



WIN A HAMPER

Enjoy some of
Lancashire's finest fare

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WASTE

Your chance to have
your say

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TRUE LOVE

Couple head for Gretna
after college date

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HEAT-CAMS TO TACKLE FUEL BILLS

HEAT sensor cameras are heading to Lancashire to help householders beat rising fuel prices.

The cameras will show precisely where energy is leaking from homes - with the pictures being shown to whoever pays the bill.

Advice on keeping costs down - and available help - will then be offered.

The cameras are being bought by the Prospects Foundation with cash supplied by Lancashire County Council's climate change fund.

Debbie King, Lancashire County Council planning officer, said: "Fuel poverty is firmly in our sights."

"Rising bills are bad for people's pockets while high energy use adds to climate change."

"Everyone has seen heat-sensor cameras on television. They are a great way to make people realise they need to do something to save money!"

"Prospects will be showing people the images and also lending them consumption meters - and then providing advice on how people can save energy and money."

"Trials have shown that such photographs have enough 'wow' factor to motivate people to take action. In some cases advisers may also be able to guide people towards financial assistance in making their houses more efficient."

The consumption meters will put costings to energy use on a minute-by-minute basis. Anyone can watch the meter wheel spinning - but only those with consumption meters can see the cost!

Climate-change grants for such projects are awarded by Lancashire Local committees, formed of locally elected representatives, in each part of the county.

The project will start in Rossendale and Hyndburn and spread across the county if the demand exists.

Large amounts of grant money are available to similar Lancashire projects that aim to reduce energy consumption.

Ten projects countywide have been approved so far. Almost £300,000 per year is available for people with ideas for reducing the county's greenhouse gases.



● Is your home wasting energy: heatcam scheme can save you cash - and help save the environment.

Picture: FLIR Systems Ltd.

FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE & BEAT THE BILLS

Climate-change grants are available for voluntary organisations, community groups and parish and town councils that aim to "reduce greenhouse gas emissions" and/or help communities "cope with the impact of climate change".

Grants, usually between £500 and £15,000, are awarded by

Lancashire Local committees across the county.

Deadline for the next round of grant applications is 30 May.
Contact 01772 531257 for further details or visit
www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/climatechangefund/index.asp

First- class bid for Post Office services

A LIFELINE may be thrown to beleaguered communities battling threatened post office closures.

After news of wide-spread post office closures across Lancashire, leaders of all parties at County Hall are now looking at services currently provided in post offices to see if any could transfer to council buildings.

Libraries, schools and community spaces are all being considered as possible locations to take up some of the threatened services.

County Councillor Doreen Pollitt, deputy leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "We are extremely disappointed about these closures, but we need to look at how to minimise the impact."

"This is not going to be a quick-fix option. Library visitors are unlikely to see parcels being dropped off, but other services could be transferred. These could include applications for a passport, a driving licence, or a TV licence."

"It is important that if people need to find out more information about a service, someone is on hand to point them in the right direction."

"Many of our libraries are now being set up as information points where the public can find out about council services and get help with inquiries. We will be looking to see how the existing services could fit together with those from the post offices."



A full job description
of all vacancies is available
on our website

www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies



Ask Shirley

ASK THE EXPERT

Questions
answered
by your
friend in
the know

It's a cert

At the time of registering my baby's birth, I was unable to attend the registration. I live with the mother of my baby and would like to know if it would be possible to have my name put on the birth certificate?

Mr W, Clitheroe

Yes, you can have your name added to your baby's birth certificate. This is called re-registering. To do this you would need to contact the Lancashire County Council's registrars' department whereby a staff member will transfer your call to a local registration office. The number to call is 0845 0530021.

Get school safety licked

I walk my five-year-old to school everyday and am shocked at how many young children cross the road on their own to get to school. I feel this is very dangerous and know that many other parents feel the same.

Could you tell me how I would go about requesting a lollipop lady or man for this road before an accident occurs?

Miss H Robinson, Accrington

Whether or not a crossing patrol will be placed at a road near a school is based on a number of factors including a count of unaccompanied child pedestrians and vehicles, and consideration of additional crossing facilities.

You can apply for an



●BE a country ranger (see Your Country Needs You).

assessment in writing, enclosing a map of where you think the patrol would be best situated, to the Road Safety Group at Lancashire County Council, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 5RD. You may also contact them on 0800 3281635 for further advice.

Parking blues

I have just been advised by my doctor that I should apply for something known as a "Blue Badge" as I have a severe disability. He said it is a sticker that would go in my car allowing me to park in disabled bays etc without getting a parking ticket. Please could you tell me how I go about this?

Mr L Prescott, Accrington

A range of people are eligible for Blue Badges and you can contact the Blue Badge team on 0845 0530049. An advisor will send you an application form for you to fill in yourself or they will be able to fill out the form for you online. You will also be asked to provide evidence of your disability which could be copies of official letters or a letter from your GP. There is no charge for a Blue Badge but if your application is successful you will be asked to provide two recent passport-sized photographs of yourself.

Spring service

Over the Easter weekend we decided to have a bit of a spring-clean at home and, as we don't have a car, is there anyone we can call to collect our unwanted items.

Mr H, Chorley

The service you have inquired about is handled at district council level. Some councils offer a collection service or indeed some charities are happy to collect these items. Contact them on the number below for more details:

Chorley Council, at www.chorley.gov.uk or tel 01257 515151.

Your country needs you

As summer is well on its way I really enjoy being out and about in the Lancashire countryside. We have some wonderful country parks and now I am retired I was wondering if there was any way I could volunteer to help within the Countryside Service in and around the parks.

Mr G, Appley Bridge

Volunteer Rangers form an integral part of the Lancashire Countryside Service. Volunteers need to be physically fit and interested in the countryside.

You should be able to talk freely with visitors and help them enjoy the countryside. You must also be able to deal firmly with those not treating the countryside with respect. You must patrol and must have, or be prepared to get, fell-walking skills. All part-time and volunteer rangers are required to pass a course in the following: navigation, radio procedures, countryside law, dealing with people and emergency procedures. You must also obtain a 3-year first-aid certificate.

For more details, contact Lancashire County Council's Countryside Service on 01772 534709 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk

DON'T FORGET

Your county councillor will be keen to help. Contact details are available on 0845 0530000 or at: www.lancashire.gov.uk

You can also try your area's County Information Centre where staff are trained to help the public

Action plan to beat ill-health

LANCASHIRE County Council has agreed "in principle" to establish a Joint Health Unit with the county's three Primary Care Trusts.

The proposal is part of a wider plan to unite existing organisations in addressing health concerns in the area.

Alcohol, mental health, unemployment and poverty, and workplace health will all be tackled.

"The county council is a service provider and commissioner, an employer and community leader, so we are in a good position to lead on this issue," said County Councillor Chris Cheetham, Lancashire County Council's Champion for Health and Wellbeing.

"We have a passion to improve quality of life – and knowledge of the policies and strategies needed to make it a reality."

"We will be investigating the local factors that affect health and addressing them with our partners."

PICTURE OF HEALTH

Some of the factors already uncovered in health drive:

Binge-drinking adults: worst-affected are Chorley, Lancaster, Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire.

Early deaths: worst-affected are Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Preston, Rossendale.

Infant deaths: worst-affected are Hyndburn, Pendle, Preston.

Mental health: worst-affected are Burnley, Hyndburn, Lancaster, Pendle, Preston, Rossendale.

The strategy will support the county's Local Area Agreement to continue improving Lancashire's health.

School children gain a voice at top table



●PLEASED to meet you: pupils meet top education officials at County Hall.

SCHOOL councils from 15 primary and special schools have been made "Associate Members" of Lancashire's key forum for matters relating to children and young people.

Lancashire's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership brings together senior representatives from all agencies with a key role to play in children's services.

"Our challenge was to find a meaningful way to engage with children," said Angela Aspinwall-Livesey, headteacher of St John's RC Primary School in Skelmersdale, and the primary headteacher representative on the Strategic Partnership.

"We knew that just having children around the table at partnership meetings wouldn't work – as a new member it took me several meetings to fully understand my role there!" said Angela.

Instead, Angela and colleagues established a scheme to make individual school councils' Associate Members

of the Strategic Partnership.

There are now 15 primary and special schools involved across Lancashire. Each of the school councils has "adopted" two members of the Strategic Partnership and meet with them at least once a term.

Pat Jefferson, executive director for Children and Young People at Lancashire County Council and Jerry Graham, acting assistant chief constable for Lancashire are both involved with the scheme and have developed links with Tor View Special School in Haslingden.

Pat said: "Before Christmas, Jerry and I visited the school and were both very impressed with the very uplifting learning environment in the school."

"We thanked the young people very warmly for their good ideas and I offered to host a visit to County Hall."

"I wasn't able, however, to compete with Jerry's offer to show them how police horses and dogs are trained and to arrange for the police helicopter to land on their school field!"

Don't know whom
to contact when
you need help?

Baffled by
bureaucracy?

Ring Shirley on
0845 0530000 or email
Shirley on enquiries@
css.lancsc.gov.uk

Write to:
Ask Shirley
Customer Service Centre
The Red Rose Hub
Bluebell Way
Preston
PR2 5PZ



NEWS BRIEFS

Hatch, match, and dispatch

THE county council's Registration Service has launched a new website providing information for registering a birth or death, and for making arrangements for a civil wedding or civil partnership.

The site also gives details of approved venues where ceremonies can be held. You can order and pay for copy birth, marriage and death certificates online via the new web site for Lancashire registrations and ceremonies.

For information, contact the Lancashire Registration Service on 0845 0530021 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/registration

Drivers wanted

A SEARCH has been launched to find public spirited individuals with time to spare to help their local community.

The county council is calling on residents in the Tarleton and Hesketh Bank area to become volunteer drivers in the community car scheme.

Volunteer drivers use their own cars to travel within a 20-mile radius from their home and receive support towards running costs.

Contact 01772 536778 for details.

Gilded youth

AN £89,000 grant has been made to the Lancashire Association of Clubs for Young People.

More than 40 voluntary clubs across the county are supported by the association.

Sir Tom crowns six-year care scheme

Opening marks final step on path to more independence

By Mike Warren

PRESTON North End legend Sir Tom Finney was guest of honour at the opening of the county council's newest care home.

Lady Elsie Finney House, in Ingol, Preston, named in honour of Sir Tom's late wife, provides the best quality care available for older people.

The building has 45 residential care places in three units each with 15 bedrooms with en-suite facilities, and 25 day care places, particularly for those who have problems due to failing mental health and conditions such as Alzheimer's disease.

The opening marks a milestone as it brings to a conclusion a programme of changes to services that have been taking place since 2002. Similar homes now exist in every part of Lancashire.

The programme is already helping older people to lead independent lives in their own homes for as long as possible.

This includes everything from traditional "home help" and "meals on wheels" services to high-tech innovations such as alarms which can tell if someone has fallen over or been immobile for a long time – triggering a visit from a support worker.

At the same time, the council's own network of care homes has been extended and refurbished – ensuring that people whose needs are best met in a residential home receive the best possible care.

Lady Elsie Finney House, opened last month by Hazel Harding, county council leader, is the only new home to have been built as part of the process.

County Councillor Tom Burns, chair of the Strategic Business Unit that runs care homes, said: "Our staff work hard to provide excellent care. The changes that have been made to care homes in recent years



●(Above) Pupils from Holy Family RC Primary School and Ingol Community Primary School join soccer legend Sir Tom at the opening ceremony for the new Lady Elsie Finney House.

●DOROTHY Smith, who uses the day centre at Lady Elsie Finney House, enjoyed making greeting cards on the opening day.

mean they are now the ideal environment for older people to lead happy lives.

"When I visit any of the county council's care homes I am always glad to see people treated as individuals in an atmosphere in which people can feel at home.

"Lady Elsie Finney House is a really fantastic facility which will serve people in Lancashire well for years to come."



50 more foster families needed

COULD you be part of fostering in Lancashire?

Why not join the hundreds of families who are already discovering the rewards of sharing their lives with children who need a home?

One thing all children need is somewhere safe, stable and secure to live.

Foster carers are paid a monthly allowance and receive training, support and out-of-hours advice from social workers.

Around 1,300 children are looked after by Lancashire County Council and most live with foster parents.

Foster carers look after all kinds of children, from tiny babies up to teenagers, and for stays lasting from a few days to months or occasionally years.

We need 50 new foster families each year.

In particular, carers are needed for children with disabilities, sibling groups of two or more, and teenagers.

Fostering fortnight, two weeks of activity to recruit more foster carers, starts on 14 May.

To find out more, ring 0800 1951183 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering

Take a trip on DalesRail2008



From Blackpool, Preston, Blackburn and Clitheroe to Carlisle over the Settle Carlisle line

- Go walking and join one of our many guided walks to explore the best of Dales and Eden countryside
- Visit an array of towns and villages - go shopping or join one of our town tours
- There is something for everyone with DalesRail and prices to suit all pockets

DalesRail runs:

Sunday 4 May
Sundays 18 May until 29 June
and then Sundays 27 July until 19 October

For more information visit: www.dalesrail.com or ring Clitheroe Interchange on 01200 429832 for a brochure



Decisions in public

POLITICAL debates on a wide range of county council matters can be viewed this month.

Webcams will be switched on for many county council meetings – meaning anyone with access to the internet can see for themselves how

SWITCH ON

Wed 7 May 10.30am,
Community and Partnerships overview and scrutiny (O and S).
Thurs 8 May 2pm.
Cabinet.
Mon 19 May 10am.
Development Control.
Thurs 29 May 1.30pm.
Full council.

Lancashire County Council makes decisions.

The meetings will be screened live in a project that is now being copied in councils elsewhere in Britain and Europe. Approximately 1,500 people watch the meetings each month.

The aim is to maximise public knowledge of civic affairs.

Meetings can be seen at www.lancashire.gov.uk

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Lancashire County Council

WIN ONE OF FIVE LUXURY LANCASHIRE HAMPERS, COURTESY OF

BOOTH'S

YOU just can't beat produce from Lancashire and the North-West when it comes to food and drink.

Most people look to France for taste and quality. But food that is just as good is on our Lancashire doorsteps if only we take a look.

So Lancashire County Council has teamed up with store-chain Booth's to bring the best of local food to Vision readers.

Since June 1847, five generations of the Booth family have led Booth's from its humble beginnings as one small shop, to its current position with 26 stores across the northern counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire and Cumbria.

It celebrated its 160th anniversary in 2007.

Specialising in providing quality food and drink sourced from the four regions, the heart of Booth's success is a fresh approach to retailing that has earned the company its deserved position as the UK's award-winning leading regional retailer.

From the very basic items needed for everyday living through to exclusive products to Booth's, we offer a wide range of fresh, regional and seasonal food and drink, at competitive prices, alongside some great in-store offers. At least 25 per cent of the products in Booth's at any one time are locally produced and 100 per cent of our fresh beef, lamb and pork comes from the four regions.

We are also strong on local fresh fruit and vegetables.

Booth's is offering five lucky readers the chance to win one of five Lancashire hampers, filled with some of the best local produce from the region.

Simply answer the following question and send your completed entry to: Hamper competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ.



Q: Which anniversary did Booth's celebrate in 2007?

Name

Address

Postcode

tel no

☐ Please tick here if you do not wish to receive more information on Booth's.

SAVE A STAMP. Don't forget, you can enter Vision competitions online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision Lancashire County Council employees cannot enter. Usual competition terms and conditions apply.

Explosive firm fined £2,000

A LANCASHIRE-based storage company has been prosecuted for storing fireworks without an explosives licence.

The business was ordered to pay fines and court costs totalling more than £2,000 following the discovery of 25 pallets of live fireworks at its Oakenclough premises in February 2007.

Under health and safety rules,

businesses storing fireworks must register themselves with the county council and, for larger quantities, obtain an explosives licence so that trading standards officers can check whether they pose a risk to nearby businesses and houses.

The offence involved almost two tonnes of explosive material. The company has now improved its procedures.

Adult-ed is splash hit for Gretna duo

TRUE love has truly blossomed for a couple who met in unusual circumstances while on an adventure break.

Johanne Burke met Paul Foster over six years ago when taking part in an outdoor education pursuits programme organised by Galloway's Society for the Blind and the county council's Lancashire Adult Learning.

But the couple have had to overcome their own personal challenges. Paul lost his sight after a motorbike accident at the age of 21 and Johanne suffers with a rare condition called Alstrom syndrome which affects eye sight, the heart, kidneys and liver.

While on the outdoor pursuits programme at Lancashire College in Chorley, Johanne and Paul took part in canoeing. Johanne, a non-swimmer, fell out of the canoe and Paul hurled her back into the boat.

In return Johanne thanked Paul by throwing a bucket of water over him in a fun splash. From then on they've been the best of friends.

After gaining confidence Johanne entered mainstream education at the Adult College in Lancaster, to learn basic skills and computing. In addition, she has achieved level-two



canoeing, enjoys music and making her own cards.

Paul, with his guide dog Glint, has taken part in many mountain walks, including scaling Scafell. In 2007, Paul took part in a leadership course and he says he now has the confidence to book the travel arrangements to take Johanne to Torquay to see the specialist in her field of illness.

Now they successfully and independently manage their own home with equipment adapted for the visually impaired.

Lyn Garside, activities co-ordinator for Galloway's, said: "We're

all really delighted for Johanne and Paul and it's thanks to our outdoor pursuits programme that they got together. Both have developed so much confidence from the activities."

She added, "Our partnership with the college stretches back 15 years and hundreds of visually impaired people have taken part in the varied activities and residential courses on offer at the college."

The happy couple tied the knot in February at a wedding ceremony in Gretna Green, joined by friends and family, and of course, Glint.

You're telling us!

Send your letters to:
The Editor, Vision, Corporate Communications Group,
County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ,
neil.graham@ccsl.lancscc.gov.uk

Whose rates?

A PREVIOUS edition of Vision headlined that rates in Lancashire had been kept at below the rate of inflation.

Yet my local newspaper states that rates in West Lancashire have risen by above the rate of inflation.

Is someone speaking with a forked tongue?

MR D PALIN
Aughton

■No-one is speaking with a forked tongue. The article stated that Lancashire County Council had increased rates – the Council Tax – by 2.95 per cent, while the latest figure for the Retail Price Index indicates that the inflation rate is 4.1 per cent. The bill people receive through their doors also contains tax demands from a number of other organisations and their demands may or may not be above the inflation rate. Lancashire County Council is only responsible for its own element of the bill and that has increased by less than the rate of inflation – editor.

Parking blues

ONE of your readers (You're Telling Us! April) says people should keep calm in car parks.

Let me explain why people get alarmed at some Blue Badge users. The primary purpose of a Blue Badge is to allow a person who may have difficulty in walking to park, or be delivered, as near as possible to where they want to be.

This does not mean that they can park all day and go for a walk which, I think, some badge-holders think they can.

Yes, they should have the facility to park, but not then go for a walk. Let's be fair!

MR W PARR
Morecambe

Free travel

PLEASE can you tell me if you are allowing the free bus pass for a disabled person to take a carer on the bus for free.

I believe it is called a companion bus pass.

WENDY HILLING

■There isn't such provision in the recently launched concessionary Nowcard – its precise scope is decided by district and borough councils in each area and the scheme is still young. There may be some help available in travelling to and from health treatment for people on low income or on some benefits. More details are in the leaflet, "Help with Health Costs", available from JobCentrePlus – editor.

Head this way

AS a cyclist who frequently uses the new Knott End to Fleetwood ferry, it is most frustrating to arrive at Knott End to find that the ferry is not operating due to low water (and it is a long ride round).

Are ferry schedules available for download from the internet?

BRIAN TOLAN
Leyland

■There is some easily available information on ferry times.

People can ring Wyre Marine on 07793 270934 or visit www.wyrebc.gov.uk which contains daily ferry times, and also explains when access is limited and when a replacement bus will be running in place of the ferry – editor.

Royal link-up

I NOTICED the article about the royal stamp in the April edition of Vision.

I am very interested in local history and am a volunteer for the Weavers' Triangle in Burnley.

The article said a number of things about Lancashire's royal connections, but didn't say that the Queen still holds the title of Duke of Lancaster.

A lot of Lancashire and other parts of England are still the Duchy of Lancaster's.

The second oldest brother – Prince Andrew – holds the title of Duke of York.

The oldest son of the monarch is Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall. I sent the Queen a teddy bear for her 80th birthday!

MRS P METCALFE
Burnley

Message to mum

IT IS often said that breast is best, but no-one seems to say why.

Well, mums, it takes about an hour and the milk carries your fat to the baby. You need peace and quiet.

Result: a bonny baby and a slim, happy mum!

MRS A GOURLAY
Lancaster

LEARN WHILE YOU EARN

LANCASHIRE County Council will be hosting a series of events and courses this month as part of national Adult Learners' Week to inspire people to pursue courses in adult learning.

Adult Learners' Week will run from 17 to 23 May.

The county council's Lancashire Adult Learning service and its adult colleges will be encouraging adults across the county to try new courses, learn new skills and have fun.

As part of the campaign, Lancashire College in Chorley is celebrating National Learning at Work Day by offering employers and employees the chance to visit the college and see what is on offer.

The event will be take place on Thursday

22 May and focus on the importance of personal development through work-based learning.

The aim is to emphasise the importance of adult education in the workplace.

Visitors will have the opportunity to try courses and see how open learning can benefit their business.

There will be also information, advice and staff will be on hand to give free, impartial advice about careers training and learning opportunities.

The college will be open between 10am and 3pm and refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Dawn Vickers at Lancashire College on 01257 276719 or visit: www.lal.lancashire.gov.uk

A New Waste Management Strategy for Lancashire 2008 to 2020

Rubbish to Resources

“Our 10-year partnership of 15 councils has been an outstanding success and Lancashire is in the forefront of waste management innovation and practice. We have achieved most of our early goals but to divert each extra percentage of waste from landfill becomes progressively more challenging. Lancashire's 600,000 households all need to play their part if we are to build on the partnership's sound foundations. Please let us know if you think we are moving on the right lines or if you think any changes or different targets are needed. The enthusiasm and co-operation of householders is the key to our future success.”

Councillor Graham Sowter



Lancashire Waste Partnership
Chairman

In 2001, we published the waste management strategy for Lancashire **A Greener Strategy for a Greener Future**. In it we set ourselves challenging targets for reducing waste growth and increasing recycling and composting, to be delivered by all 15 local authorities across the County. The revised strategy **Rubbish to Resources** will look to build on our progress since the 2001 strategy.

Why do we need to do anything? Well, in 2006/07 householders alone produced more than 720,000 tonnes of waste. On average, that's more than 1 tonne produced by every household every year. Most of this waste (61%) still went to landfill although the amount recycled or composted grew.

Traditionally, landfill has been seen as the cheapest and easiest option for waste disposal but as this changes, so we must change the way we collect and manage this waste or face the environmental and financial consequences.

This document presents the targets and key principles of the 2001 strategy showing how the waste hierarchy priorities were delivered in Lancashire. It details what we have achieved and goes on to propose new and even more challenging targets for the future.



Targets from the 2001 strategy

Reduce and Reuse

Reduce and stabilise waste growth to 1% per year

Provide £2 Million per year for waste reduction projects

What have we achieved?

Waste is currently growing on average at 0.5 % per year

Education and awareness programmes together with a number of schemes and initiatives have been introduced e.g. home composting, reusable nappies, education for a greener future

Where do we want to be?

Reduce and stabilise waste to no growth each year (0%)

Continue to provide financial support for awareness raising campaigns and initiatives. This includes provision of an environmental education service to a minimum of 300 primary school classes per year in Lancashire and Blackpool and a stronger focus on local market development

Recycle and Compost

To introduce a 3-stream kerbside collection service to 90% of households by 2005

Recycle and compost 40% of all waste by 2005 and 56% by 2015

Recycle and compost 36% of household waste by 2005 and 58% by 2015

50% recovery of waste brought to the HWRCs

Contractual/working arrangements between the partners will be put in place to ensure the targets are achieved

In 2005, over 80% of properties were served by a 3-stream collection. By 2007 over 90% of properties were served by a scheme

In 2005, 31% of waste was recycled and composted. By 2007 this figure had risen to 39%

In 2005, 29% of household waste was recycled and composted. By 2007 this figure had risen to 37%

Currently on average 70% of waste is reused, recycled and composted.

A property based cost sharing arrangement has been established between Lancashire and 11 district councils, whereby LCC provide financial and professional support based on the number of households that receive the 3 stream collection. A contract between Blackpool and Lancashire County Council is also in place regarding the provision of facilities for treating waste

To extend the 3-stream collection service to all households (where appropriate)

Recycle and compost 56% of all waste by 2015; Recycle and compost 61% of all waste by 2020;

Recovery of 81% of all waste by 2015
Recovery of 88% of all waste by 2020

Reuse, recycle and compost 70% every year at all our HWRCs.

Support will continue to be provided by LCC to those partner authorities in the cost sharing agreement to enable them to meet the challenging targets set.

Recovery Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council

WDA will provide/develop waste treatment facilities for recycling and composting

Lancashire will be sub-divided into 9 catchment areas for the purpose of locating waste management facilities.

Treatment in the form of Energy from Waste Incineration will be provided

Given the strength of feeling communicated through the strategy consultation in 2000, Lancashire and Blackpool have reviewed the proposal for treating residual waste through energy from waste incineration and have chosen instead to pursue the option of mechanical biological treatment of their residual waste.

Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council's waste will be managed at:
3 large central treatment facilities with Mechanical Biological Treatment, enclosed composting and recycycle handling; and supporting satellite facilities where waste will be bulked up for transfer to the larger facilities.
The three larger central treatment facilities or "Waste Technology Parks" will be located at Leyland, Thornton and Huncoat, with waste transfer station sites at Preston, West Lancashire, Pendle, Clitheroe and Lancaster.

Recovery* of 81% of all waste by 2015

Recovery* of 88% of all waste by 2020

*Recovery includes recycling, composting and treatment

2 million trees to be planted using the material from the composting process

Work has begun on identifying potential brownfield sites throughout Lancashire and Blackpool for regeneration/restoration

2.5 million trees will be planted in Lancashire and Blackpool over the next 25 years using material from the residual waste treatment facility.

Recovery- Blackburn with Darwen

WDA will provide/develop waste treatment facilities for recycling and composting

Treatment in the form of Energy from Waste Incineration will be provided (review need in 2005)

Blackburn with Darwen has decided not to join with the Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council contract to treat municipal waste through Mechanical Biological Treatment. As yet, no decision has been made into their preferred method of treatment.

Blackburn with Darwen are still considering the inclusion of energy from waste incineration. No site has yet been identified for the facility but it is likely to be within the administrative boundary of the Council.

Disposal: landfill

Divert 80% of biodegradable municipal waste away from landfill by 2010.

In 2006 37% diverted from landfill

Divert 80% of biodegradable municipal waste away from landfill by 2010
Divert 88% of all waste away from landfill by 2020











Please return to Waste & Minerals Policy Group
Lancashire County Council
Freepost PR 844
P.O.Box 9
Guild House
Preston PR1 3BR

In order to meet these challenging targets we need your continued support of the new services and schemes provided.
The previous section outlines the proposed way forward, describing how we are putting in place new forms of technology to treat the waste collected, but what does this all mean to you?

At your home

We will extend the separate collection service for residual, dry recyclables and garden waste to all households by 2010 with the following materials collected;

-  **Cardboard**
-  **Paper**
-  **Glass**
-  **Metals**
-  **Textiles**
-  **Plastic bottles**
-  **Garden waste (if you have a garden)**
-  **Non-recyclable waste**

To encourage you to minimise your waste and use these separate collections, we will continue to provide each household with a **standard wheeley bin for all your non recyclable waste, but we will not collect any waste left beside that bin (side waste).**

- ▶ We will provide a **separate collection for food waste to all households**. The way we collect this will reflect the most convenient and cost effective solution depending on the type of property you live in, for example;
- ▶ If you have a garden and we already collect your green waste in a separate bin, then we will encourage you to put your food waste in this bin which we will continue to collect fortnightly.
- ▶ If you do not have a garden and so do not already have a separate bin for green waste, you will be provided with a container for your food waste which will be collected at least every fortnight.

What ever type of property you live in, if you are still concerned about the potential for smells and flies, you will still have the opportunity to put your food waste in your non recyclable bin which will be collected at least every alternate week. However, please do remember that the more food waste you take out of your non recyclable bin, the more we can treat through our composting facilities and sell on to market, keeping our waste management costs down and our recycling and composting rates up.

The treatment facilities we are putting in place for composting food waste from Lancashire's and Blackpool's households will be available from 2010. Your local collection authority will let you know when you can start to separate your food waste out.

At the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

During 2008 we will be reviewing all our HWRCs, their location, layout and service, to be sure this network compliments our kerbside collection.

We will:

- ▶ **improve and modernise the delivery of the service** to achieve the highest levels of customer satisfaction and health and safety as well as embracing the resource recovery philosophy;
- ▶ **continue to target the high volume/tonnage materials not currently recycled or collected at the kerbside;**
- ▶ **tackle the difficult and more polluting wastes** such as paint, batteries, and electrical items and by 2010 we will provide a collection point for them at the HWRCs in Blackpool and Lancashire. The technology that we are providing for the long term management of waste in Lancashire and Blackpool is sensitive to these 'dirty' materials and we need to make sure that this material is taken out of the residual waste.

Other wastes

- ▶ **By 2010 separate 'recycling' litter bins** will be provided in our major towns and city centres. We are also responsible for collecting and managing waste collected from litter bins and picked up from street sweeping and litter. We want to ensure that whether you're at home, or out and about, you have the opportunity to recycle your waste. During 2008, we will pilot schemes across Lancashire to test which schemes work best.
- ▶ **By 2010 we will provide an effective segregated collection service at all schools and municipal buildings** We need to ensure that the waste we collect from schools and our own municipal buildings is managed so that resource recovery is maximised. This also provides us with an opportunity to get the resource recovery message into our schools, through our education programmes and the on-site collection systems for recycling so that we can put what is being taught into practice.

- ▶ **By 2010 all commercial waste services** we provide will supply a **segregated recycling collection service**. Waste Collection Authority's, when requested to do so, have a duty to arrange collection of Trade Waste (from businesses etc).

This material can be very similar in composition to household waste and we recognise the opportunity to extend our resource recovery philosophy to manage this waste stream.

Cost Implications

Whatever approach we take to managing our municipal waste will require substantial investment. Doing the minimum does not mean we can avoid these costs. There will be significant financial penalties if we do not stay within the landfill allowances Government has set for us, as well as the environmental and social consequences.

We want to get the most for your money and we believe this means dealing with waste in a greener, more sustainable way. The investment needed to put in place all the measures outlined in this document will be no more than if we were to do nothing.

Pages 2 and 3 of this document highlight key revisions to the 2001 strategy targets and principles. It is proposed that these "updated" principles will be taken forward and feature in the revised strategy.

Now is your chance to tell us what you think?

Please complete the tear off form below and let us know what you think of our proposals, as well as adding any other comments you wish to make.

Cut off along the dotted line, fold, seal and post. It's as simple as that. Alternatively an electronic version of this document can be viewed at www.lancsmwdf.com and comments can be made online.



Please indicated how satisfied are you with the revisions proposed in this consultation document?

1 – very satisfied 2 – satisfied 3 – no opinion 4 – dissatisfied 5 – very dissatisfied

Please circle

Reduce and Reuse	1	2	3	4	5
Recycle and Compost	1	2	3	4	5
Recovery – Lancashire and Blackpool	1	2	3	4	5
Recovery – Blackburn with Darwen	1	2	3	4	5
Disposal in landfill	1	2	3	4	5

Do you have any other comments you wish to make?

Please tell us your postcode

Unity is strength in fight against abuse

VULNERABLE adults will be helped to stay safe following the launch of a new multi-agency agreement for Lancashire.

The county council, police, NHS and care services, are teaming up to work together to look after vulnerable adults - a service including a new dedicated telephone and website.

Written guidance is to raise awareness of adult abuse and to make it easier for the public and care professionals to report their concerns.

The policy will benefit older people and adults with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health problems.

Abuse can take various forms including physical, emotional, financial, sexual, psychological mistreatment or neglect. And it can take place at home, at work, in hospitals, care homes or day centres.

Richard Jones, executive director of Adult and Community Services at Lancashire County Council, said: "Robust procedures are in place for safeguarding vulnerable adults and to encourage the reporting of suspected abuse, and to take the appropriate action."

"Our aim is to raise awareness among the public and staff within health and social care services; to help people recognise what constitutes abuse; and to explain what to do if someone suspects abuse."



●SAFEGUARD in place for older people: Margaret Flynn, Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Strategic Board chair, and Richard Jones, executive director of Adult and Community Services at Lancashire County Council.

NEWS BRIEFS

Councillors on the mat

COUNTY decision-makers will be on the mat at a public "question time" on Tuesday 20 May.

The regular sessions allow members of the public to grill members of Lancashire County Council's Cabinet whose decisions affect highways, education, social care, transport, libraries and museums.

Senior councillors present will include Hazel Harding, leader; finance chief Anne Brown, adult services boss Chris Cheetham; children and young people supreme Marcus Johnstone and schools boss Vali Patel.

Discussions will start at 7.15pm at Garstang Golf and Country Club.

Free bus travel: new concessions explained

How do I qualify for a NoWCard?

You qualify for a NoWCard if you are 60 years of age and over or disabled as set out in national criteria (see www.nowcard.org/proofofdisability.asp)

Where do I apply for a NoWCard?

You can apply for a NoWCard from your local authority. Please call the NoWCard Helpline on 0845 0581096 for the nearest office accepting applications.

I am going on holiday in England. Can I use my NoWCard to travel there for free?

As long as you are travelling on local bus services and not on express or excursion services such as National Express then you can use your NoWCard anywhere in England. Your NoWCard is not valid on journeys to or within Scotland and Wales.

What concession do I receive before 09:30 and after 23:00?

There is no concession available before 09:30 on weekdays in Lancashire. If you travel before 09:30 you will be required to pay the full fare. Cards can be used after 23:00 in Lancashire.

What is a local bus service?

A local bus service would include any type of town bus service; a rural service which observes all bus stops on the route and inter-urban services observing all bus stops and which may include a limited stop section of route where the distance between stops is within 15 miles (21.4 kms).

Services which observe stops over 15 miles are regarded as "Express services" - for example, National Express or Megabus.com services. You will not be able to travel free on these services. Excursion-type services which are primarily for end-to-end journeys, or services which charge a premium fare, may not qualify.

Can I use my NoWCard on Preston's Park and Ride services?

Yes, you can use your NoWCard on Preston's Park and Ride.

Can I use my NoWCard on trains or the London Underground?

No, but your NoWCard National Concession bus pass allows you free off-peak travel on local bus services throughout England, including buses in London.

Why has the concession been withdrawn before 09:30?

The National Scheme funding is only for off-peak concessions.

Can I use my NoWCard on Blackpool trams or the Knott End ferry?

Yes, this is an additional concession offered by the local authorities in Lancashire to their NoWCard holders. The concession is available off-peak only.

Can I use my NoWCard on Manchester Metrolink Trams?

No, it will not be accepted for a concession on Metrolink.

Where can I find information on bus services?

For information about bus services please contact Traveline 0871 2002233, open 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week (calls from landlines cost 10p per minute).

I have a NoWCard but cannot travel on my own; can my carer have a NoWCard to travel with me?

Carer or companion concessions are not a statutory requirement and none of the Travel Concession Authorities of Lancashire currently offers this concession.

Who pays for my concession?

The English National Concession is funded by HM Government with the district council in your area. Lancashire County Council administers the scheme on behalf of all Lancashire district and unitary authorities.

What is the difference in concession between a disabled person's NoWCard and an Over-60s NoWCard?

There is no difference in the concession offered to Over-60 and Disabled NoWCard holders.

My child is severely disabled. Are they entitled to a NoWCard?

If your child meets the eligibility criteria and is over five, they will be entitled to a NoWCard National Concession bus pass. See question 2 for details on how to apply.

If I lose my NoWCard, can I get a replacement?

You can get a replacement card by contacting the local authority that issued your card. There is a £10 fee for replacement cards. Your replacement pass will be sent by post to your home address.

Do I need to let NoWCard know when I change my address?

Yes, it is important that the details NoWCard hold for you are correct. For example, if you lost your bus pass and it was found it could be sent back to you, preventing you from having to pay for a replacement card.

How soon before my 60th birthday can I apply for my NoWCard?

You can apply up to two weeks before your 60th birthday.

Why does my card have an expiry date on it?

The Government has set a maximum expiry date of five years for National Concession bus passes. Disabled passes may have an earlier expiry date - some disabilities are not permanent.

Can I use my NoWCard on Community Transport?

NoWCards are valid on Community Transport services after 09:30. Currently, Blackpool, Burnley and Pendle provide half-fare concessions, other areas are free.

No concession?

Even without a NoWCard, there is a lot of help in getting around Lancashire:

Traveline (0871 2002233) provides up-to-date local and national transport information. It is open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

For those with internet access, there is a journey-planner on: www.transportforlancashire.com. The site helps you plan your trip from stop to stop. It features bus timetables for all bus services in Lancashire.

Many bus stops allow you to receive information by mobile-phone text. Just text the bus stop code to 84268 - within seconds you will receive timetable information for the next three or four buses from that stop.

Traditional timetables, maps and guides are available from Lancashire County Council information and tourism information centres, from many libraries or by email to: timetable-orders@env.lancsc.gov.uk

County hopes for Olympic gold

BRITAIN'S 2012 Olympics could be a springboard to promote culture and the arts in Lancashire, according to a county council probe.

Olympic organisers want the four-year run-up to be an opportunity to boost culture and pride in every corner of Britain - and Lancashire County Council is considering a bid for a slice of £60m of earmarked cash.

Any bid will be just one element of a cultural renaissance for Lancashire that, it is hoped, will follow an overhaul of arts funding in Lancashire.

Other steps recommended by a county council Overview and Scrutiny taskforce include ensuring that existing "cultural" provision is fairly spread across the county and that financial support can be applied for from new and emerging organisations.

"The Olympics will be preceded by a Cultural Olympiad nationally - and Lancashire should be a part of that", said County Councillor Ed Forshaw, overview and scrutiny deputy chair.

"Culture is about more than just art.

By Neil Graham

It can involve sport, history - and even things such as televising the Olympics on large screens in parks, so that people can watch the Olympics in family groups."

A total of £514,000 per year is currently spent on arts development in Lancashire - almost certainly an under-estimate as a number of grants are made by Whitehall-funded organisations.

But county councillors are keen to ensure value for money and that existing provision meets current needs.

Cultural policy should also, they believe, be embedded in Local Area Agreements, so that such provision is considered at an early stage of policy making.

Councillor Forshaw added: "We need to ensure that money is targeted where it should be and that arts projects are in accord with our aims for the people of Lancashire."

"We also want to make it simpler for new groups to bid for cash support."

Free Part Time Nursery Education places in Lancashire for 3 and 4 year olds

If you have a child born on or between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2005 your child is entitled to a free part-time pre-school nursery education place from the start of the Summer Term 2008 commencing in April.

A free place consists of a maximum of five sessions per week and no more than sixty five sessions for the Summer term. A free session is for a period of 2.5 hours in length. There are three terms in the year, covering a total of 38 weeks.

Places are available from any of Lancashire County Council's eligible providers of pre-school nursery education.

These can be Local Authority (LA) maintained nursery schools and nursery classes, providers in the independent, private and voluntary sectors or accredited childminders on an approved National Childminding Association (NCMA) Children Come First Network.

Further information including a Parent Guide and a list of eligible providers within your area may be obtained from the Childcare Information Service on Freephone 0800 195 0137.

SureStart

Lancashire
County Council



LOOK LIVELY

Voice of
Vision



Louise Kite
Assistant regeneration
officer

Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL) is a not-for-profit company that provides economic and business opportunities across Lancashire on behalf of the county council. Louise Kite explains how LCDL helps people find work and develop their ideas.

What does your work involve?

We help people in Lancashire who aren't working find work, and we equip people with the skills and opportunities to set up a business. If people have ideas for a project we will provide support to get it going.

What types of people do you work with?

It could be anyone, but mainly people in deprived areas of the county. We help vulnerable groups - young people who aren't in employment, education or training, ex-offenders, ethnic minorities and people with mental health problems.

What sort of projects have you helped to get going?

I set up a work-placement scheme for undergraduates in the tourism industry. We gave students 12-month placements at small- to medium-sized businesses, and it helped develop their skills while giving the businesses a valuable support. The scheme recently won a highly commended award from the National Council of Work Experience.

Which other organisations do you work with to set up projects?

Everyone from the council's larger partners all the way down to community groups and everyone between. We get the projects started, and then work with other bodies to make sure everything works successfully.

Are people eager to be involved?

Our aim is to change people's lives and when we give them an opportunity, they will grab it with both hands. It's very rewarding to see a project make a difference. I know the importance of steady work for people - I am getting married this spring, so I know how people need to plan ahead in their lives.

If people have an idea, how can they contact you to discuss it?

They can give me a call on 01772 53600 and we will do anything we can to help.

Ex-pupils flock to school of the future

HOPSCOTCH, skipping and conkers could be on the curriculum when former pupils celebrate an extension to their old school.

They may be a little older and a little greyer, but hundreds of former St John's CE Primary School pupils are to be invited to go down memory lane at the

Great Harwood school.

An injection of cash has ended a cash drought for building works at the school. Two classrooms are being doubled in size - and headteacher Darren Mussel has hopes for even more improvements in the future.

He said: "We've already started organising celebrations and have found old photographs

from 50 years ago. Many former pupils are still in the area!

"We will be inviting them to the school. They can come just to swap memories or they can bring their old artefacts.

"The school has changed tremendously over the years. I hope the former pupils will show today's pupils some of the traditional playground games such as

skipping and hopscotch."

Modern-day pupils will run a café for the former pupils, before planting a time capsule for future generations.

Darren added: "There is to be a huge programme of renewing Lancashire primary schools in the next few years, and hopes are high that St John's will get even better facilities."

Human nature - to a tea

Everyone likes a cuppa, but Alan's thirst for knowledge took 12,000 miles to quench

EVERY Lancastrian knows the pleasure of tea.

But few people have travelled two continents in search of the perfect cuppa.

Motorcyclist Alan Whelan did just that when he left Lancashire last autumn to head through Europe and Africa to find out what makes people tick.

Drinking tea with locals, Alan thought, would provide the perfect insight into differing ways of life.

And after riding his Triumph Tiger through desert and jungle, mud and sand, Alan has now returned to Lytham with enough material for a book.

And surprise, surprise he got to South Africa and met...two Lancaster residents who had read about his odyssey in a book!

Spain, Senegal, Gambia, Congo, Zanzibar, South Africa - each cup of tea shared has been used as an opportunity to reflect about people and places in a book.

Freelance writer Alan said: "African cups of tea are totally different from English cups of tea. What they all have in common is that it is a social glue.

"Wherever you go, people make a ritual out of it. It's an excuse to



●ADVENTURE: Alan in muddy Cameroon, en-route from Lancashire to Cape Town.

●(Inset) ALAN's cultural mission started in Lancashire. He is pictured on his return with Hazel Harding, Lancashire County Council leader.

sit down and talk about life."

Near the Congo border Alan swerved to avoid a goat, came off his bike and broke his collar bone. Friendly locals took him many miles to hospital - where there was no food, no sheets and little medication. Despite the country's poverty he was taken to a better-equipped hospital in the capital.

Alan's routine involved biking to a village and seeking out someone to share a cuppa.

And although he took a tent, he never took it from its bag as many people offered accommodation for the night.

At every point, he updated his blog - www.abhaha.com. As well as observations about global humanity, each entry features insightful observations on the area. His observations on Blackpool are particularly thought-provoking.

Alan's trip raised almost £3,000

for health and education projects in Cape Town. Fittingly, one project makes craft objects out of dried teabags.

Alan added: "I was really looking forward to getting to one of the Cape Town projects. When I got there, there were about 100 people there to meet me - and two of them said they had read about my trip in Vision!

"People really are very similar deep down wherever you go."

Library's healthy future

RESIDENTS of Crawshawbooth in Rossendale are to benefit from a £495,000 capital investment programme to extend and refurbish the local library and youth and community centre.

The county council decision will mean complete refurbishment of the existing premises, improved facilities and the provision of new services for the whole community.

Some of the cash will be used to extend and refurbish the existing library and youth and community centre to make them more suitable for families and young people.

Refurbishment will see the library double in size and include a new roof, windows, rewiring, and heating system and improved thermal and fire-resisting efficiencies.

The project will feature a youth and com-

munity centre.

Health services will be an integral part of the new building.

County Councillor Chris Cheetham, Lancashire County Council libraries' chief, said: "The whole community will benefit.

"I am confident that other public-sector partners will want to use this facility in the future which will bring more services to Crawshawbooth."

Enhanced local libraries will, it is expected, boost Lancashire's Every Child Matters project which aims to improve "joined-up" working between departments that support children and their families.

The library offers activities ranging from reading groups to class visits, with an emphasis on family and local history with oral history sessions, hidden-memory events, and family history workshops.

Happy (book) returns

ACCRINGTON Library's oldest "customer" is celebrating her 100th birthday on...the library's 100th birthday.

It is 100 years since the library - then funded by American steel magnate Andrew Carnegie - first opened its doors. Schoolgirl Edith Howarth became an early customer and still uses its services every week.

Accomplished pianist Edith has borrowed thousands of books and pieces of music in her time and now has regular visits from home librarian Lyn Brady.

As well as a letter from the queen, Edith enjoyed a bunch of flowers from library staff.

Much has changed since Mr Carnegie first paid for the library as a repository for books - a new Telly Talk computer-camera allows people to speak direct to county council customer services officers about a wide range of council services.



Separate lives

Are different communities destined to forever live apart?
Lancashire County Council believes not

SPECIAL REPORT

By KATIE HEATON on an innovative plan to aid integration between communities

Property puzzlers

You need to know the who, what, where and why before you improve your home, says trading standards expert Julian Edwards



Q: I have been told I can no longer do DIY as work on buildings has to be covered by Building Regulations approval.

A: There have always been controls on work carried out on buildings to ensure that work is carried out properly and in accordance with current building and safety standards. While this is generally understood for new structural alterations there has recently been a growth in regulations on environmental and safety standards for building works which might have an impact on householders carrying out DIY or having works carried out by tradesmen.

While the controls can be seen to be restrictive, it is a fact that defects in property are not always immediately obvious. Controls on standards of work are in the long-term interest of the householder as buildings should be altered properly with improvements to the energy efficiency of buildings.

While specialist contractors should be aware of the regulations there are potential pitfalls for householders doing DIY or where work is done by contractors working beyond their own specialism.

When you are carrying out structural alterations or work relating to heating, energy efficiency, gas or electricity you are strongly advised to seek advice.

For structural changes, your first contact is the Building Control section of your district council. You may also need planning approval.

There are further controls which are dispensed with if you use an approved contractor.

For example:

■ **Double glazing** - covered by building control approval unless installed by a FENSA-registered installer. It is the householder's responsibility to ensure the contractor is properly registered. If you carry the work out yourself then building control approval is necessary.

■ **Electrical installations** - with minor exceptions building control approval is needed unless installed by a properly qualified and registered installer. For example, a member of NICEIC or ECA. If you have a fitted kitchen installed the electrical work needs to be installed by a registered installer. If not, or you carry out installation yourself, then building control approval is necessary.

■ **Gas** - by law only a competent person can carry out work on gas appliances or fittings. Tradesmen must be CORGI registered. Not all plumbers are competent to work with gas appliances. A kitchen fitter or general builder may not be properly qualified or registered. DIY work on gas appliances or fittings could be dangerous and is likely to be illegal. The regulations are dealt with by the Health and Safety Executive.

While the restrictions can be seen as onerous they are there to ensure that work is carried out safely and that the standards included in buildings are improved when alterations and modifications are carried out.

If you have a complaint as to the standard of work carried out by a contractor the existence of these standards and requirements can be of assistance to you as a consumer. Advice on how to proceed with a complaint involving building work can be obtained from Consumer Direct 08454 040506.

PRACTICAL steps are being taken by Asian women in a bid to boost social integration – and help their prospects in life.

Job applications, language barriers, writing CVs ... help is now at hand to end the isolation that can lead to social division and even mental health problems.

Cash help from Hyndburn's Lancashire Local is helping ensure that volunteers from Aawaz, a self-help organisation, can work to end isolation and build social confidence among Asian women.

Zulekha Dala, Aawaz voluntary manager, said: "The work is remarkable, especially when you consider there are no paid staff members."

"Every woman needs to know that there is somewhere they can go to talk in confidence and that's what Aawaz provides for Asian women."

"Many who have been involved with the group have learned to value themselves and some have secured work and education opportunities."

"The group now has over 500 Asian women members across Lancashire who are given support towards self-development, confidence and integration into British society."

Aawaz means "voice" in Urdu as the organization aims to give Asian women the confidence to play a full role in society.

The cash award was one of a large number made annually by Lancashire County Council to increase social "wellbeing".

Hyndburn alone has recently won other cash support aimed at ending social isolation.

Zulekha continued:

"No-one should be isolated, either at a personal level or at a social level."

"This work is so important to ensure Asian women don't become isolated. We want to give them the confidence to communicate with other people



Above ➔ A BRIGHTER future beckons everyone: from left, tutor Zulekha Dala, Asia Bi and Najma Hussain.

and organisations.

"Isolation is an issue and can lead to mental health issues, such as depression."

"This money will help towards more classes and social activities. The classes we run aren't just about learning a new skill; they are about mixing with other women in a social environment."

Aawaz was founded in 1999 by Saeeda Farooq, who has special needs. Mrs Farooq recognised the need for Asian mothers to be aware of help available to them.

The group which was originally based in Accrington has gone from strength to strength, and now provides a service throughout Lancashire.

Anyone wanting more information contact 0780 3132520 or email aawazhyndburn@yahoo.co.uk

WINNING IDEAS

The Lancashire Local Hyndburn committee brings decision-making on county services closer to communities. Similar bodies exist in every part of Lancashire.

Other recent Hyndburn grants: £3,550 for Oswaldtwistle St Mary's FC. Development of playing fields, improving drainage, new changing facility.

£2,500 for Wildlife Trust for Lancashire. Part-funding of staff for Foxhill Bank Nature Reserve.

£2,500 for Hyndburn Neighbourhood Management. For improvements to an Accrington road used heavily by pupils attending Hyndburn Park School.

Similar grants are awarded in every area of Lancashire. For more information, or to apply for a Gateway Grant, contact Mark Waddington on 01772 537697.

Spring listings



Sat 3 May
1.30-3.30pm. Super Saturday: photography. Lancaster City Museum.
1-3.30pm. Maypole Mayhem: craft activity. Turton Tower, tel 01204 852203.
11-4pm. Learn new skills, visit stalls, walk around Spring Wood with a guide. Meet Spring Wood Picnic Site, Whalley.

Mon 5 May
12.30-3.30pm. Fabulous Fleetwood Children's Activities. Fleetwood Museum.
2-4pm. Discover flora and fauna of Wycollier with a ranger. Bring wellies. Meet Aisled Barn, Wycollier.

Thurs 8 May
10-4pm. Circular walk Brock Valley Nature Trail via Beacon Fell Country Park, taking in views of the Lancashire coast. Book on 01995 640557.

Fri 9 May
9-4pm. Moorland walk and investigation of

moorland management. Meet at Garstang Discovery centre. Book on 01995 640557.

Sun 11 May
12-5pm. National Mills Weekend: craft activity. Queen St Mill Textile Museum, Burnley.
Sat 17 May
2-4pm. Be Nice to Nettles Day. Turton Tower, tel 01204 852203.

Sun 18 May
2.30-3.30pm. Museum Ahoy! Themed museum tour. Lancaster Maritime Museum.

Sun 25 May
12.30-3.30pm. Oak apple celebration craft activity. Turton Tower, tel 01204 852203.

Sun 25 May, Mon 26 May
Bank holiday family craft workshop. Helmshore Mills Textile Museum. Tel 01706 226459 for details.

Sun 25 May, Mon 26 May
Boys' Toys at Work.

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum, Burnley.

Mon 26 May
12.30-3.30pm. Fabulous Fleetwood Children's Activities. Fleetwood Museum.

You can find lots of information about events on: www.lancsmuseums.gov.uk and at www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside

Useful phone numbers

Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacon Fell Country Park 01995 640557
Wycollier Country Park 01282 870253
Spring Wood Picnic Site 01254 825187
Lancashire Countryside Service main office 01772 534709
Museums' main office 01772 534061

12-4pm. Fun with friends of Turton Tower.

Tues 27 May
10.30-12.30pm; 1.30-3.30pm. Art and craft workshop. Lancaster Maritime Museum.

11-5pm. On the Ropes. Lancaster Maritime Museum.

27-30 May
10-noon. Half-term holiday activities. Queen St Mill Textile Museum, Burnley.

Wed 28 May
12.30-3.30pm. Fabulous Fleetwood Children's Activities. Fleetwood Museum.

10.30-12.30pm; 1.30-3.30pm. Art and craft workshop. Judge's Lodgings, Lancaster.

Neighbourhood Policing



**Lancashire
Constabulary**

police and communities together

Neighbourhood Policing in Lancashire means working with the public and other agencies to create confident, safer and secure neighbourhoods, where police and partners understand the issues that matter to local people and are able to tackle them together.

Local people are given the opportunity to identify issues in their neighbourhood through Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings. Neighbourhood Policing teams get to know local people meaning they have a better understanding of the problems faced in local neighbourhoods.

How you can influence what we do

PACT – Police and Communities Together meetings give you the chance to meet your neighbourhood policing team every month, have a say on how your neighbourhood is policed and monitor our performance.

- PACT meetings are advertised by posters in your local area or on the Constabulary website www.lancashire.police.uk
- At the PACT meeting you can tell your neighbourhood policing team what issues concern you. After discussion, a smaller group called a PACT panel decides on the top three priorities for the month.
- The neighbourhood policing team will report back to the next meeting on progress on solving the issues – sometimes working with other agencies.
- PACT meetings are open to EVERYONE.

Case Study 1

Reducing anti-social behaviour in Chorley – youth disco is launched

Some months ago local youths had highlighted the lack of 'non-sport' activities in the Chorley Borough for teenagers. Consequently Chorley Inspector Ian Roberts has worked in partnership with the chairman of the local pubwatch scheme, Peter Verhaeghe, to develop a youth nightclub for 13-17 year olds on Friday evenings between 7-10pm. The club is run exactly the same as an adult nightclub – but no alcohol is allowed.

Within six weeks of the original idea, the club called 'R13A's' opened and it now boasts 400 members. Whilst still in its early stages, the future looks positive in terms of providing a beneficial facility for young people and reducing anti-social behaviour in the Chorley area.



Case Study 2

Closure order success leads to better quality of life for residents

Following continued complaints from local residents of anti-social behaviour from one address in Rossall Street, Preston, Local Community Beat Officer, PC Stuart Bromley sought a closure order from Preston magistrates in which led to the successful removal of the occupants and resulted in greater quality of life for residents.

The behaviour of the occupants and their visitors had caused disruption, anxiety and fear amongst local people.

Inspector John Ainsworth commented, "Since the occupants have been removed from the area, we have received a great deal of positive feedback from members of the community highlighting the vast improvements to their quality of life."

"We are delighted to make this positive impact on the community and rely on information from members within the community to help to address this type of behaviour. We hope to send out the message that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated by communities and the police will take action against it."

Case Study 3

Driving down crime

Life has been changing for the better for residents across Broadgate, Preston thanks to their Neighbourhood Policing Team and the crucial support of the local community and its community groups.

In the period September to December 2007 burglary in the Broadgate area had fallen by 84% on the same period during 2006, whilst criminal damage offences across the ward were reduced by 17%. Criminal damage to vehicles and car break-ins on Broadgate and Riverside had dramatically dropped by 87%.

How have these reductions in crime been achieved?

At the request of local people, shift patterns of the Broadgate policing team have been changed to maximise the police coverage across the ward area. But local officers give equal credit for these crime reductions to the crucial support they receive week-in week-out from a thriving Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Broadgate Residents Action Group (BRAG) and all of the members of a thriving PACT group.

It is as a result of these residents groups work, that funding has secured the purchase, and ongoing installation of CCTV at the junction of Bow Lane and Fishergate Hill. This new camera will provide 24-hour a day police coverage of these extensively used thoroughfares into and out of the city, allowing greater safety and security for pedestrians using these busy routes.

PC Carl Ingram commented, "The hard work and support of local people from across the ward has been fantastic and reassures me that when people say that community spirit no longer exists they are wrong, it is alive and well across the Broadgate ward. We now have the active support of 'BRAG', a thriving PACT Group and have 16 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators in place, a community team who are helping to support local policing and whose efforts are equally responsible for these fantastic reductions in crime in the area."



Get in touch with your local officer

Your Neighbourhood Policing team wants to work with you to find out what problems you are facing in your community so they can address them. There are a number of things you can do today to get involved with your Neighbourhood Policing Team:

Contact them by phone - **0845 1 25 35 45**

Come along to regular PACT meetings - www.lancashire.police.uk

Each Neighbourhood team has a dedicated page which includes:

- Contact details of your team;
- PACT meeting dates and locations;
- PACT priorities and what action is being undertaken to address the issues you identify
- Neighbourhood news

For further information or non-emergency calls:

0845 1 25 35 45

visit our website:
www.lancashire.police.uk

