



# THE PLYMOUTH ALLIANCE

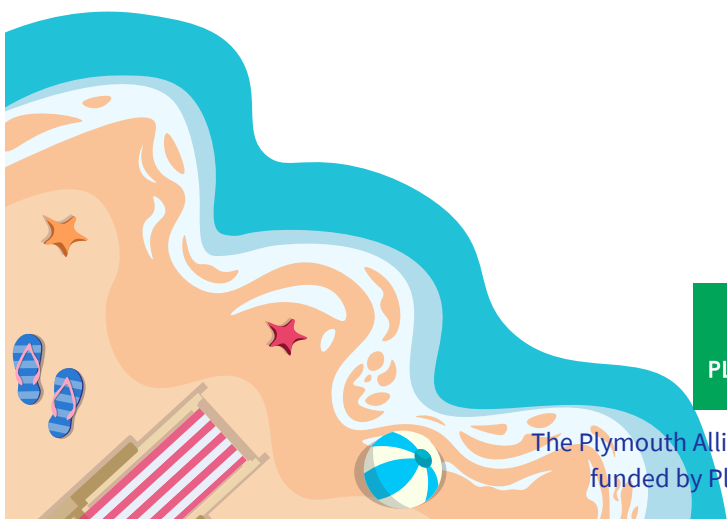
Newsletter - August 2025 edition

Welcome to the latest edition of the Plymouth Alliance Newsletter.



## CONTENTS

- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**
- **PEER-LED REFLECTIVE PRACTICE SESSIONS**
- **NEWS FROM BCHA**
- **PARTNERSHIPS AND PATHWAYS 2025**
- **SHEKINAH EVENTS**
- **THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD**
- **PATH TO HOST 90S-THEMED CHARITY GALA**
- **GOOD NEWS**



The Plymouth Alliance is commissioned and funded by Plymouth City Council.



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

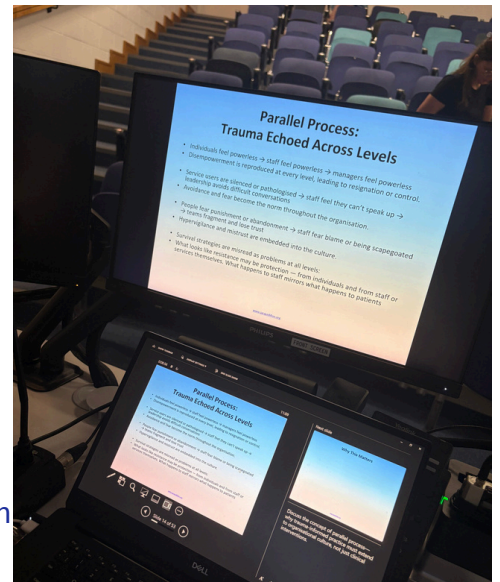


Hello, my name is Mary, and I'm the Alliance Workforce Development Coordinator employed by Shekinah. Since joining the Plymouth Alliance in November 2024, I have taken the opportunity to meet people working across the Alliance and other associated organisations, including Changing Futures and Improving Lives Plymouth. During these conversations, the Alliance was described as a range of organisations of different shapes, sizes and colours. This has become clearer to me the more I do.

I'm new to this area of work, and it has taken me some time to become familiar with the language and culture. My background is in sport and educational partnerships, and it is fascinating to discover the similarities and differences which exist between these areas of work.

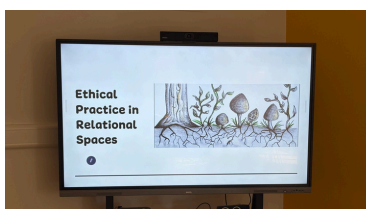
Since joining the Alliance, I have:

- Reviewed and refreshed 'Partnership & Pathways' sessions
- Compiled guidance to support role shadowing and partnership visits
- Coordinated a city-wide co-production event on the subject of Relational Practice
- Scheduled a programme of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and Wellbeing Champions training
- Organised a conference on 'Relational Practice as Radical Care' with Jacqui Dillon as guest speaker
- Commenced a 'Relational Practice Academy' including a session on "Power & Privilege" delivered by the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategic Lead for Plymouth



Based on feedback I have received, here are some of my intentions for the future:

- To understand how language and vocabulary may be used to exclude or create shared understanding.
- To challenge preconceptions and explore hierarchies through offering diverse learning experiences which bring together people from across the Alliance.
- To enable more time for human connection by scheduling regular breaks, small group and paired discussions, and making time to learn with and from one another.
- To promote a culture where we can explore what we do as individual contributors, as representatives of our organisation, and as an Alliance.
- To adopt a Human Learning Systems approach and support actions from the Alliance Leadership Team/Alliance Management Team awaydays.



# CHANGING FUTURES FUNDED PEER-LED REFLECTIVE PRACTICE SESSIONS

An opportunity to come together & reflect on the challenges, strengths & very real impact of the work you do. Some of the groups are almost at capacity but we still have spaces in groups 2 & 4 in particular.

## **Group 1 - this group is specifically for managers**

Takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month from 11:00-12:30 at the Central Library

For more information & to sign up [here](#)

## **Group 2 – spaces available**

Takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from 09:15-10:45 at the Central Methodist Church

For more information & to sign up [here](#)

## **Group 3**

Takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month from 10:00-11:30 Memory Matters

For more information & to sign up [here](#)

## **Group 4 – spaces available**

Takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 10:00-11:30 at the Central Library

For more information & to sign up [here](#)

## **Group 5 – closed group**

Takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month 2:30-4:00 at the Mount Wise Neighbourhood Centre

For more information & to sign up [here](#)

## **Group 6 - this group is specifically for managers**

Takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 1:00-2:30 Memory Matters

For more information & to sign up [here](#)

This project is funded by Changing Futures, coordinated & supported by Zebra Collective & facilitated by staff from across the Complex Lives Alliance sector.

These groups were set up in response to workforce feedback that access to reflective spaces to enhance practice & wellbeing are limited, and that people value having opportunities to mix, connect & build relationships with people from other teams & organisations.

For more information contact [vicky@zebra.coop](mailto:vicky@zebra.coop) or [info@zebra.coop](mailto:info@zebra.coop)



# PEER-LED REFLECTIVE PRACTICE GROUP

Monthly peer-led reflective practice sessions, open to staff working with homelessness, drug & alcohol use, mental health difficulties, domestic abuse or criminal justice, providing an opportunity to come together & reflect on the challenges, strengths & very real impact of the work you do.



## SIGN UP HERE

Please sign up using the QR code below - separate groups are available for staff & for managers

### Group 1

#### Managers only

Monthly on Tuesdays  
11:00am-12:30pm  
Central Library  
PL1 1HZ



### Group 2

Monthly on Wednesdays  
09:15am-10:45am  
Plymouth Methodist Central Hall  
PL1 1BA



### Group 3

Monthly on Thursdays  
10:00am-11:30am  
Moments Cafe, Memory Matters  
PL1 1RJ



### Group 4

Monthly on Tuesdays  
10:00-11:30am  
Central Library  
PL1 1HZ



### Group 5

Monthly on Wednesdays  
2:30-4:00pm  
Mount Wise Neighbourhood  
Centre  
PL1 4LQ



### Group 6

#### Managers only

Monthly on Thursdays  
1:00-2:30pm  
Moments Cafe, Memory Matters  
PL1 1RJ



**MAKE TIME FOR YOU IN THE COMPLEX WORK THAT YOU DO!**

This project is funded by Changing Futures, coordinated & supported by Zebra Collective & facilitated by staff from across the Complex Lives Alliance sector.

# NEWS FROM BCHA

## Celebrating Success at BCHA

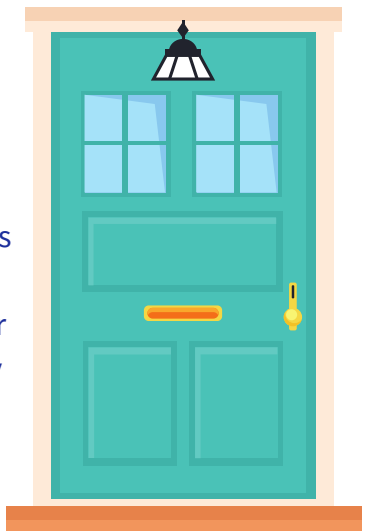
July has proved to be a successful move-on month for our Hospital Discharge and PTA teams.

The hospital discharge team have successfully moved on "G". G has been in temporary SHAP (single homeless accommodation programme) accommodation since early 2025 after spending 3 months in hospital. G has now been offered a bungalow property that meets his complex requirements and disability

Along with the BCHA team, additional support has also been given by the SHAP team to help move G to the new property, assist with administrative tasks and ensure the correct benefits are being claimed.

PTA's customer, "K", has been in and out of temporary accommodation over numerous years and has been with the PTA team for approximately 2 years. K has repeatedly engaged with their support workers and has worked tirelessly to become tenancy ready, engaging with multiple external services to work on their mental health and confidence. K has now secured a property and moved in early July.

BCHA wish G & K all the best for their futures and hope they thrive in their new properties!

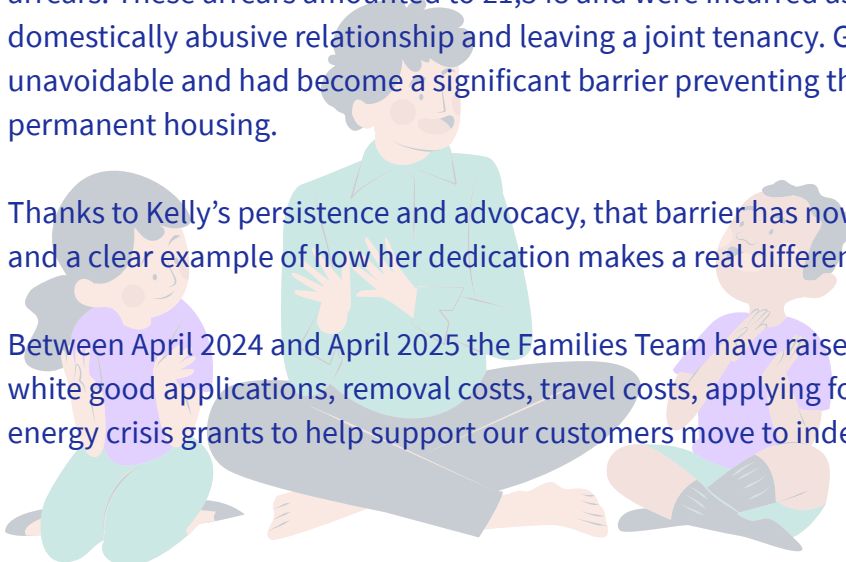


## Families Team Further Achievements

Kelly from BCHA's Families team, has done some incredible work negotiating regarding a customer's rent arrears. These arrears amounted to £1,548 and were incurred as a result of the customer fleeing a domestically abusive relationship and leaving a joint tenancy. Given the circumstances, they were unavoidable and had become a significant barrier preventing the customer and her children from securing permanent housing.

Thanks to Kelly's persistence and advocacy, that barrier has now been lifted. This is a fantastic outcome and a clear example of how her dedication makes a real difference to the lives of the people we support.

Between April 2024 and April 2025 the Families Team have raised a massive £59,235.90 in rent in advance, white good applications, removal costs, travel costs, applying for funds to clear arrears, school uniform and energy crisis grants to help support our customers move to independent living!





# NEWS FROM BCHA

## Somewhere Safe to Stay Hold 12-week Culinary Course

Somewhere Safe to Stay have just finished a 12-week culinary journey that saw customers and colleagues whip up meals from all over the world. The team saw the kitchen become more than just a shared space for eating: customers opened up about their stories and built trust with their fellow residents, as well as learning new and transferrable skills.



Each week saw customers take up a different role, from head chef to prep assistant, with detailed illustrated instructions for each dish to ensure inclusivity. In a world that can feel isolating and divided, the universal language of food brought peace and unity to our customers. The final week wrapped up with an Australian inspired BBQ to celebrate everyone's hard work and culinary adventures!



## George House Enters New Partnership

At George House, we are committed to supporting the complex and often challenging lives of our residents with compassion, dignity, and practical care. Many of those we work with have experienced multiple disadvantages, including homelessness, trauma, substance use, and involvement in sex work.

In recognition of this, George House have partnered with The Eddystone Trust to provide an on-site sexual health drop-in service. By bringing the service into our accommodation, we remove many of the barriers our cohort face.

Residents can access testing, treatment, contraception, information and support in a non-judgemental, trauma-informed environment where they feel safe and understood.



**THE  
EDDYSTONE  
TRUST**  
HIV and Sexual Health Services

# PARTNERSHIPS AND PATHWAYS

## 2025

Thank you to everyone who has supported the new format Partnerships and Pathways sessions this year, particularly those involved in the design, presentation or facilitation of these sessions.

Also thanks to all those who have attended one of the new sessions and provided valuable feedback. We hope you have enjoyed them and found the revised format more useful and interactive. We will be reviewing all feedback at a review meeting mid-June.

To book your place on the upcoming autumn sessions, please use the links below:

**Tuesday 21**  
**OCTOBER**

**Substance Use**



**BOOK NOW**

**Thursday 6**  
**NOVEMBER**

**Homelessness**



**BOOK NOW**

**Tuesday 2**  
**DECEMBER**

**Mental Health**



**BOOK NOW**



I came out of the session with a better understanding and more confident to approach necessary services for further information.



The session was structured well, with enough variety to keep everyone engaged. I really enjoyed the small group discussions.



Partnerships and Pathways Sessions take place at Hamoaze House, George Street, Mount Wise, Plymouth, PL1 4QJ. Refreshments will be provided.

If you would like any further information please email the Alliance Business Support Coordinator - amy.mackay2@nhs.net

# SHEKINAH EVENTS



## Bonkers Bingo for Shekinah



## Bands Together for Shekinah





# THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD

## IPS

### Individual Placement and Support



**Austin is approaching the job market with a positive outlook and is actively seeking paid employment opportunities.**

**"I recently began working with Amanda, and within just a few weeks, she has transformed my CV into the best version I've ever had. Her expertise and approachable nature have made the process seamless and enjoyable. Amanda has also started applying for jobs on my behalf. I am truly excited about the future and the opportunities that lie ahead!"**

#### How to contact us

- Referral from your support worker - if you already use local recovery-based services
- Self-refer - call us to arrange a meeting to begin the process of getting back into work.

Speak to our Employment Specialists today  
email : [IPSEmploymentteam@shekinah.co.uk](mailto:IPSEmploymentteam@shekinah.co.uk)  
Phone : 07840 851558



[www.shekinah.co.uk](http://www.shekinah.co.uk)

## Introduction to the Alliance Session

If you would like to know more about the work of the Plymouth Alliance, you can book onto one of the Introduction to the Alliance Sessions.

These sessions take place every quarter and the next session is on Monday 1 September 2025, 3pm - 4:30pm at Hamoaze House.

If you would like to attend please email the Alliance Business Support Coordinator, Amy Mackay - [amy.mackay2@nhs.net](mailto:amy.mackay2@nhs.net)



# THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD

## BCHA Summer Event

BCHA's Families team are providing a Family fun day for customers with families experiencing homelessness on Wednesday August 20th. The event will be held at the Tavy Scout Hut on Tavy Place, Mutley, from 10am - 2pm. The event will have children's entertainer Emazdad, a bouncy castle, games and more! Plus, with refreshments provided and multiple agencies present for any on-the-day questions, this marks a perfect day out for families facing adversity this summer.



## BCHA's Free Summer Families Event

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025

10am - 2pm

The Tavy Scout Hut, Tavy Place,  
Mutley, PL4 7DJ

No booking required - just turn up!

Join the BCHA Families Team for a Summer Family Event with a bouncy castle, children's entertainer, outdoor games and refreshments!

bcha



## COME JOIN US

BOUNCY CASTLE ICE-CREAM  
BBQ MUSIC  
CAKE STAND STALLS

01752 566 100

office@hamoazehouse.org.uk

## Hamoaze House Community Fun Day

If anyone has any enquires about wanting a stall, or donating a prize for the raffle, please contact Naomi, [nanderson@hamoazehouse.org.uk](mailto:nanderson@hamoazehouse.org.uk) or Vikki, [vwest@hamoazehouse.org.uk](mailto:vwest@hamoazehouse.org.uk)



# PATH TO HOST 90S-THEMED CHARITY GALA

PATH is hosting a 90s-Themed Charity Gala to support homelessness services in Plymouth. This autumn marks a powerful milestone for PATH (Plymouth Access to Housing), as the charity celebrates 30 years of supporting people experiencing homelessness across Plymouth. To honour this journey - and raise vital funds for its future - PATH is inviting the local community to a one-of-a-kind celebration.

“90s Rewind – A Night to Remember” is the theme of PATH’s upcoming charity ball, to be held on Friday, 17th October 2025 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Plymouth. The black-tie (or 90s formalwear) event will bring together supporters, local leaders, and changemakers for an evening of food, music, fundraising, and reflection.

The night promises much more than nostalgia. Guests will enjoy a three-course meal, a live band playing iconic 1990s hits, themed entertainment, and an opportunity to connect with others committed to tackling one of society’s most urgent issues: homelessness.

For PATH, this isn’t just a celebration of longevity — it’s a moment to reflect on three decades of tireless work. Since its founding in 1995, PATH has helped thousands of individuals and families navigate crises, access stable housing, and rebuild their lives. As the housing crisis deepens and pressures on services grow, events like this ball are crucial for raising both awareness and funds.

Tickets are now available:

- £55 per individual ticket
- £500 for a table of ten

Bookings can be made via PATH’s website:

[www.pathdevon.org/events/paths-30th-birthday-party](http://www.pathdevon.org/events/paths-30th-birthday-party)

Proceeds will go directly toward supporting PATH’s frontline services — from emergency housing support to long-term solutions that foster independence and dignity.

Whether you’ve been part of PATH’s journey or simply want to show your support, this is a night not to miss. So dig out your finest formalwear (or your favourite 90s throwback look), and join PATH in celebrating 30 years of making a difference.







## Support from Shekinah and Seetec Leads to Success

Hannah was referred to Shekinah from Seetec in February to help work on her confidence and motivation and so on. Hannah has successfully completed Mentoring 1 and 2 and is now signed up for Mental Health Awareness. As a result of Hannah's hard work and support from Seetec and Shekinah, she has managed to find herself some part time voluntary work. Her confidence and self-esteem are really flying.



**Harbour are running a tree planting ceremony for Overdose Awareness Day in memory of those who are tragically no longer with us.**

**All are welcome to attend.**

**If you would like to write a note to someone you have loved and lost, please speak to a member of the HIT team or someone from Harbour Reception - 01752 434343.**

## Overdose Awareness Day Tree Planting Ceremony

*"Life Grows On"*

**All Welcome.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 11:00**

**Hamoaze House**

**George Street, PL1 4JQ**



If you would like to write a note to someone you have loved and lost, please speak to a member of the HIT team or a member of Reception

# GOOD NEWS

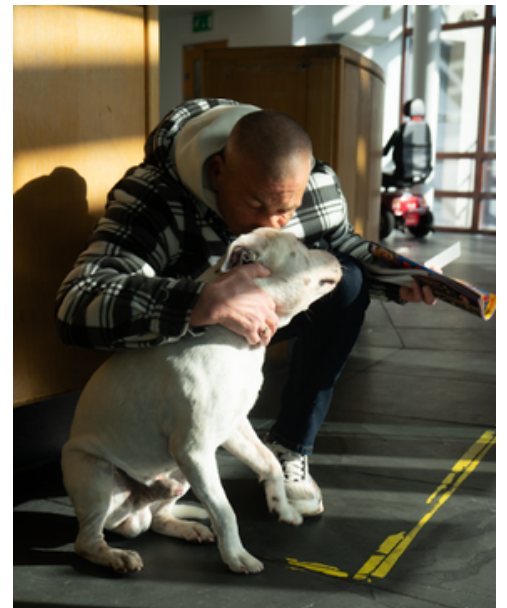
## StreetVet Funding Secured For a Further Year at George House!

George House are proud to announce that, thanks to the dedicated work of the George House team and namely Joe Pether, we have secured funding for the StreetVet initiative for a further year.



GREAT!

StreetVet offers veterinary care at our accommodation for all of the animal companions of our customers and even provide 3 months-worth of pet food once our customers secure move-on properties.



## Shekinah and Harbour's Mentoring Success

Shekinah's training courses have been the talk of the city lately. Some fantastic Alliance partnership working between Karl from Shekinah and Jacqui from Harbour has helped create some smooth pathways for people to take their next employability steps into Mentoring. Jacqui has achieved the Mentoring L1 and L2 qualifications herself and has been empowered to recommend the courses. A new course started at the end of June with 14 new learners, 7 of which were referred from Harbour. Thank you!

