

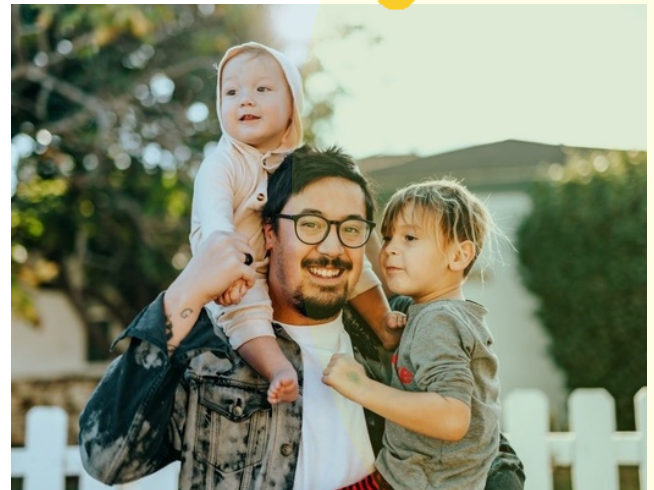


MEMBER NEWSLETTER

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

The Family Support Service COVID-19 Response Project

**We have recently been awarded a
Mayor of Preston Coronavirus Pandemic
City Hero Award for this service!**



The closure of schools and nurseries put increasing pressure on families facing an uncertain future because of COVID-19. Reduction in income, loss of employment and health worries added to the very real problems of losing childcare and supporting the education of their children. The Family Support Service Project provides dedicated help to families, sharing useful information on where to get financial assistance, guidance on available benefits, money saving initiatives and educational and health resources. As Christmas 2020 approached, we were also able to provide food and household supplies and activity packs for children. Further funding provided the resources to run a holiday club, which not only gave children fun filled distractions, but also gave parents some much needed respite! All our childcare services are now open and as recovery begins, we will continue to make family support a priority.

LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY NETWORK

A National Lottery Community Fund COVID-19 Response Project

Village and community halls closed their doors at the start of the first lockdown and whilst some have managed to keep some activity going, many have remained closed since April 2020. Closure raised lots of questions about keeping halls maintained during lockdown as well as measures to enable safe, legal re-opening. No-one knew then how long we would have to wait to get back to normal, but we were keen to work with volunteers to help manage the fall out.



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**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT
DURING THIS VERY TROUBLING YEAR.**

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Thanks to this project, we were able to provide a rapid response service to community and village hall volunteers by giving dedicated advice, guidance and information to as many halls as we could reach in Lancashire. The good news is, we managed to reach more than 80 halls; the not so good news is that because we did not have GDPR compliant contact details for most, we were unable to directly support a lot more. That said, we made good use of all our information channels in the hope that information spread widely and, as people got in touch with us, we were able to add them to our mailing list. It was a very hectic 6-month project! Regular updates on COVID-19 restrictions for village and community halls were sent out, as were helpful templates to create risk assessments, guidance on cleaning and sanitising, reducing the risk of legionnaires disease and much, much more. We also responded quickly to individual questions and helped with the interpretation of what were, at times, confusing regulations! There have been some rather amazing outcomes achieved by volunteers themselves over the past year, not least of all a complete rebuild of a hall, governance and policy reviews and training of trustees. The energy, cheerfulness and commitment have been inspirational! As we move into what is hopefully the recovery stage of COVID-19, we are working with community volunteers to design a new project that will help halls to rebuild their services, engage with their isolated residents and attract more volunteers. We imagine a better future!

COMMUNITY FUTURES CHILDCARE

It has been an extremely challenging year for our Early Years and Out of School Clubs with constantly changing guidance and restrictions and the many financial implications that came with it. However, we are proud to announce that even despite these challenging times we managed to provide a subsidised Holiday club for 5 weeks during the Summer Break and even better than that we were able to offer some free sessions during our Easter Holidays due to grant funded support.



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**SAFEGUARDING IS
EVERYONES
RESPONSIBILITY**

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SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS

As a result of families isolating due to the pandemic and with the Euros football championships, in particular with England currently playing, domestic violence will increase.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is also more likely to be undetected due to school closures and disruption to healthcare services.

It is essential that you are aware of these issues and know how to deal with them.

Find out more on the following websites:

- www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/lancashire/
- lancshirevictimservices.org/lancashire-victim-services-launch-domestic-abuse-campaign/
- www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/

NEW TRUSTEES

Earlier in the year Community Futures welcomed two new trustees to our board.

James has lived and worked in Lancashire for over 20 years, building up experience in partnership working and collaboration with large organisations. He has worked in local government for over five years and also in adult education, Information, Advice and Guidance, the NHS and now works at BBC. He works on technology projects, improving services for customers and audiences. James is excited about bringing his experience to Community Futures.

We look forward to working with James and sharing his knowledge.



James Manning



John Hymas

John joined our trustee board at the end of January, having been retired for the past 8 years.

John and his wife have lived in Mellor for over 30 years having emigrated from their native Yorkshire in the 1980's.

He is a Parish Councillor, and a strong advocate of the power of local communities and the importance of the voluntary sector. John has experienced first hand both the challenges faced and benefits accrued as chairman and a trustee of a local community centre in Lancashire.

THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK. Any group of three or more people that has participated in voluntary work for more than three years can be nominated for the award. Full details on how to nominate are available at qavs.culture.gov.uk/

Nominations for the 2022 awards close on **15 September 2021**.

A webinar workshop on the eligibility, how to prepare nominations and perhaps win a Queens Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) will take place on **Thursday 15th July 2021 11.00am - 11.45 am**. Please contact hannahl@communityfutures.org.uk for the booking link.

Community Futures would love to support your application so please let us know if you apply!



LET'S KEEP TALKING

Talking to others can signpost us and get us on the right track.

Have a chat with someone who can help you in the right direction.

Save the date

Community Futures Annual General Meeting will
take place on **Wednesday 13th October 2021**.
Further details will be announced later.



Community Futures

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