



THE PLYMOUTH ALLIANCE

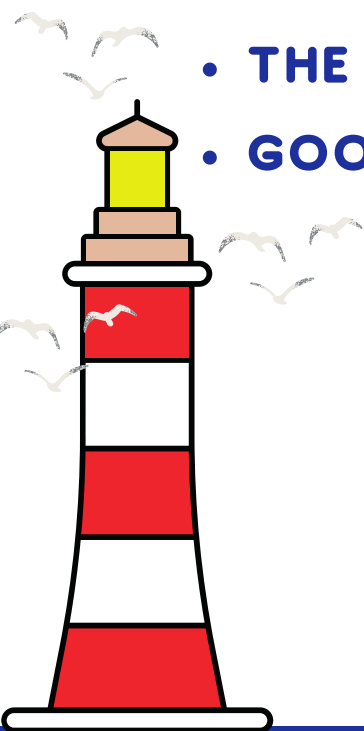


Newsletter - June 2025 edition

Welcome to the latest edition of the Plymouth Alliance Newsletter.

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



CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW GARDEN AT SHEKINAH

Shekinah is thrilled to announce it has been chosen as a recipient of one of the featured gardens at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025.

In partnership with Pathway UK and acclaimed design studio Modular, the garden will shine a spotlight on the connection between nature, health, and both individual and communal wellbeing. It reflects the shared mission of Pathway and Shekinah to improve health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and to ensure that everyone has a safe place to call home.

This exceptional garden exhibit will shine a light on journeys made out of homelessness to recovery and safety, and Pathway's work on improving healthcare for people experiencing homelessness, ensuring they're supported out of homelessness to better health and on to a safe place that can be called home. Using sustainable design and powerful storytelling to represent transformation, resilience, and regeneration, the garden is being created by a team of innovative garden designers, with people with lived experience of homelessness involved in the project from the start.

The garden will be installed in the first week of June, with an official launch event planned for the end of June (exact date to be confirmed).



BCHA HOUSING UPDATE

BCHA are delighted to announce that in partnership with Plymouth City Council, we have successfully bought 10 additional homes to support families requiring affordable accommodation. This marks the completion of our final purchase in Round 2 of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF). Following the 16 homes successfully delivered in Round 1, BCHA are keeping the momentum going with another 10 families in need now benefitting from affordable and good quality homes.



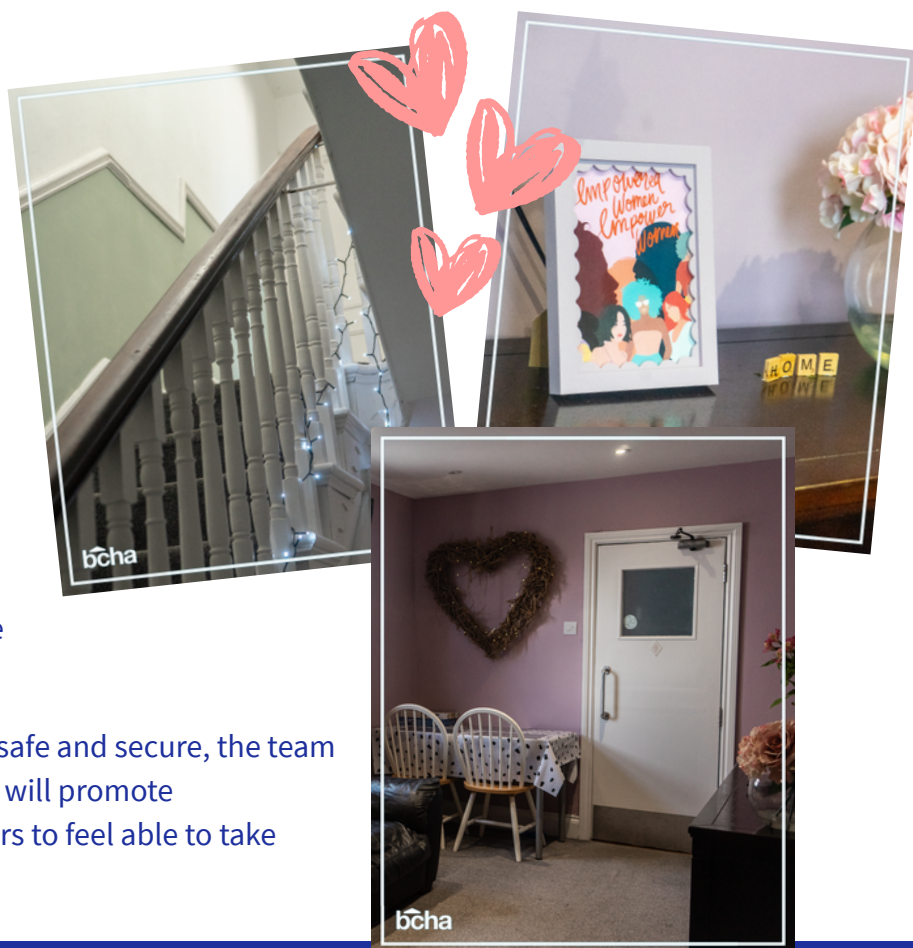
Round 3 of the fund is also due to be delivered by March of 2026. Nicola Greenfield, Director of Support at BCHA said 'We are delighted to be in a position to provide these homes in Plymouth for families in need. The grant, along with BCHA's additional funding, will enable these much needed, good quality and affordable homes in the area. The close working between ourselves, the Plymouth Alliance and Plymouth City Council has helped make these additional homes a reality.'

BCHA's Primrose has had a makeover!

Led by Senior Practitioner Vicky Jennings, Primrose has been re-decorated in psychologically informed environment (PIE) colours, reflecting BCHA's commitment to providing Trauma Informed Care.

The makeover follows the transformation implemented in George House, with the opening of a brand-new activity room as well as the dining area being redecorated.

By creating an environment that feels safe and secure, the team are hopeful that the new environment will promote empowerment and allow our customers to feel able to take control of their journeys.



PEER-LED REFLECTIVE PRACTICE SESSIONS

Changing Futures-funded Peer-Led Reflective Practice Sessions – **now available across the Complex Lives Alliance.**

You may be aware that Changing Futures have been funding a peer-led reflective practice pilot to increase access to reflective practice for staff & managers working with people experiencing any combination of homelessness, drug & alcohol use, mental health difficulties, domestic abuse or contact with the criminal justice system. We are pleased to share that Zebra Collective, who facilitated the training of the peer facilitators, have been awarded further funding from Changing Futures to continue supporting this project until March 2026. To date, this offer has been available to BCHA, Salvation Army, Community Connections, PDAS & Improving Lives Plymouth but we are **thrilled to now extend this invitation across all the Alliance organisations.**

There are 6 different peer-led reflective practice sessions (some for staff, some for managers) being held monthly in neutral, central locations facilitated by staff from across the Alliance organisations. Facilitators have participated in training, attend monthly CPD sessions & have their own reflective practice sessions facilitated by clinical psychologists.

We all know the very real impact of secondary & vicarious trauma – ‘the cost of caring’ - but also, the many barriers that get in the way of people feeling safe enough to explore how the work shows up in us & how we show up in the work. We are committed to creating as many psychologically safe spaces as possible to overcome some of these barriers & enable staff to feel nurtured & invested in. 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. We are keen that this is part of a culture shift across our city where staff wellbeing & the very real impact of the work is much more central.

Please make some space for you in the complex work that you do - and actively encourage each other and your teams to attend. Details of sessions and how to book are on the accompanying poster. Feel free to display in your staff spaces (kitchen, staff room, toilets, etc).

If you are unsure about any of the details of this offer & a phone call or Teams chat could be helpful, we would love to connect more – please contact info@zebra.coop & we can set something up.

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.

INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT SUPPORT STATS 24/25

Shekinah have shared the Individual Placement Support (IPS) 24/25 stats which clearly demonstrate the very real achievements of this project:

108 referrals to the service

4 referrals where the client is already in employment

53 clients have started a vocational profile and became active clients

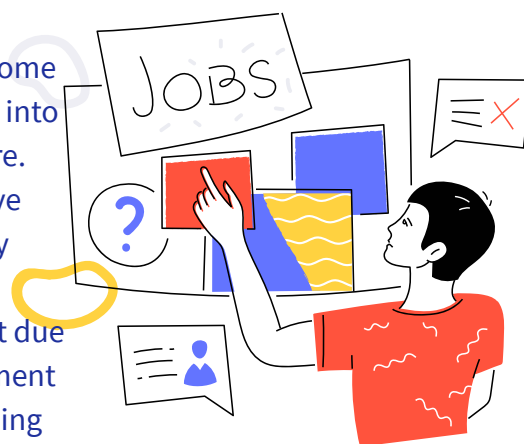
24 clients have been supported into work

32 job starts (this includes 2nd/3rd or 4th job for the same client)

14 13-week sustainment's (this will increase due to job starts in late Jan, Feb & Mar)

17 26-week sustainment's (this will increase due to 13-week threshold being hit in in late Jan, Feb & Mar)

- Around 50% of referrals went on to access IPS employment support.
- Nearly 50% of the active clients went into employment with some finding more than one job, with over 50% of clients who went into employment sustained that employment for 6 months or more.
- The 13- & 26-week sustainment figures will increase as we have had clients going into work in the first part of this year, so they have not hit the 13 or 26 week marker yet.
- 55 clients did not take up the offer of help to find employment due to a variety of factors which included, a setback in their treatment journey, health issues, a change in family circumstances or going into detox as examples.



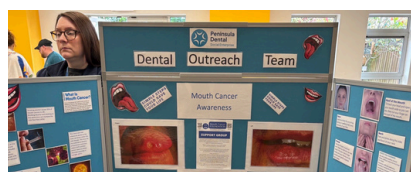
HEALTH AND WELLBEING DAY AT SHEKINAH

The Homeless Intervention Team (HIT) at Harbour arranged a Health and Wellbeing day at Shekinah on 8th May 2025 for anyone who is experiencing homelessness or residing in temporary accommodation which included hostels and B&B's.

We had a great turnout of other organisations to support this day including:

- The Complex Needs Team
- Harbour
- Outreach Dental Team
- Hep C Trust
- Kerry from Kay B & Co hairdressing - offering free hair cuts
- Chestnut Appeal
- HIPP
- Eddystone Trust
- Health outreach team
- Nail technician - offering free manicures

We are hoping to hold this event every 6 months, with the next one being in October.



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

LEARNING AT SHEKINAH

Shekinah offers many learning opportunities for anyone who is looking to make changes in their lives. We have a lot of wraparound mental health support that goes alongside training and services are free.

Courses below are restarting w/c 23rd June. If anyone would like to attend, they can come along to a drop in session at Stonehouse Creek on a Friday afternoon anytime between 12:30 and 3pm to find out more, or register their interest with karl.webb@shekinah.co.uk who will give them a ring closer to the start date.

Re:develop - Mondays

An opportunity to look at the way you handle stress and anger, explore your relationships and understand anxiety and depression. A chance to improve your daily resilience through increasing your self-awareness and 're-wiring' your brain.

Re:vive - Tuesdays

A chance to begin resolving past issues and make plans for the future in a safe and informal environment for those wanting to look at their self-belief, confidence, mental wellbeing as well as explore the roots of behaviours

Mentoring L1 - Wednesdays

Ideal for anyone wanting to move into working with people. Find out what mentoring is, how to communicate effectively and note taking skills.

Mentoring L2 - Thursdays

Explore more about the way you tick, professional boundaries, limitations, responsibilities, solution focused and motivational coaching. The level 2 expands more into person centred solution focused tools.

Mental Health Awareness - Fridays

Find out more about mental health, how it affects different people and how to manage your own wellness, or support others with theirs.

All courses one day a week for 6 weeks with one induction session prior to the main course, run throughout the year. OCN London accredited qualifications.

Re:lease - Mondays

Previously known as 'Letting Go / Love Yourself' What do you need to let go of? Explore themes of forgiveness and self-care in this 6 week course.

Carpentry - Wednesdays

A safe and friendly place to learn to use hand tools and create a sustainable project. Maximum number of learners per group is 4 so please contact us to reserve your space! Work toward an OCN London Level 1 accredited qualification.

Addiction Awareness - Tuesday 1 July

Discuss what addiction is, how affects the person with addiction, their friends and family, and how to get support.

Re:create- Fridays

Our newest course – come and explore some different art styles and crafts. Choose your own art project and work towards a Level 1 accredited qualification within 6 sessions.



Click [here](#) to view the Learning Exchange Prospectus

THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD

Safeguarding training

We have recently received confirmation that safeguarding training is free to all Alliance partners.

When booking, please tick the “public sector worker” box until the booking system is amended to better reflect Alliance providers. [Book here](#)



Is your team interested in trialling Your Story?

Changing Futures are inviting teams to get involved with an innovative pilot project trialling the Your Story tool. The project aims to test a new way of working where people accessing services have more control over their information and the need to repeat their story is reduced. The over-arching ambition for the project is to explore trauma-informed assessment and referral practices in services supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage

To understand more about the project, please watch the recording of a webinar here: [Changing Futures Plymouth: Building Trauma-Sensitive Assessment Practices with the “Your Story” approach](#), and get in touch with katy.krysiak@plymouth.gov.uk and emma.stevens@plymouth.gov.uk to receive an information sheet.

Shadowing within the Alliance

In response to feedback received from Partnership and Pathways sessions, Mary Coles (The Alliance Workforce Development Coordinator) has put together a document detailing all shadowing/partner visit opportunities available within the Alliance. If you would like a copy, please email amy.mackay2@nhs.net

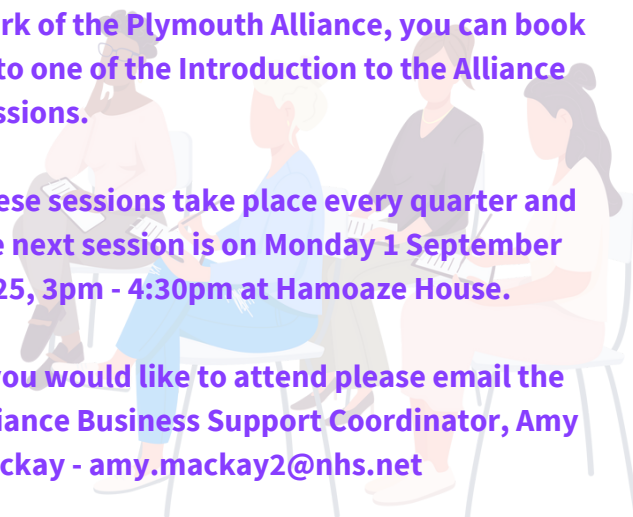
Introduction to the Alliance Session



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



GOOD NEWS

A massive thank you to all the Homeless Intervention Team (HIT) who have welcomed and supported the Harbour volunteers at their Monday clinic based in Shekinah.

The volunteers continue to enjoy supporting the team and have felt most welcomed.

Further good news on this is that Isobel (far right) has just been offered a full-time position at BCHA. Although sadly we will miss her, she is going to do amazing! Izzy believes that her experience with volunteering at Shekinah with HIT was a positive on her CV and an topic of interest and discussion on her application and at the interview!

thank
★ you ★



you did
great



Well done to Mandy who successfully completed the London Marathon and has raised nearly £800 for Harbour. Her JustGiving page is still open so if you would like to donate please use the link below:

[DONATE](#) ♥

