

GATEWAY IN THE COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2020/21

gateway
in the community



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The last twelve months have been a difficult time for everyone, however, the teams at Community Gateway have gone above and beyond to support residents and local communities, to ensure that all tenants have a safe and secure place to live.

The Community Engagement team have been very busy working closely with tenants to successfully deliver against the Community Engagement Strategy. It's great to see the many more opportunities for people to get involved now with the launch of the engagement portal, dedicated tenant-only Facebook group, online meetings, surveys and other events.

I cannot finish without thanking all the staff at Gateway and Preston Vocational Centre for all the ways they continue to support communities through the Community Fund, Uniform Bank, Purple Pantry, and the many other ways they help.

Here is the Gateway in the Community Impact Report - I hope you enjoy reading it.

Pam Watson
Tenant Board Member



Contact Us

Teams from across Community Gateway work together to support our communities, from helping customers receive benefits and food support, assisting community groups with access to funding, supporting students at our charitable subsidiary Preston Vocational Centre and much more.

Here are the contact details for the teams involved in Gateway in the Community:

GreenCare Team:

✉ GreenCare@communitygateway.co.uk
☎ 0800 953 0213

Community Engagement Team:

✉ Get.Involved@communitygateway.co.uk
☎ 0800 953 0213

Outreach & Support Services Team:

✉ Outreach.Support@communitygateway.co.uk
☎ 0800 953 0213

Tenancy Support Team:

✉ TenancySupport@communitygateway.co.uk
☎ 0800 953 0213

Tenancy Management Team:

✉ TenancyManagement@communitygateway.co.uk
☎ 0800 953 0213

Preston Vocational Centre:

✉ Info@prestonvocationalcentre.co.uk
☎ 01772 880 680

Visit our Facebook and Twitter pages and follow **#GatewayInTheCommunity** to stay up to date with what we get up to! Details of our social media pages can be found on the back page of this booklet.

Evolving Tenant Engagement



Involving You

In 2019/20 we carried out a full review of tenant involvement and engagement. You told us that you wanted more choice about where and when you got involved with us. You said that you really valued the face-to-face opportunities, but also wanted the option to connect with us digitally and more flexibly.

Over the last year we've been working hard to improve our online opportunities so you can better connect with us, in a way, and at a time, that suits you; enabling every tenant to have a voice in shaping our services.

Over the last year, we've introduced several new initiatives.

Tenant-only Facebook Group

Provides a safe place for tenants to discuss what matters most to them; from baking, community events, property repairs, gardening and kids activities, through to training opportunities, top tips, quizzes, competitions, games, special offers and so much more. All provided exclusively for Gateway tenants. We welcome all feedback; both positive, negative and everything in between. It's a real conversational hub about what's going on in your community.

- **606** tenant members
- **400** posts from Gateway colleagues and tenants themselves
- Over **1,900** comments made and over **3,000** reactions and responses to posts
- Over **200** people took part in our live quizzes
- Our Christmas game 'Santa's Rooftop Runner' was played over **4,000** times

Tenant Involvement and Engagement Portal

A central place to get involved with us and have your views heard. Connect with other tenants and have meaningful discussions that we can listen to and act upon.

- **280** tenant members
- Over **7,000** visits to the portal
- Our new App makes it easier to get involved and be heard

Bitesize Involvement Opportunities

Involvement opportunities and activities designed around how much time you have. These can take as little as ten minutes and are a great way for you to get involved.

- Sharing your views digitally allowed us to tailor our support services throughout the pandemic
- Our digital opportunities enabled you to get involved in consultations and have your views heard on a range of topics
- We gathered **1,125** customer views from **25** different consultation exercises

Digital Skills Training

For those needing support to get online and make the most of digital opportunities.

- We issued **20** free devices (phones and tablets) to those in need
- We issued data bundles to help tenants get online and stay connected
- We partnered with the 'Good Things Foundation' to provide basic digital training to all our tenants
- We partnered with 'The Digital College' to deliver accredited qualifications online to those needing to upskill and get job ready. In total, **27** tenants completed **64** training courses and gained qualifications

Digital Community Newsletters

A roundup of the latest news and upcoming events.

- Seven digital newsletters sent to over **300** tenants
- Keeping everyone involved and updated on all things Gateway



Tenant & Member Involvement

As a membership-led housing association, we put our customers at the heart of everything we do and truly value the important contribution you make. Our Gateway Model is based on mutuality and accountability – so you can truly influence decision-making and hold us to account.

Gateway Central

Our strategic tenant committee, Gateway Central, sits directly under our Board and feeds into strategic decisions, ensuring the tenant voice is heard at the top level. Gateway Central keep us on our toes by monitoring our performance and consultation activities. This ensures your voice is effectively sought, listened to and acted upon.

During the pandemic, Gateway Central continued to meet monthly through virtual meetings delivering their important role on behalf of tenants and residents. Over the last year, they have overseen fifteen consultation activities, ensuring we truly listened to and involved our customers every step of the way. Their work means

that tenants actively scrutinise and monitor our performance and help make sure that tenants views are at the heart of decision making.

In 2020/21, we were very proud to have been recognised as an adopter of the 'Together with Tenants Charter'. This led to the development of our Customer Promises, which clearly set out how we will deliver upon the Charter commitments.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all our Gateway Central members for their hard work over the last year and the difference they have made.

If you are interested in getting involved with us, or joining Gateway Central, please contact Sian Coulton:

✉ sian.coulton@communitygateway.co.uk

☎ 0800 953 0213

All the support you need is available, so why not give it a go?

Gateway Promises

Our brand-new Gateway Promises were developed, by tenants, and for tenants. They clearly set out what our customers can expect from us and have been shaped by what our customers want. We listened to the views of **282** people and also considered the views of a further **1,200** tenants by gathering customer feedback through: surveys, focus groups, complaints, and mystery shopping.

A task and finish group led by tenants directed this review which led to the creation of **20** Gateway Promises. These are more meaningful to you and better reflect the services we deliver.



Community Fund

At Gateway we support and invest in local community groups and partners to deliver services that benefit our customers and communities, helping to make our neighbourhoods great places to live. One way we do this is through our Community Fund. Groups with a constitution and those without can apply for funding from us, and our tenant panel decide where the money is spent. This partnership approach ensures we are supporting activities which enhance the wellbeing of people and increase the services being delivered within our communities.

Over the last 12 months we have worked with tenants to develop the fund, introducing an additional COVID-19 fund, where anyone can apply to deliver a project that directly responds to challenges arising from the pandemic. Our team provided full support and guidance throughout and those awarded money report back on their great work.

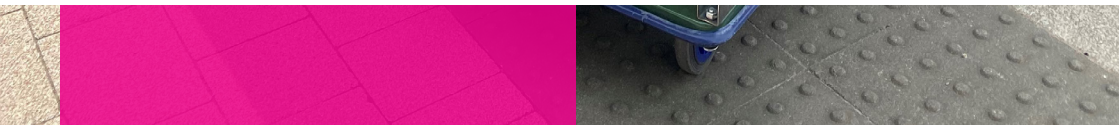
Over the last 12 months our Community Fund has awarded over **£9,000 to local groups**, benefiting **2,579 people**.



“

The project helped bring ladies together, grew their confidence, and improved the quality of life for local ladies. It also provided them with opportunities to make new friends.

- Zul Hassain, Programme Manager, Fishwick Rangers Basketball Group



Towards online music lessons delivered by the group in the Ribbleton area.

Soundskills

£500

Funding to enable the delivery of the Kids in the Kitchen project – providing ingredients and access to training, enabling families to learn how to cook healthy nutritious meals together.

The Larder

£1,000

To support the creation of a basketball group for ladies aged 30 years and over from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background.

Fishwick Rangers Basketball Group

£850

To support the delivery of boxing sessions in the Plungington area.

Cobra White Collar Boxing

£500

To support the delivery of food parcels.

Larches and Savick Community Group

£500

To help sustain the delivery of Sahara's COVID-19 helpline, providing individual support to families living within the Fishwick, St. Matthews and Deepdale area.

Sahara

£500

To support the delivery of hygiene packs during the pandemic to 75 families.

Quwwat Education Centre

£500

To fund the delivery of the 'All good in da hood' summer youth project.

Preston United

£1,000

Some of our
Community Fund
Projects

COVID-19 Community Support

The health and wellbeing of our customers and communities is a priority for everyone at Gateway. So when the pandemic began, we responded quickly by setting up a Support Hub, to meet the needs of those who were struggling. We offered help at the end of the phone or online to all our tenants, as well as making 'check-in' calls to all our vulnerable tenants during the lockdown restrictions.

We provided support in a range of areas including access to food, medication, befriending, social activities and support with mental and physical wellbeing. We set up a dedicated support section on our website where people could get hold of information and support, as well as making regular calls to those struggling with loneliness and isolation. We supported a total of **886 tenants** through this work and delivered **9,050 food parcels** during the pandemic.

We continued to listen to what you were telling us throughout the pandemic and shaped our service delivery and support accordingly, offering interactive quizzes, online games, educational support and community activities to connect people and communities.



200 Participants
attended the CGA Quiz

**61 Children &
421 Families**

engaged in raising
awareness for
pedestrians due to
high accident rates



10 Families
took part in a
recycling activity and
family litter pick



10 Participants
attended the
Crash Course to
Employment



7 Attendees
accessed support
through the
Christmas Craft
sessions



**136 Children
from 6 Schools**
entered our
Christmas Card
Competition, with
winning designs
being printed and
sent to our vulnerable
tenants



**76 People
Involved, 29
Books distributed**
for CGA Bookworms



It provided the opportunity
for my two eldest children to
read a book together.





“

I would like to say a big thank you. I just got off the phone with a lovely lady checking to see if I'm okay! She told me about some of the great things you are doing, so I thought to say thanks and keep up the good work.

- Joanne

“

Absolutely amazing! Staff at Gateway go above and beyond for their tenants - well done team.

- Amanda

”

“

I am thrilled to bits with the food parcel. With being in complete isolation with a very sick child, this is heaven sent. Thank you so very much!

- Anonymous

”

Supported Housing

In the past 12 months the Supported Housing team have completed over **24,000 welfare calls**, talking and **meeting with 1,100 tenants**.

Due to the pandemic, the Supported Housing Activity Programme had to be adapted, to ensure everyone was kept safe. Every fortnight, nearly 30 newsletters, were hand-delivered to sheltered housing tenants, ensuring they were kept up to date with COVID-19 restrictions, as well as providing recipes, poems, rainbow window signs and so much more.

We continued to deliver our popular themed events, but adapted these to 'Stay at Home' events for VE Day, the Queen's Birthday and a Christmas market. These

were well-received with **460 sheltered housing tenants** taking part in the VE Day event alone. We provided people with an activity pack and delivered an afternoon tea for them to enjoy safely. We also celebrated the Queen's Birthday with a 'Stay at Home picnic' which provided food and activities to over **420 tenants**.

We held our annual Christmas event offering every tenant a hot festive meal and the chance to purchase Christmas items at a reduced rate, Christmas market style. This was a massive success and we provided over 120 Christmas wreaths, 400 hot meals, 100 raffle prizes with our generous tenants contributing £264 to charity.

“

I love living on the scheme, best move I ever made. The staff are fantastic and have worked really hard supporting us through COVID-19. - John

“

I look forward to the newsletter dropping through the door, it keeps me busy for an afternoon and gets my brain working. - Sheila

Supporting Community Groups and Charities

During the pandemic, it was important that we supported our brilliant community groups to continue to offer their services. Some of these included: LASCA, Soundskills, Farrington Park and Sion Hub. We supported them to deliver food parcels, produce activity packs for young people and obtain personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep their volunteers safe.

We held several meetings to provide advice on COVID-19 related health and safety protocols and supported groups to engage with their communities using online methods and helped them access funding.

The JJ Effect



Due to spikes in anti-social behaviour and knife crime in some communities we gave The JJ Effect £5,000 in funding to run the 'On the Ropes' programme. The programme offered a combination of boxing, fitness and life skills sessions to more than 50 young people this year. We also provided support to help them build a new classroom / youth club which will offer a safe space for young people to meet, learn and develop.

Charities Supported

We supported local organisation Preston United to secure external funding to deliver COVID-19 support to their local community. We gave them a further £500 so they could expand the delivery of their youth engagement programme during the winter months.

Once again, our Christmas Toy Appeal was a huge success. We wanted to ensure as many families as possible had a very special Christmas. With the support of colleagues from Gateway and our very generous partners including; James Hall & Co (Spar), InKind Direct, Morrisons, Seddons and Smyths Toys of Blackpool, we were able to provide a wonderful array of toys for children and families

Our Purple Pantry donated vouchers to families referred into the Toy Appeal, to enable them to do a food shop to buy the essentials they needed for the big day.

One happy shopper said:



It's brilliant! I have been so worried about not being able to afford presents for the children. The help from Gateway has taken away that worry.

Bleasdale Street East Community Project

We transformed a small area of wasteland, which had attracted anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, into a beautiful community garden. We worked with local people and our charitable subsidiary Preston Vocational Centre (PVC), to clean it up and provide three raised beds for the local community.

We arranged for six keen residents to take part in a gardening course run by Let's Grow Preston so they could manage the garden going forward.

Some of the participants were single men living on their own who were struggling with the impact of the pandemic and the social isolation it brought. This project has brought the community together enabling them to build friendships over a common interest in gardening.

The project helped reduce social isolation, improved access to vocational training, improved physical and mental wellbeing and reduced crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

“

I would just like to say how much I have enjoyed coming to the gardening sessions.

My mum is 82 years old and a Gateway tenant of 50 years. Since COVID-19 hit she has not been out very much at all. I had been thinking of growing some vegetables in her garden, that she can help tend to, to try to keep her active and fill some of her time.

I am very grateful for having this opportunity to learn some new skills and look forward to growing some veg with my mum in her garden next year.

- Carol, Let's Grow Gardening Course Participant

”







Uniform Bank

Customers told us they were worried about the cost of sending the kids back to school in September, so we set up the CGA Uniform Bank. This helped those who were experiencing financial hardship to kit their children out.

- Over half of people using the Uniform Bank told us the pandemic had hit their finances hard.
- A third of people who received clothing said they would have gone into debt if they had had to buy it from shops themselves.

This project allowed us to provide a guaranteed offer of new items such as shirts, lunch bags, stationery and toiletries.

11 donation points were set up across Preston working with local partners, through which:



Over 1,700 donated items of uniforms were received



Over 1,200 items were distributed out

To help deliver the project, we secured:

£7,500 from the Lancashire Community Fund

£2,500 from our own Community Fund

328
referrals!

We received 328 referrals of people who might need our help from our partners, staff and directly from people who were struggling across Preston – not just Gateway tenants. This led to more than 600 deliveries over a two-week period by eight volunteer drivers and our Community Engagement team, covering all our community areas.

We also held three drop-in sessions where tenants could 'shop' for items and any remaining spare items were allocated to 13 local schools and partners.

“ I couldn't be any more grateful. Without this service I would have gone into debt as I have no family. Much appreciated, thank you so much.

“ Helped so much not only did you provide shirts and socks but provided stationery and toiletries packs, so my girls feel more confident.

“ The Uniform Bank took a lot of stress and worry away, as I would have had three children to get new uniforms for, with no support from anyone else. I am very grateful, thank you.

“ Receiving school uniforms through the Uniform Bank was invaluable, we received such wonderful quality items that I otherwise would not have been able to afford.

“ After my marriage recently broke down my son and I were struggling for money so this was a massive weight off my shoulders and very much appreciated, so thank you for that act of kindness.

“



Tasha Cowperthwaite

Community Engagement and Support Officer
who helped organise the Uniform Bank

We were blown away by the kindness shown through donations. The Uniform Bank allowed our communities to support each other, making them stronger communities to live in. We want to play our part in supporting our communities and have done that by providing a platform, but it was our communities who stepped up and led the way.

Employment & Training

Throughout the pandemic, we continued to provide one-to-one support and group activities to people looking for jobs or training opportunities, both remotely and face to face. We recognised the need for social inclusion activities and ran these virtually. Some key highlights were:

Job Club – We moved our Job Club online during the pandemic so that people who were continuing to look for work could access advice and support with their applications.

Employability Day – We celebrated Employability Day virtually this year by providing a 'Coffee and Chat' session on Zoom for participants to chat with each other, reflecting on the year and the progress they had made.

Courses – We hosted several accredited virtual courses run by The Digital College in a group setting at Sion Park Community Hub to help people gain new skills and qualifications.

Virtual Quizzes – We held several virtual quizzes for participants to boost morale and provide a family activity during the pandemic.

Pre-Employment Opportunities – We have worked with some fantastic training providers and employers like the NHS to provide pre-employment training and guaranteed interviews for those who completed courses.

During 2020/21 we supported:

- 👉 149 people with 52% of those supported going into work or further training
- 👉 16 people entered employment
- 👉 49 people gained a qualification
- 👉 5 entered education
- 👉 7 became volunteers



We also supported community organisation Sahara to deliver their Job Club this year.

“

We have found the additional support really helpful as Gateway colleagues dedicated their time to each individual in the one-to-one and group sessions. Their progression is tailored to suit their job aspirations and focuses on what can be improved.

The group sessions have helped the members become more confident when speaking in front of others and they have thoroughly enjoyed the interactive element where they use their phones to do quizzes and team games.

This has been a great opportunity and we hope to continue working in partnership with Community Gateway.

– Sahara



The Employment and Skills team provide free employment support and access to training courses to improve your CV, boost your skills and move you a step closer to your dream job.

Find out what courses are available at:

➔ www.communitygateway.co.uk

Case Study - Just the job for Jamie-Leigh

Community Gateway helped tenant Jamie-Leigh find work through our Employment and Skills programme.

Jamie-Leigh was referred into our Employment and Skills Team by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). At the time she was sofa surfing, which was affecting her mental health and ability to focus on finding a job.

The team had regular one-to-one appointments to support her, mainly over the phone due to COVID-19. We referred her to the Purple Pantry to enable her to buy food, which was a real boost as she was struggling financially.

Teams from right across Gateway stepped in to support Jamie-Leigh. The Tenancy Support team helped her sort out her finances and the Employment and Skills team helped her successfully bid on a Community Gateway home.

We continued one-to-one appointments with Jamie-Leigh while she was settling into her new home, focussing on her wellbeing and helping her apply for employment. She has since successfully secured a job as a care worker and turned her life around!



If you, or anyone you know, could benefit from support to get a job or training, please contact the Employment and Skills team.

✉ employabilityteam@communitygateway.co.uk

☎ 0800 953 0213

Supporting Individuals



- “ I look forward all week to my visit to the Purple Pantry.
- “ I feel safe shopping here.
- “ Purple Pantry has been a godsend.

Purple Pantry

During lockdown we responded to the needs of our customers by delivering food parcels to vulnerable, isolating and shielding customers. During the first 12 weeks over **9,000** bags of food were delivered by teams across Gateway.

Through listening to our customers, it became clear that there was an unfortunate stigma associated with Food Banks and some of the food we distributed was being wasted due to personal preference and people not wanting what they were given. Customers told us they did not consider themselves to be in food poverty, but were struggling to afford the basics. We therefore decided to set up our Purple Pantry.

The Purple Pantry is a Community Gateway food outlet, which offers high quality food through a simple membership scheme. It was initially run a pilot for seven

weeks, however, following the success of the trial and overwhelming feedback from you, we decided to keep the Purple Pantry open for the foreseeable future.

From its opening on 20th July 2020 to April 2021 the Pantry had **767** members visiting over **5,250** times, feeding over **8,500** adults and **5,100** children. In addition, the Pantry has supported **49** households experiencing short term financial problems and requiring emergency food parcels.

Not only does the Purple Pantry support its members, it also supplies excess food to eight other food hubs/food provisions across Preston.

We would like to say a special thank you to our partners, James Hall and Co (Spar), Clayton Park Bakery, FareShare Lancashire and Cumbria, Morrisons Deepdale, and the Salvation Army Preston.

Case Study - Edward and Stacey, Purple Pantry

Edward visits the Purple Pantry every week with his daughter Stacey, a single mum with six children.

Edward said:

“ Since the Pantry opened it has been a great help. It's local to us and the food available is great quality. I visit the Pantry every week, it's been a great help for my daughter who is a single parent, especially with the nappies. It makes my day when I visit the Purple Pantry, the staff are so helpful and always cheer me up. The Purple Pantry has helped us a lot.

We also spoke to Edward's daughter Stacey who said:

“ The Purple Pantry has been a brilliant help to me and the staff that work there are so polite and helpful. With six children, I have been struggling, but the Pantry has made it so much easier for me.

How much is a membership?

All items have a points value between 1 and 5, and you can select products of your own choice from a large range of items, up to the value of your membership package. The scheme is not means tested, so everyone is welcome. 25 points provides around £30 to £40 of food.

There are different membership packages on offer based on how many people live in your home.



	Household Type A		Household Type B		Household Type C	
Suitable for:	Single-person households		Two-person households		Three-person+ households	
Package Type	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced	Standard	Enhanced
Points	25	35	35	45	45	60
Membership Cost:	£5	£7.50	£7.50	£10	£10	£15

To find out more about the Purple Pantry, check our website, social media or contact our Tenancy Support team on 0800 953 0213.



You can find the Purple Pantry at:

Moor Nook Community Office, Langden Drive, Preston PR2 6HT



I found out about Kids in the Kitchen on Facebook through Gateway. I thought they were just going to share recipes and cookery classes online, I didn't realise they were going to provide the ingredients. That was a real help because we'd never have bought those things.

Kids in the Kitchen

Working in partnership with The Larder, we provided families with the resources and knowledge to enable them to cook together and access nutritional meals at a time when many were struggling due to the pandemic.

The project saw colleagues come together to deliver food parcels to families. These contained all the ingredients needed to follow the recipe cards and videos. The Larder filmed videos to teach people how to create meals together

which all the family could enjoy. Each family got access to a week's worth of food and recipes, and we developed the programme to be delivered during school closures and school holidays. Families also had the option to buy ingredients for the meals themselves via a local voucher scheme.

Kids in the Kitchen not only provided access to healthy food, but also provided family activities at a time when children were home from school.

The families and young people learned new skills and had the opportunity to try out new foods. In total we delivered four programmes which **177** families participated in.

Due to the success of Kids in the Kitchen we worked with The Larder to deliver further activities during the year, such as the CGA Big Bake Off, where we provided **42** baking kits to families, so they could bake and share their creations over the half-term break.

“

A massive thanks to all involved in The Larder project. My kids both really enjoyed cooking each day. They learned new skills and tried everything they cooked. It really has given them a focus these last two weeks during lockdown, thank you from the heart.

- Kelly





Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Over the last year the Tenancy Management team have seen an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour. We know tackling the issue is a priority for you, so events like our 'Days of Action' are invaluable. We listen to local concerns and work with partners like the Council and the Police to stamp out such behaviour in our communities.

Our 'Days of Action' were organised to share information with residents, encourage reporting to Gateway and the Police, and to gain information from tenants about the issues that were concerning them. Two Gateway tenants from Callon told us:

“ It's great to see the Police and Gateway working together in the area.

“ I'm seeing you and your colleagues in the area a lot recently, it's really good to see you out talking to people, it shows you care.

— “ —

The Days of Action were a huge success and were held to reach out to the community in these difficult times. We spoke to local people about their concerns and what we can do, working with our partners, to make our communities safer.

- Graham Dunkley,
Tenancy Enforcement Manager

The information and feedback from these events have assisted the Tenancy Management team in tackling anti-social behaviour and provided valuable intelligence to the Police. This feedback has also informed community projects and initiatives run by Gateway teams and partner agencies.

We've introduced new ways for customers to report anti-social behaviour concerns. Our new ReMOTE Reporting App and Noise App have a total of over **300 users** who have used them to more easily and conveniently report issues. Almost **2,000 Noise App recordings** have been made since its launch in August 2020.

Download the ASB Reporting App!

Visit the Android or Apple App Store on your mobile device and search 'Remote Reporting'. You will need to set up an account and then scan the QR code below to get started.

If you have any problems, please contact the Tenancy Management team:

☎ 0800 953 0213



Supporting Partners



If you want to get involved with PVC, or fancy getting yourself on the possible road to an apprenticeship, then get in touch:

📞 01772 880680

✉️ info@prestonvocationalcentre.co.uk

Preston Vocational Centre

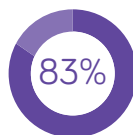
In February 2021, our charitable subsidiary Preston Vocational Centre (PVC) celebrated 12 years of delivering construction-based vocational training to young people and adults. Since they opened in 2009, almost **7,000** young people have learned practical construction skills, as well as crucial life skills at the Centre.

Despite the challenges of the last year, dedicated staff kept PVC open for vulnerable young people and keyworker children. PVC provided extra activities and pastoral support to encourage positive mental health and wellbeing. One of the projects they ran was a PVC Football Challenge, funded by Active Lancashire.

In July, PVC held their annual awards to celebrate the success of their students. The team hand-delivered trophies to award winners. The surprise knock at the door also brought a gift of a toolbox to help kickstart their new careers. We want to

offer our congratulations to all the young people who have worked particularly hard this year to achieve their BTEC Level 1 Construction qualifications.

The overall achievement rate for the 2020/21 academic year:



During the 2020/21 academic year PVC:



Worked with **226** participants including young people and adults.



Partnered with **22** schools to deliver vocational construction training to their pupils.



Registered **95** learners on a qualification.



Delivered taster sessions to **27** young people so they could 'have a go' at construction.

PVC Community Projects

PVC are involved in several community projects aimed at tackling local issues and developing cohesive, resilient communities. Some of the projects they helped with were:

- **Food Deliveries** – Throughout lockdown, PVC worked with local partners for over 22 weeks to help deliver food parcels to elderly or vulnerable people.
- **Lavender Wood Court Planters** – Students made timber planters from sleepers to make a local housing area more attractive for residents and to deter anti-social behaviour.
- **Purple Pantry** – Students made three wooden benches to allow customers to be able to rest and sit while they waited to collect food parcels and do their shopping at the Pantry.
- **More Positive Together** – PVC engaged and supported people who were unemployed or economically inactive, who may have multiple social, emotional and economic barriers to improve their employment prospects.

Active Lancashire – PVC Football Challenge

Throughout the pandemic, PVC ensured learners continued to receive high-quality skills training and were also supported with their mental health and wellbeing. Working with Active Lancashire and following feedback from students, the PVC Football Challenge was created to encourage physical activity and help promote health and wellbeing. Over **30** learners took part in multiple physical timed tasks such as

completing a set number of kick-ups and scoring into a target net. All learners who managed to complete the challenge (or gave it their best shot!) won a prize to take away with them.

Apprentices leading the way for PVC

Early this year two PVC students secured life-changing apprenticeships. Gabriel and Luke (pictured top left) completed their Building Futures Construction Course and obtained a Joinery Apprenticeship with local company CCH Joinery.

In a strange twist of fate, Gabriel and Luke have now given something back to the organisation who helped train them, by working for CCH Joinery on a project at the Purple Pantry – Gateway's food membership scheme. They manufactured and installed a shelter for customers queuing outside.

“

We're so grateful to CCH Joinery for their support. This is what PVC is all about and it's so rewarding to see our learners gain skills and confidence – the transformation from the young and often unsure people who first come through our doors to the eager qualified students who leave us is incredible.

- Martin Grayston, PVC Centre Manager



Harbour House, Port Way,
Ashton-On-Ribble, Preston, PR2 2DW

0800 953 0213

www.communitygateway.co.uk

Follow Us

Make sure to follow us on social media to keep up to date with the latest information and news.



@CGAPreston



@CGAPreston



@CommunityGateway



@CGAPreston



/Groups/CGA Engagement
Tenant-Only Facebook Group

Get Involved

Our tenant involvement and consultation portal provides an online hub for tenants to come together and have meaningful discussions that we can listen to and act on.

Visit www.communitygateway.co.uk/getinvolved to register.