



THE PLYMOUTH ALLIANCE



Newsletter - December 2023 edition

Welcome to the latest edition of the Plymouth Alliance Newsletter.

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SHEKINAH IS ON THE MOVE

At long last...Shekinah is on the move.

After nearly 5 years of discussions with PCC, our move to Stonehouse Creek is within sight. Our building contractor Obedair is on site along with some staff from Shekinah's painting and decorating team. Current estimates are that we will be moving in sometime during late January.

The building is starting to take shape and all the feedback from visitors to the site is that it is going to be a fantastic building and a million miles away from what we currently have.

I have always been clear that the new building will enable us to work differently and shake off the view that all we do is run a "rough sleeper drop-in centre". Stonehouse Creek will be a community space offering a wide range of services to members of the local community, including those who find themselves sleeping on the streets. We have the space to increase our medical provision as well as our education, training, employment, counselling, and restorative justice opportunities. We also have the added advantage of having some outside space and we are already discussing with some people who come to Bath St about developing a garden area.

Whilst a new building will bring both changes and challenges, put simply, people deserve better. Moving away from a "locked door mentality" to an open access inspiring building which becomes a place with a purpose will not only be good for Shekinah, but good for the city.

If anyone is interested in visiting or discussing using the space, please feel free to contact me - john.hamblin@shekinah.co.uk

John Hamblin



Shekinah's Christmas Campaign

ABOUT US

Shekinah believes that each of us wants to live an ordinary, good life, and achieving this for everyone is a matter of social justice.

OUR MISSION

Shekinah provides opportunities for people who are experiencing all forms of homelessness or crisis. A passionate and dedicated team of staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that people in crisis are given a variety of opportunities to reach a secure and contented life.

OUR IMPACT

- ▶ This year the Drop-in Centre has been accessed 7000+ times, providing people with a variety of support, a warm shower, nourishing meals and a place to relax
- ▶ Supported 150+ people who have been affected by crime, conflict, anti-social behaviour or harm caused by the actions of others.
- ▶ 600+ individuals have been able to learn new skills in a warm and welcoming environment.

GET INVOLVED TODAY

Scan the QR code to check out our Christmas campaign.

Please support us and be part of someone's journey towards a positive future.

TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE LIVES



CHANGING FUTURES

Thank you all so much for your support and involvement in Changing Futures activities to date – it's really helping us shape our ambitions and develop plans as we move into a year of extended funding and focus on workforce development, trauma informed approaches and co-production.

There are various ways to get involved in Changing Futures – please click the button below to learn more, see what groups and activities we have and let us know how you'd like to be involved using the form at the end.

[CLICK HERE](#)

The week commencing 11th December we will collate information and start sending out meeting invites to those interested in specific groups. Of course people can still sign up following that week, and please feel free to share with colleagues who may be interested.

Thanks again for your support and interest, and we look forward to continuing to work with you all.

Best wishes

Gemma Gowan

Partnerships Strategic Lead

Community Connections

01752 304462

gemma.gowan@plymouth.gov.uk





THE NIGHT SHELTER

Plymouth winter night shelter opened its doors once again in October providing 12 safe spaces for rough sleepers. Delivered in partnership with Hamoaze House and BCHA as part of the Plymouth Alliance, customers are provided with their own individual space to sleep, allowing a good night's rest in a bed with some communal space to prepare food and shower. There is also an opportunity to leave belongings too.

Funding from the transformation fund has allowed a brand new shower block and fresh carpet this year. We were able to demonstrate the work of the night shelter with a visit from funders on 23rd November. We spent the afternoon discussing social and health inequalities for people experiencing homelessness and the valuable services offered in Plymouth. They were impressed with the use of space created within the night shelter and the ability of people using the service to access support from Hamoaze during the day too.

Since opening, there have been 12 positive Move Ons into more permanent accommodation. The night shelter provides some consistency and stability where there has previously been chaos.

If you would like to know more about the night shelter, please contact: Hannah Harlowe 07971615087 hannahharlowe@bcha.org.uk



BCHA RECOVERY HOUSE

BCHA recently opened Beaumont House as a recovery project for men who want to engage in recovery from alcohol and substance use and who are currently experiencing homelessness.

The six-bed house is supported by the BCHA Temporary accommodation team. The project was developed by the team after identifying that whilst as a system we were offering customers support at crisis point in their journey, supporting through Harbour access to stabilisation beds, we were not able to offer support to move forwards once stabilisation had been completed. Men were leaving their stabilisation placement and often required to return to a hostel environment, where it can be challenging to maintain and build a recovery-focused lifestyle, increasing the risk of overdose and relapse.

A dedicated support worker, Brian, experienced in recovery-focused work with customers, supports Beaumont House. Brian is based at Beaumont House daily, engaging and supporting customers with a recovery plan, supporting to set goals and targets and signposting and supporting to access appropriate agencies. Brian also focuses on supporting customers to engage in various meaningful activities, particularly those focused on recovery such as: Hamoaze House, 12 Step-Meetings, and mindfulness.

A house meeting takes place every Monday offering customers the opportunity to discuss any issues within the house and to make suggestions for the development of the project. This empowers customers to engage in their accommodation, ensuring they know they are valued and listened to.

Weekly there is a cultural kitchen, Brian supports the customers to shop for and cook a meal on a budget from around the world. This has proven popular, with the customers who have really enjoyed the activity, which helps to build the community within the house. Whilst having dinner we discuss a range of topics including, culture, food, geography, recovery, training and employment. This has provided a great opportunity to inspire new customers or those waiting to access the service to see what we do and familiarise themselves with the house, staff and residents. On Friday we host an open group covering topics such as relapse prevention, mindfulness meditation techniques and we also have guest speakers.

Each resident has their own room, there are two shared bathrooms, a lounge and a kitchen. There is also a utility area with washing machine, dryer and two large fridge freezers. All clients take part in the cleaning of the communal areas.

Plans include a Zen Garden, craft and design projects, a focus on rebuilding health and wellbeing, accessing free activities such as fishing, wild swimming, walking and we are organising gym sessions for the residents.

If you would like to get involved and meet our team and visit our service, please use the details below. Come and have a meal with us and meet the guys!

stewartaubert@bcha.org.uk



THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD

Path

General Working

There will be people working on-site at the Harwell Centre on each normal working day over the Christmas period. We won't be running drop-ins or appointments during that period, but there will be staff available from each team.

Rough Sleeper Outreach: Christmas Week

Rough Sleeper Outreach will be running on Wed 27th and Friday 29th December, from 06:00 at the usual Rough Sleeper locations and any additional reported locations, as per usual.

Path Resettlement

Resettlement will have normal working hours and house checks 18th-22nd Dec. Staff will go to houses between 27th – 29th for emergencies only. OOH phone support available during the Christmas break for maintenance purposes.

The Resettlement Team will be working as usual over the period. There won't be move-ins during the Christmas week, but all other housing management will continue as per usual.

Hamoaze House

Hamoaze House will be closed on the following days: 22nd December (Half Day); 25th / 26th December and the 1st January.

We will be holding our Christmas Dinner for service users on the 12th December 2023 at 12:00pm.

The Christmas Grotto will open on the 4th of December and will run every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until the 20th December from 5:30 – 8:00pm. You will be able to book online at www.hamoazehouse.org.uk or phone 01752 566 100.

Salvation Army - Devonport House

The Salvation Army have lots of festive activities planned for residents in December including:

- Christmas tree decorating
- Christmas movies
- Paper chain making
- Gingerbread house building
- A Christmas scavenger hunt
- Mince pie making



THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD

The Hope Bereavement Support Cafe



The Hope Bereavement Support Café

is a safe and confidential space for people who have lost loved ones to overdose or alcohol or drug related deaths.

We meet the first Wednesday of every month at Elsbeth Sitters House Hoegate Street PL1 2JB (Salvation Army Building) from 7pm.

Beginning Wednesday 4th October at 7pm.

We offer a safe place to talk and build connections over coffee, tea and cake as we walk the path of grief and loss together.

All warmly welcome.

For more information, please contact

pamela.smith@salvationarmy.org.uk

kerrybeall@hotmail.co.uk

lizzibrown1964@gmail.com

Or call 07954692616



[CLICK HERE FOR
SHEKINAH'S
LATEST
NEWSLETTER!](#)



Christmas
goodies available
afterwards!



Introduction to the Alliance

The next Introduction to the Plymouth Alliance session will take place on Thursday 7th December at 10am in the training room at Hyde Park House. To book on please contact Ellie Jarvis at ellie.jarvis@nhs.net

THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD



Hamoaze House

Fit & Fed

Dates - 19th - 22nd December. **Variety of sports & activities.**

Time - 10am - 3pm. **Christmas themed arts & crafts.**

Ages - 7 - 12. (can be flexible) **Competitions for prizes.**

Hot meal provided daily. **Visit to Santa's grotto.**

If you would like to book your child/children email Sam at - Syder@hamoazehouse.org.uk
If you have any enquires give Sam a call on 01752 566100. Only 25 spaces per day so book quick.

Tenancy Training

Path are offering Tenancy Training for staff. They have in person and an online sessions available. If you would like to book on, please e-mail Terriann.Britzman@pathdevon.org

We hope this is a good way to help arm Plymouth's workforce with the knowledge needed to assist people with housing issues. These sessions will cover:

- Legal requirements of landlords
- Legal obligations of tenants
- Different types of eviction notices
- Finding and securing private rented accommodation
- Getting deposits, rent in advance and applying for benevolent funds
- Finding furnishings, white goods and other local resources.

There is a limit of 12 people for in-person sessions at the Path offices in the Harwell Centre. There will be facilities for tea and coffee.

Dates:

Tuesday 15th Jan
10am - 1pm in person

Tuesday 19th February
10am - 1pm in person

Thursday 14th March
11am-2pm - Teams

SCAN
ME!



Dates coming soon!

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

With sessions covering:

- Substance misuse
- Homelessness

“ 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. ”

Partnerships and Pathways 2024



“ I found it really helpful to network and expand on my knowledge of what the Alliance has to offer. ”

