



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Stir to Action working with
Preston City Council

Community Anchors & Community Wealth Building in Preston

In Autumn 2020, Stir to Action partnered with Preston City Council and the Preston Model BAMME advisory group to create a six-week programme that focused on providing targeted support for BAME organisations in the city, stimulating cultural awareness and interest in worker-owned business. Despite the success of Community Wealth Building, as with the wider co-operative movement, there have been some difficulties in ensuring that businesses reflect the diversity of modern Britain and work in the most marginalised communities.

In Preston, the Community Anchors: A Co-operative Recovery programme was co-produced with the groups that participated in the programme, including Pukar Disability Centre, Preston United Youth Development Programme, and Preston Windrush Generation and Descendants UK. The programme supported these local organisations and others to become 'community anchors' that could promote the cultural relevance and benefits of co-operatives through awareness-raising activities, and also signpost their members and users to the latest funding opportunities and business support.

Programme outcomes

"My plans for 2021 are for four or five of my young adults to get off the dole and be involved in setting up a co-operative enterprise." Omar Khan, Preston United Youth Development

"This programme has changed my perception of co-ops. I didn't know they could be led by immigrant women!" Neetal Parekh, BAPS Hindi Mandir



Community Anchors: A Co-operative Recovery

STIR
to
ACTION



Preston
City Council

Follow-on development

In Spring and Summer 2021, Stir to Action, the Preston Cooperative Development Network, Preston City Council, Co-operatives UK, and Cooperation Town have been supporting the cohort to develop new food-buying co-operatives through a 12-week pilot, with three new groups in development in different wards in Preston. Other members of the cohort are in the pre-start phase of exploring how to create a translators and interpreters co-operative that initially specialises in South Asian languages.

For the cohort to continue to meet as a peer-to-peer network, share project updates, receive funding opportunities, and build contact with the wider co-operative sector in Preston, UCLan are hosting a monthly one-hour meetup for the ‘community anchors’

For further information contact:

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