



## COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING



Enterprise and  
social economy

### Preston City Council

## Growing the reach of cooperative enterprise in Preston

Over the past year, PCDN has worked to expand the reach of cooperative enterprise in Preston, aiming to serve as a centre for democratic entrepreneurship and community wealth. Using the expertise and community connections of two Barefoot Practitioners, PCDN has introduced PCDN in the Community (PITC), a weekly advice and coaching service for Prestonians seeking to establish and grow their business or cooperative.

Businesses emerging from this scheme have become part of a network of co-operatively managed enterprises in Preston, receiving ongoing support from PCDN. Until now, the main users of PITC have been individuals and groups traditionally excluded from business ventures and advisory schemes due to socio-economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers.

At the same time, PCDN continues its efforts to develop an eco-system conducive to community wealth building. Links to anchors are being revitalised, with new connections established with accountants, unions, and the long-anticipated North West Mutual, which is set to open its first branch in Preston by the end of the year. With these various components in place, the operating infrastructure of a co-operative economy will be strengthened and better positioned to serve the needs of communities.

Meanwhile, the flagship **Lady Boss catering enterprise programme**, which led to the establishment of a new catering co-operative - Lady Boss Catering (LBC) - continues to grow stronger. LBC has provided catering for several events organised by Preston City Council and is expanding its catering services for the Holiday Activity and Food programmes in the city. The council is actively promoting LBC to other key partners.

Learning from the Lady Boss series influenced the design and delivery of PCDN's latest structured enterprise training programme, **The Clean Collective**, which provides targeted business support to

cleaners alongside tools for democratic business ownership and operation. Almost 90% of cleaners participating in The Clean Collective programme were non-native English speakers born outside the UK, necessitating course content to include essential information on navigating the British entrepreneurial landscape and complying with legal and taxation rules. In line with the concept of community wealth, the group was introduced to local community organisations and businesses, which were encouraged to procure cleaning services from The Clean Collective.

The Clean Collective was delivered in partnership with Kind Communities CIC and funded by Preston City Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Workshops were led by a multilingual PCDN Consultant, with mentors sharing the group's background.



Angela, Eddie, and Kelvin who are setting up 852 Cleaning after participating in Preston's enterprise training programme, the Clean Collective. 852 is the country code for Hong Kong.

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