments

Resources(01772) 533425
Property group.....(01772) 533144
Finance group(01772) 533425
Highways and transportation, planning and
waste, county analyst, emergency
planning and registration services.....
.....(01772) 534454/534114

Trading standards.....(01772) 533644

Welfare rights(01772) 533020

Children and young people (HQ).....
.....(01772) 531648

Composting.....0845 0500 957

Concessionary travel0845 058 1096

Conference centres
Woodlands Conferencing.....(01257) 517105
The Red Rose Hub(01772) 537102

Copy of birth, death, marriage certificates ...
.....(01772) 326881

Coroner.....(01772) 821788

Council Tax enquiries
.....See Local district councils

Country parks
Beacon Fell.....(01995) 640557
Wycoller Country Park.....(01282) 870253

Countryside service.....(01772) 534709

County council meetings.....(01772) 533008

Cycle routes.....(01772) 534609

Cycling information.....(01772) 534609

D

Dalesrail(01200) 429832

Data protection(01772) 531115/533974

Death registrationsee Births/marriages/deaths

Dial a bus/ride
.....see Transport services in Lancashire

Disabilitysee Adult and community services

Disabled car badge.....0845 053 0049

Disabled car parking0800 328 1635

Dog foulingSee Local district council

Domestic abuse
.....see Adult and community services

Draining/flooding advice(01772) 534615

Duke of Edinburgh Award
.....see Youth and community

E

Early years and children.....0800 195 0137

Education advice0800 195 0137

Education transport(01772) 534588

Education welfare service
Burnley.....(01282) 831033

Chorley/Leyland.....(01257) 517225

Fylde.....(01253) 887745

Hyndburn/Ribble Valley/Rossendale.....
.....(01254) 220736

Lancaster.....(01524) 585871

Pendle.....(01282) 612043

Preston/South Ribble.....(01772) 531799

West Lancs.....(01695) 585748

Wyre.....(01253) 887745

Elections.....(0207) 271 0500
.....or www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Environment (general)(01772) 534468

Environmental healthsee Local district council

Environmental projects.....(01772) 530650

Exclusions (schools) - Helpline
.....(0207) 704 9822

F

Faulty goodssee Trading standards

Finance.....0845 053 0000

Fire and Rescue services (Lancashire).....
.....(01772) 862545

Flooding advice(01772) 534615

Fly-tippingsee Local district council

Food quality issuessee Trading standards

Footpaths/public rights of way.....0845 053 0011

Forest of Bowland(01772) 534140

Fostering0800 195 1183

Freedom of information.....(01772) 533974/531115

Free school mealssee Area education office

Further/higher education
.....See Area education office

Fylde Borough Council.....(01253) 658555

G

Garden waste/composting.....0845 0500 957

Grass-cutting.....0845 053 0011

Gritting.....0845 053 0011

Gypsy/traveller issues.....0845 053 0011

H

Hearing impairment(01772) 533689,
.....Minicom (01772) 533660

Heritage and archaeology(01772) 533404

Higher/further education
.....See Area education offices

Highways (road maintenance).....0845 053 0011

Home caresee Adult and community services

Hothersall Lodge.....(01254) 878422

Household recycling centres0845 0500 957

Household waste0845 0500 957

Housing advicesee Local district council

Housing benefitssee Local district council

Housing grant enquiries
.....see Local district council

Housing registersee Local district council

Hyndburn Borough Council.....(01254) 399988

I

Infestationssee Local district council

Information centres
.....see Lancashire county information centres

Internet access in librariessee Libraries

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Visit us at www.lancashire.gov.uk



J

Job vacancies
www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies
Junior recycling0845 0500 957

L

Lancashire Care Trust.....(01772) 695300
Lancashire College0845 600 1331
Lancashire countryside service
(01772) 534709
Lancashire county care services
(01772) 563002
Lancashire county commercial services.....
(01772) 646817
Lancashire county development services
(01772) 551888
Lancashire county engineering services
(01772) 532323
Lancashire county information centres.....
(01772) 533000
Lancashire highways.....0845 053 0011
Lancashire music service(01257) 234450
Lancashire schools forums ..(01772) 531815
Lancashire train services

East Lancashire Community Rail
 Partnerships..(01772) 534582/(01254) 585310
 West of Lancashire Community
 Rail Partnerships(01772) 533196

Lancaster City Council.....(01524) 582491
Land/property sales0845 053 0000
Land searches.....0845 053 0000
Landscape issues0845 053 0000
Legal services (general).....(01772) 533424
Leisure centressee Local district councils
Libraries - general enquiries ..(01772) 534008
Life in Lancashire (LIL)(01772) 533445
Lifelong learning (adults)
see Adult and community services
Listed buildings(01772) 533404
Litter issuesSee Local district council

Local district council contacts

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.....
(01254) 585585
 Blackpool Borough Council ..(01253) 478415
 Burnley Borough Council(01282) 425011
 Chorley Borough Council.....(01257) 515151
 Fylde Borough Council.....(01253) 658555
 Hyndburn Borough Council ..(01254) 399988
 Lancaster City Council(01524) 582491
 Pendle Borough Council(01282) 661743
 Preston City Council.....(01772) 906900
 Ribble Valley Borough Council ..(01200) 425111
 Rossendale Borough Council ..(01706) 217777
 South Ribble Borough Council..(01772) 421491
 West Lancashire District Council.....
(01695) 577177
 Wyre Borough Council(01253) 891000
Lollipop patrols0800 328 1635

M

Maps of Lancashire(01772) 534463
Marriagessee Births/marriages/deaths
Meals on wheels
see Adult and community services

Mental health team ...see Lancashire Care Trust
Mobile librariessee Libraries
Museum of Lancashire(01772) 534075

N

Nature and wildlife conservation.....
(01772) 534709
Noise problemssee Local district council
Nurseries/playgroups0800 195 0137

O

Older peoples services
see Adult and community services
Open country
see Lancashire countryside service
Orange disabled badges
see Adult and community services

P

Paper banks and recycling.....0845 0500 957
Park and ride(01772) 533747
Pavements0845 053 0011
Pedestrian crossings0845 053 0011
Pendle Borough Council(01282) 661743
Pest controlsee Local district council
Photographs of Lancashire ..(01772) 534549
Physical disability
see Adult and community services
Playgroups/play schemes0800 195 0137
Police (Lancashire Police Authority)
(01772) 533587
Police services (Lancashire Constabulary) ..
0845 1253 545
Pollutionsee Local district council
Preston City Council.....(01772) 906900
Primary schoolsSee Area education offices
Property group0845 053 0000
Public rights of way(01772) 534709
Public transport.....see Traveline
Pupil access team....(01772) 531656 /531963

R

Railways.....see Lancashire train services
Record office(01772) 533039
Recycling advice - Waste helpline
0845 0500 957
Recycling centres0845 0500 957
Red Rose Hub.....(01772) 537102
Refuse collection.....see Local district council
Register offices
 Accrington.....(01254) 871360
 Burnley(01282) 436116
 Chorley.....(01257) 263143
 Fleetwood(01253) 874580
 Lancaster(01524) 65673
 Lytham(01253) 737530
 Ormskirk(01695) 585779
 Preston.....(01772) 533800

Residential care.....
see Lancashire county care services
Ribble Valley Borough Council..(01200) 425111
Road maintenance (highways)
0845 053 0011

Road safety0845 053 0000
Rossendale Borough Council....(01706) 217777
Rural development enquiries....(01254) 300362
Rural transport enquiriessee Traveline

S

Safety (community)see Trading standards
Same-sex ceremonies.....see Register offices
School admissions.....see Area education office
School clothing grants
see Area education office
School complaints.....see Area education office
School crossing patrols0800 328 1635
School holidayssee Area education office
School meals.....see Area education office
School transport.....(01772) 534588
Secondary schoolssee Area education office
Social services
see Adult and community services
South Ribble Borough Council.....
(01772) 421491
Statistics.....(01772) 534147
Stray animalssee Local district council
Street lighting.....0800 132631
Student support.....(01772) 530430
Swimming pools.....see Local district council

T

Teacher recruitment and retention.....
see Teacher vacancies
Teacher vacancies
 Lancaster, Wyre and Fylde...(01524) 586402
 Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire,
 Chorley.....(01772) 533405
 Ribble Valley, Hyndburn, Burnley, Pendle,
 Rossendale.....(01254) 220758
Tourist information centre.....
see Local district council
Tips.....see Household recycling centres
Tourist information.....(01257) 226600
Towerwood Outdoor Education Centre
(015395) 31519
Trading standards.....0845 600 1352/
(01772) 533573
Traffic lights.....0845 053 0011
Traffic management.....0800 3281635
TrainsSee Dalesrail

Transport services in Lancashire -
 General enquiries(01772) 533339
Community car services
 Burnley/Pendle/Bacup/Stackstead/
 Whitworth(01282) 412096
 Eccleston/Heskin/Mawdesley ..(01257) 453784
 Fylde(01772) 813424
 Garstang.....(01524) 388499
 Haslingden.....(01706) 215027
 Lancaster and Morecambe...(01524) 388499
 Lune Valley(01524) 274235
 Over Wyre(01524) 388499

Parbold.....(01257) 453784
 Rawtenstall(01706) 216704
 Ribble Valley.....(01200) 444484
 Tarleton and Hesketh Bank ..(01772) 813424
 Wheelton and Withnell(01257) 249504

Dial a bus/ride

Blackburn.....(01254) 873883
 Blackpool(01253) 293300
 Burnley and Pendle(01282) 661100
 Central Lancashire.....(01257) 260488
 Hyndburn(01254) 237323
 Lancaster and Morecambe...(01524) 844944
 Preston.....(01772) 204667
 Ribble Valley.....(01200) 444484
 West Lancashire(01704) 893373

Traveline0870 608 2608

Traveller/gypsy issues0845 053 0011

Truancysee Education welfare service

U

Uniform grants (schools)
see Area education office

V

Vacancieswww.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies
Vision newspaper.....(01772) 531095
Volunteering(01772) 524246

W

Walkingsee Lancashire countryside service
Waste information - Waste helpline
0845 0500 957
Welfare rights(01772) 533504
West Lancs District Council..(01695) 577177
What Now? - advice/information for young people.....0800 511 111
Whitehough Education Centre.....
(01282) 615688
Winter maintenance.....0845 053 0011
Woodlands Conferencing.....(01257) 517105
Wyre Borough Council.....(01253) 891000

Y

Youth and community service....(01772) 531761

Z

Zebra crossings0845 053 0011

For details on how to contact your local
County Councillor direct visit
www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/councillors/index.asp

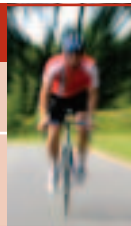
Your council tax - where it all goes

Your services: this picture is Chorley but it could be your town.
Lancashire County Council provides 86% of local government provision in your area.

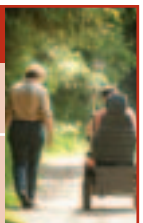
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	Spend
487 Primary schools	£285.381m
86 Secondary schools	£284.107m
846 Children looked after through foster care	£14.955m
Performance: Number of pupils achieving 5 or more grades A*-C - 7962.	



RECREATION, TOURISM AND OTHER SERVICES	Spend
354 school crossing patrols	£1.529m
Information, welfare rights and trading standards	£4.979m



ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE	Spend
22,118 adults looked after at home	£86.256m
6,528 adults looked after in residential homes	£95.369m



WASTE MANAGEMENT	Spend
694,674 tonnes of waste	£37.799m
Performance: Last year Lancashire's residents recycled or composted 107,326 tonnes of waste.	



LIBRARIES	Spend
97 libraries and mobile libraries	£19.767m
1,772,483 books	
80,478 items of recorded sound	



HIGHWAYS	Spend
6,810 km of roads maintained	
4,229 miles of roads maintained	£21.877m
Electricity and maintenance for 159,234 streetlights	£10.201m
273 bus routes supported	£5.009m
Performance: We maintained 373 signalled pedestrian crossings, 350 of which have facilities for disabled people.	



MENTION local government and most people think of just their Council Tax bill.

It seems to go up and up and people wonder what they get for their cash. This year's rise, for example, is 4.9 per cent – still above inflation as measured by the Retail Price Index.

Over the last five years, Lancashire County Council has agreed one of the lowest total Council Tax rises of all counties and a recent national survey judged the authority to be one of the top 11 "value for money" councils in the country.

Even so, bills are onerous and people deserve to know why they go up each year. It is down to a combination of factors:

- So-called "volume increases". Demand for social care, for instance, is led entirely by circumstance. People are living longer and care must be provided. Such increases also affect the cost of waste disposal.
- The Retail Price Index monitors goods in the shops, many of which are imported from low-wage countries. Most council spending is on items such as care services, highway maintenance, street lighting, and fuel in which inflation is far higher.

- Council Tax funds only part of the council's budget. Other money comes from central government. It means that any shortfall in central government funding falls disproportionately on the Council Tax payer.

Lancashire County Council tries hard to keep tax low and is on target to deliver £48mm of efficiency savings by 2008.

More information can be seen on leaflets delivered with Council Tax bills or at: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/budget/index.asp>

Don't be fooled

DOORSTEP cheats will soon be left in the cold when a new public service identity card is adopted in the spring.

Pioneering trading standards officers from Lancashire County Council are leading the way on the photo card that should reassure residents that their caller is genuine.

Many crooks often claim to be "from the council" when they knock on doors. They gain trust and then cheat or steal from their victims.

Chief trading standards officer Jim Potts said: "Many people are very trusting and it is all too often that we hear of people losing thousands of pounds in so-called distraction burglaries."



Pupils join in RE quest for the truth

CHRISTIANITY and other main faiths are the centrepiece of a new religious education syllabus.

Everyone gets a fair chance in Lancashire. Explorations of religion will centre on the universal quest to understand what it is to be human.

Pupils were asked how they thought RE should be taught and invited to enter an art competition to help develop the syllabus.

Art competition winner Danielle Parkinson (14) from Penwortham Girls' High School is pictured with (from left) County Councillors Francis Williams, Albert Thornton and Alan Whittaker.

Ambulances? Get involved!

The Lancashire Ambulance Service Patient and Public Involvement Forum:

- Represents the views of patients and the public on issues concerning your Ambulance Service
- Is made up of local people who have volunteered to be involved
- Is entirely independent
- Ensures that the view of patients and the public is heard

Did you know that in 2005 your ambulances continued to provide emergency services and hospital transport services to the population of Lancashire, covering an area of 1,100 square miles? 468 operational A&E staff and 10 Intermediate Tier Personnel, using a range of fully equipped emergency vehicles including ambulances, rapid response cars and a motorbike, based at 24 stations, provide the core of the emergency service. A further 260 trained men and women provide patient transport services to those requiring assistance in getting to and from hospitals for non-emergency operations and aftercare. In a typical week around 3,500 calls are handled in the Emergency Control Room, requiring the 24 hour, 7 days a week involvement of trained call centre and support staff. In total 1064 people work together to provide ambulance services to the population of Lancashire. A major operation for a vital service.

The Lancashire Ambulance Service has an excellent reputation – as good as any in the country – of which it is rightly proud! It has achieved top 3 star rating in assessments for the past three years. This is down to the quality of all the people who work in the service, their vehicles and equipment and the systems and support that is given to front line services. You benefit from the quality of service whenever you call an ambulance.

An important part of setting standards is getting a good understanding of what it is that patients – and the public –

Why not contact us with your views or apply to join us by contacting:

PPI Forum Lancashire Ambulance Service,
Black Health Agency, Farington Business Park,
Golden Hill Lane, LEYLAND PR25 3GG.

Tel: 01772 431195

Email ppil@blackhealthagency.org.uk



expect from their Ambulance Service. Also it is important to keep you informed of what the Lancashire Ambulance Service aims to achieve and how it is performing. This is done through a group of volunteers – called a Forum – that helps to represent the views of patients and the public about health issues related to the Ambulance Service.

You can make your views known and get to know what's going on through the Patient and Public Involvement Forum for the Lancashire Ambulance Service. A long title for an important group of people. You could be one of them! Whether you are a patient, a carer or an interested member of the public you can make your views known through the Forum. Get in touch with the Forum through the office, using the contact details below. Or you could apply to become a member of the Forum and play an active part in our work. The Forum meets every month to discuss "issues of the day" and review significant matters related to the ambulance service. Also we have recently carried out interviews with patients about transport services to and from hospitals and attended meetings and events about health related matters. If you are interested and have two or three hours per week that you could set aside to help with our work, just contact us so that arrangements can be made for more details to be sent to you.



LCDL update

Lancashire County Developments Ltd
The County Councils economic development department



Steve Dean and CC John Shedwick at cheeky monkeys

Rosebud First in Class

Rosebud has won the top prize of Fund of the Year 2006.

This prestigious award is from the North West Business Insider Magazine. This magazine is essential reading for all the top corporate finance and professionals in the North of England. The award was sponsored by the North West Development Agency, whose own North West Equity Fund was in the running for the first prize.

Company bosses and professional advisors such as Banks and Accountants submitted their votes for the winner.

Rosebud provides loans and equity finance for start up and growing businesses. Amounts range from £5000 up to hundreds of thousands as part of a multi million pound syndicated deals.

Last year Rosebud loans were used to finance 37 businesses, at least one in every District in Lancashire.

In 2005 over 500 people approached Rosebud to talk about their business ideas.

The County Councils economic development company, Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL), provides the finance and expertise. This successful resource to business has been running for over 20 years and in 2005 the £1.3 million provided as Rosebud loans also attracted £5.4 million in private sector finance. Nearly 7 million pounds commercially injected into new and growing Lancashire businesses in 2005!

The Chair of LCDL, County Councillor Niki Penney, said

'I believe that when you add non-executive director, business advisor support and equity finance capacity to the loan facilities the Rosebud product range is first in class. This award shows that many others agree.'

LCDL's fact finding tour

Lancashire County Developments Ltd, the County Council's economic development department, recently played host to members of the Council's Best Value Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a fact finding tour of LCDL's work in and around the Preston area.

Members were able to see the Lancashire Business Park at Leyland where LCDL is landlord to engineering and service businesses including Enterprise plc, the NHS and Business Link.

They also toured the SANAC centre in Preston's Avenham district where LCDL has helped the local community transform a disused church into a modern community facility offering meeting rooms, a gym and fitness area, Table tennis and basketball courts as well as services like Sure Start and a crèche.

LCDL's flagship investment fund, Rosebud, was not forgotten with a visit to Cheeky Monkeys in Bamber Bridge which is a flourishing business following help with a start up loan from the Rosebud fund.

Managing Director of LCDL, Steve Dean, said:

"As a department of the County Council our work comes under the spotlight of Overview and Scrutiny in just the same way as other council services.

"Of course only a fraction of the projects and businesses we help across Lancashire could be included, but I am sure the Committee members were given a real insight into the diverse and interesting work we do."

County Councillor John Shedwick, Chair of the Best Value Overview and Scrutiny Committee, said:

"Members of the Best Value Committee asked to conduct site visits to identify work being undertaken by the staff of LCDL. As part of the Overview and Scrutiny process it is essential that we move out of the Committee room and better inform ourselves with outside inspections. The Best Value Committee will be further reviewing the work of LCDL."

To find out about how Rosebud can help you contact
LCDL on **01772 551888** for a free information pack.



Lancashire County Developments Ltd.

COMMITTED TO RECYCLING!

Making a difference, make compost this spring

WHY NOT give your garden a treat and get a compost bin, to turn rubbish from your garden and kitchen into a healthy soil improver for your plants? Biodegradable rubbish, from grass clippings to teabags and vegetable peelings to paper can be composted and used to improve the quality of your soil helping your garden bloom.

You can get your free compost bin, kitchen caddy, and instructions by ringing 0845 658 8550. As well as the standard free compost bins, there is a new bin that is ideal for the smaller garden and costs £10 (RRP £56.95) and a larger hexagonal bin for the gardener who produces lots of waste costing £20 (RRP £106.95).



Ahoy Me Hearties...

Lancashire County Council's school battery recycling scheme "Turn Batteries into Treasure" has diverted another 2 tonnes of batteries from landfill in the last 3 months thanks to the dedication of the schools taking part, making 11 tonnes this year. This is enough batteries to operate over 11,000 Roboraptor's! If your local school is not taking part in the scheme you can take your used household batteries to your Local Household Waste Recycling Centre.



Last chance to scratch and win!

MARCH IS the last chance to win prizes for recycling rubbish. Lancashire's "Win don't Bin" campaign has seen over 300,000 scratchcards given out across the County to reward people for recycling.

Each week different areas across the County are randomly selected. People using their recycling service

in these areas receive a scratchcard giving them a chance of winning prizes ranging from a Family Safari holiday to a tree.

The scheme has been funded through Defra to test if incentives work in encouraging people to recycle more of their rubbish.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Write to us at: Waste Management Group
Lancashire County Council, Winckley House, Cross St, Preston, PR1 8RD.
Email wasteinfo@env.lancscc.gov.uk

Do you take pet waste to the tip?

IF YOU are intending to take waste from your household pet to one of our 23 sites, tell one of our "Here to Help" staff who will give you free brightly coloured bags to take away and use. Each time you bring the bags back they will be replaced free of charge.

This is because waste from the non-recyclable skips is hand sorted to pull out material that can be recycled. To make it easier for staff to identify this waste we have introduced this scheme.

Lancashire County Council's 23 Household Waste Recycling Centres are open from 8.00am to 7.00pm 362 days a year.

recycle

Lancashire
County Council