



THE PLYMOUTH ALLIANCE



Newsletter - December 2024 edition

Welcome to the latest edition of the Plymouth Alliance Newsletter.

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FESTIVE OPENING HOURS ACROSS THE ALLIANCE



The Plymouth Alliance

	Shekinah	Hamoaze	BCHA*	Harbour/ Livewell	The Zone	Path
Tuesday 24 December	8 - 1	9 - 2 (drop in)	24/7	9 - 3	10 - 2	9 - 4
Wednesday 25 December	9 - 12	Closed	24/7	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thursday 26 December	Closed	Closed	24/7	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday 27 December	8 - 1	9 - 2 (drop in)	24/7	9 - 5	10 - 2	Telephone cover only
Saturday 28 December	9 - 12	Closed	24/7	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday 29 December	Closed	Closed	24/7	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday 30 December	8 - 1	9 - 2 (drop in)	24/7	9 - 5	10 - 2	Telephone cover only
Tuesday 31 December	8 - 1	9 - 2 (drop in)	24/7	9 - 5	10 - 2	Telephone cover only
Wednesday 1 January	9 - 12	Closed	24/7	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thursday 2 January	8 - 1	9 - 5	24/7	9 - 5	10 - 5	9 - 4:30

*George House and SSTS is open 24/7 365 days a year. All other BCHA services closed bank holidays only.
Out of hours contact number 01202 410500.

NEWS FROM THE ZONE

ZAP and The Zone are actively raising the profile of our work to support Care Leavers in the city. We are strengthening links again with PCC Care Leavers Service and are also supporting some Care Leavers in the city who are from other Local Authorities who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness here. Recently, we participated in the care leavers' celebration event held at Leadworks during Care Leavers Week. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with young people and partner organisations, hand out some freebies and promote the range of services we offer at The Zone.



To learn more about our services, which also include counselling, sexual health, drug and alcohol support and a range of workshops for professionals and young people please visit our website: [The Zone | Young People Support | Plymouth | Devon](#)

The Zone has recently signed up to a Campaign to End Youth Homelessness called the Plan for the 136k. Over 140 organisations have joined.

Young Devon has also joined, and PATH will be signing up too. More information available here: [#PlanForThe136k](#)



No Fixed Address Bank Accounts

ZAP has completed the re-enrolment process with Shelter to be an approved referral partner to HSBC For the No Fixed Address Bank Account. We have resumed making referrals. The team has referred over 70 young people U.25 to HSBC in Plymouth. We send a referral form to HSBC by e-mail which acts as ID. A staff member goes to the appointment with the young person. The bank account details are provided during the appointment. Help is given to set up internet banking and telephone banking if needed. The Zone can be used as a c/o address. The Bank card and PIN are sent separately to the Zone and usually arrive within 7 days. More information about the scheme is available here: [No Fixed Address Bank Account | Homelessness - HSBC UK](#)

ZAP is piloting the co-location at the Zone once a month of a DWP Youth Employability Coach, a Care Leavers Nurse and a worker from the King's Trust. This is in addition to established partial co-location of professionals from Harbour Transitions, PCC Community Connections, CAMHS 16-25 Pathway and a Trevi Young Women's Outreach Worker who is attached to Blossom House.



DRUG DEATH REDUCTION IN PLYMOUTH

On 23rd October 2024, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) released the 2023 figures for drug deaths in England and Wales. While the figures show a further increase to 5,448 registered drug poisoning deaths; (a 15% increase on last year) Plymouth has bucked the national and local trend and has reduced registered deaths from drug poisoning by 25.8%. It is not the only reduction that we have seen, in 2022 Plymouth saw a 40% reduction in registered drug poisoning deaths from 2021.

What is Plymouth doing differently:

- 1** Plymouth City Council has commissioned an alliance of organisations to work together to support people who live complex lives.
- 2** Harbour has employed a Harm Reduction Coordinator who worked with all organisations in The Alliance to provide training, widen the distribution of the lifesaving medicine Naloxone.
- 3** Plymouth has developed Naloxone Advocates Plymouth, a peer led project.
- 4** UHP at Derriford is one of only four hospitals in England and Wales to be distributing Naloxone at ED (Emergency Department) and on discharge to prevent further overdoses.
- 5** The development of Plymouth Overdose Response Team (PORT) to proactively engage people who have experienced a non fatal overdose.
- 6** The development of a Local Drug Information System (LDIS) to share information and alert people who use drugs to adulterated and dangerous drugs.

While it is difficult to see how many lives have been saved because of Naloxone, it is evident that a joined up approach and adopting an alliance or city-wide harm reduction approach is saving lives and it is something our city can be proud of as the data shows a phenomenal picture.

Sean Gray, Harbour



P&P Feedback

After each session, a small questionnaire is sent to attendees to allow them to feedback to the ALT about the sessions.

94% of those who responded to the questionnaire found the session useful and 90% felt they had a better understanding of the Alliance after the session.

The feedback form allows attendees to share ideas directly with the ALT and offer suggestions on things that could be done to improve the Alliance.

“ The session was very informative, and the speakers were very engaging. It was good to meet with other Alliance members and talk about our experiences. ”

103 colleagues
attended 4
sessions over
2024.

Partnerships and Pathways 2024



“ Really enjoyed the presentations, they all linked very well together and they really increased my knowledge of the Alliance work. ”



PATH'S NEW PROPERTY

Homes for former rough sleepers

PATH has just finished a new housing project for people who formerly slept rough. The new place has six fully furnished units, giving residents a comfy and secure home. Let on Assured Shorthold Tenancies, they can stay for as long as they like.

Commissioned by Plymouth City Council with funding from the Rough Sleeper Initiative, Path were able to buy and refurbish this property. Six former Rough Sleepers moved in in September.

Path have also leased another HMO, offering tenancies to people moving on from supported housing. That's 12 new units of accommodation set up for people in the last 2 months. They will have more exciting news for the next newsletter, watch this space...



UPDATE FROM BCHA

Bringing Magic and Culture to Young Children this Christmas

Rachel Minhinett, Family Health and Wellbeing Advisor at BCHA, has managed to secure 10 tickets for the Theatre Royal production of Raymond Briggs' "Father Christmas". The production gives an opportunity for children up to 8 years old from families in emergency and temporary accommodation to experience the magic of Christmas at the theatre this December.

Rachel says, **"It is a beautiful thing being able to bring the festive spirit to people who may not be able to give the Christmas they want to their children. At BCHA, we know that it can be a difficult time at Christmas especially for children experiencing homelessness, so hopefully this can bring some joy to their faces!"**

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Comes to BCHA

Jordan Carter, Senior Practitioner at BCHA, has co-ordinated an effort with the Early Years South West Stronger Practice to bring Dolly Parton's "Imagination Library" to several facilities in Plymouth.

The initiative has donated over 50 books to BCHA, which will be operated as a library in some facilities housing families, and aims to inspire a love of reading for children up to the age of 5.

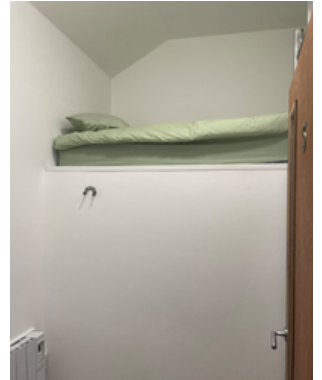
The Families Team has also been given leaflets for families moving to permanent accommodation, which allows parents to sign up and receive a free book for their child every month from the age of 2 up to the age of 5.



UPDATE FROM BCHA

Night Shelter rebrands as Sleep Safely

The newly rebranded Sleep Safely (previously the night shelter) has recently reopened with the planning agreed to operate the service 365 days a year. Alongside the new name we have also redecorated using the PIE (psychologically informed environment) colour chart and



added comfy sofas to the hallways allowing for a more trauma informed comforting setting. People who use services can now relax and wind down with a hot drink before using their bed space to sleep. This gives them an opportunity to access the night support staff if they have had any issues during the day or require move on support. The bedrooms have also been upgraded offering a more homely bed space with new mattresses, bed sheets, quilts and pillows in place of previously used sleeping bags. This provision offers up to 12 beds for those who would otherwise be rough sleeping therefore 12 fewer people a night who do not have to sleep rough.

New Community Kitchen at George House

It was fantastic to be given the opportunity to work one day a week at George House, with my colleague Buster. We went in as peer researchers with the aim of collecting customers' stories through appreciative inquiry - a technique that encourages others to embark on positive change. I work for Improving Lives Plymouth and was allowed by BCHA to come into George House and create my own role. I listened to customers' feedback and needs while getting to know the residents.

It became apparent that food was an issue, so we decided to open a community kitchen on Mondays where we cook a beautiful meal for everyone. It worked well: not only have we been serving around 35 people, but we gained trust, respect and appreciation from customers. This allowed us to build meaningful relationships with the residents, transforming the ambience of George House on Mondays.

I believe this little change has made a big difference to the lives of customers and would like to thank BCHA for co-creating with us and allowing us to do this wonderful work.



Jason Brownlee

Jason has now started working at George House as a part time Activities Coordinator!



GOOD NEWS

George House Accredited Pet Hostel!

George House is now an accredited pet hostel working alongside The Street Vet to ensure everyone in the building can access support for their beloved pets.



Salvation Army Football Team

Devonport House would love to say thank you for all of the support - physical, financial and emotional in getting our football team to Manchester to take part in the Partnership Trophy.

Thanks goes to Shona Rogers from Improving Lives who advocated for us at Ideas Space; to Ideas Space for providing financial support for a 17 seater minibus so we could take more people to the event than previously anticipated; to Sam Dyer from Hamoaze House for using annual leave to volunteer as a team player and coach for the event; Kerry Osborn from Bidfood for sponsoring a full strip for the whole team; Trevor Higgins from the Argyle Community Trust for financially supporting the weekly training sessions for the past 12 months, and also for the last-minute donation of Plymouth Argyle's last season's strip (green and gold) which the team wore with pride throughout the competition. The team made it to the semi finals of their stream; every team member scored a goal and took amazing memories away with them from the two-day event. This was a very special social inclusion collaboration. Thanks to everyone involved.

Semi final!



Sally Knaggs - Salvation Army



THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD

Due to high demand, Changing Futures have added extra dates for trauma informed Plymouth network training for anyone working with multiple disadvantage and has not yet done it.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Thank you for reading The Plymouth Alliance Newsletter, we hope you enjoyed it. If you have any contributions or stories for a future edition, please send to amy.mackay2@nhs.net

Merry Christmas



SMART
Family & Friends

Are you affected by a loved one's addictive behaviour?

Do you want to learn tools and techniques to empower yourself?

Will connection with others who share a similar lived experience be helpful?

**A VERY WARM WELCOME
AWAITS YOU AT OUR
SMART FAMILY + FRIENDS
MEETING**

SMART Family & Friends is a Programme where, through open and confidential discussion, we help ourselves and each other gain recovery from a loved one's addictive behaviour

EVERY FRIDAY, STARTING 1ST NOVEMBER 2024, FROM 1PM TO 3PM.

HELD AT HAMOAZE HOUSE, GEORGE STREET, DEVONPORT, PLYMOUTH PL13 4JG.

RING 01752 566100 OR EMAIL OFFICE@HAMOAZEHOUSE.ORG.UK FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



Hamoaze
House



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