

# THE PLYMOUTH ALLIANCE



Newsletter - July 2024 edition

Welcome to the latest edition of the Plymouth Alliance Newsletter.

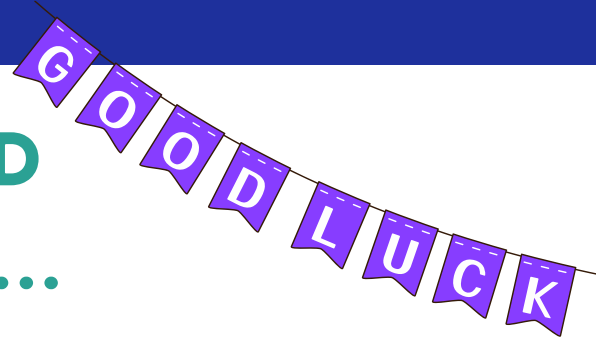
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# HELLOS AND GOODBYES...



## New CEO at Path



Welcome to Victoria Allen, new Chief Executive of Path (Plymouth Access to Housing). Victoria is taking over from Mike Taylor, who is standing down after 19 years in the post.

Victoria previously served as a trustee for 2 years and has been a senior manager at both Plymouth City Council and the Theatre Royal. As Path's CEO, she will join the Alliance Leadership Team, overseeing the development and running of The Alliance.

Path, which has over 50 staff members, carries out rough sleeping work, provision of housing support and private rented access work, whilst also directly providing accommodation for single people and families. Indeed, this year will see Path taking on more properties to add to its housing provision, buying and leasing accommodation for those in need.

Mike Taylor, Former Chief Executive - Path



## A message from Andy Maguire



So, Hamoaze said goodbye to Mark Bignell after over 20 years of service to the local community. We had a very sunny afternoon in the garden, attended by over 40 past and present service users and family members. Lots of anecdotes and gratitude for Mark and his personal compassion toward people, but also his leadership here in keeping Hamoaze as a service driven by relationship, connection, and community.

In my 29 years working in drug treatment I have never seen a leaving 'do' like it, and it is perhaps one that we should all aspire to. That I am seen as someone who can take the baton from Mark, (and Roma!), is both humbling and exciting. I plan to do all I can to nurture and grow our truly relational model of service, and continue to provide an oasis for those in pain, and their families.

Hamoaze holds a very unique place in our city landscape, an inspiring place to work where there is a tangible sense of community with people using our service, where everyone matters, and we don't do perfect.

We all look forward to evolving Mark and Romas legacy.

Andy Maguire, Acting Chief Executive - Hamoaze

# PLYMOUTH RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE (PRSS)

Plymouth Resettlement Support Service is for people who have come to Plymouth via dispersal or through relevant schemes to settle into the City to help them find stability, join its culture and to discover the opportunities that are open to them. It is delivered by a partnership of organisations with long histories of, and strong commitments to, supporting refugees in the City.

Plymouth has long enabled and supported people fleeing conflict, in recent years welcoming people from Syria and Ukraine amongst many other countries. This partnership brings together various services to ensure support for people to enable them to make sense of, and settle into, their new environment. We aim to build links, bolster self-esteem and help people find belonging within the wider Refugee community and help people access the wider community.

The partner agencies therefore work collaboratively to provide a wide range of support activities that enable individuals and families to:

- meet their aspirations
- feel a sense of belonging
- build on their assets, skills, and attributes so that they feel settled, regain their sense of identity, and can participate fully in society.

The service aims to:

- provide support to secure and maintain accommodation
- help people understand and exercise rights and entitlements living in the UK
- support individual self-sufficiency through developing employability skills, English language classes and setting up benefits
- addressing health outcomes

PRSS is delivered by a partnership of 5 local Voluntary Community Sector Organisations, together the Plymouth Resettlement Partnership:

- DCRS - support for individuals in the asylum system, immigration advice, community activities
- START - housing, benefits, access to health, community activities
- ODILS - ESOL, employability skills, employment mentoring, integration support
- Path - housing, move on and tenancy support
- PDREC - community engagement, awareness raising, benefits support, community activities

Each partner provides services and support for refugees and others beyond what it commissioned by PCC for PRSS, so that there are a range of activities and opportunities via members, from access to health care to social and support activities and groups.

For more information, please contact any of the partners, such as via their websites (linked above).



# THE ZONE UPDATE

## Services within ZAP

**Tuesdays** – Katie Plant (Harbour Transitions Worker) - young people will need to be referred to Katie Plant / Harbour.

**Wednesdays** - Hannah Taylor (Mental Health Practitioner, CAMHS Transitions) - Hannah can offer an advisory role to other professionals about possible mental health support and other services that might be appropriate for their service users.

**Wednesday afternoons** – Ruby Lee (PCC Community Connections Officer for U.25s) - Ruby Lee can see a young person for a planned appointment if she has capacity on Wednesday afternoons. If she doesn't have capacity to see them there and then she can book them an appointment with either her or a colleague to start a homelessness application.

**Thursday afternoons from 1pm** – Angie Curtis (SPARK Outreach Worker for Young Women aged 18-25) - young women aged 18-25 can either turn up on Thursday afternoons or be referred to Angie Curtis who can meet with them on other days during her working week. Angie runs the SPARKLES Group on Wednesday afternoons at the Sunflower Centre. Please see a copy of the poster for SPARKLES above.



## HSBC No Fixed Address Bank Accounts Update

ZAP has been an approved referral partner with HSBC since July 2021 and has referred 66 young people for a No Fixed Address Bank Account.

ZAP is currently undergoing a re-enrolment process with Shelter who are a national partner with HSBC on this scheme. We hope to resume this service within the next few weeks once the required checks have been completed

Rob Bloomer (Breaking the Cycle Relationship Manager) is the point of contact in Shelter for any organisations who wish to become an approved referral partner with HSBC. Rob can be contacted via [Breaking\\_the\\_Cycle@shelter.org.uk](mailto:Breaking_the_Cycle@shelter.org.uk)



# SUPPORT FOR THE ALLIANCE FROM PCC

Plymouth City Council employs a full-time Senior Commissioning Officer to support The Plymouth Alliance. The current Senior Commissioner has been in post since 1 June 2023.

Role measures for this post include:

- All contracts meet Council and statutory requirements
- Projects are delivered on time and within scope
- Positive feedback received from partners and service users
- Securing cooperation and collaboration from others to achieve required outcomes

The Senior Commissioner supports the delivery of key projects related to priorities for health and social care. This includes supporting the leadership of key projects and planning, design, implementation and monitoring of projects.

Key work undertaken by the Senior Commissioning Officer with the Alliance in the last 12 months has included:

- Establishment of a robust contract and finance management process for all core budget activities and additional grant funded projects
- Governance review and update
- Finance review and update; oversight of all funding and monitoring in order to support core delivery
- Securing the main Alliance contract extension to 31 March 26
- Additional Contract Variations as a result of additional grant funding (28 such contract variations within the past 12 months)
- Alliance Leadership Team
- Support and / or management oversight of Governance, Finance and Communications Subgroups
- Membership of Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Group
- Membership of Accommodation Subgroup
- Membership of Treatment Subgroup
- Contribution to Creative Solutions Forum Review
- Contract monitoring of all services relating to the Alliance (core budget plus additional grant funding – circa £11m in funding for 24 25)
- Establishment and chairing of Alliance Subcontractors Subgroup
- Contract & finance monitoring of Alliance Subcontracts
- Day to Day operational management and support of Alliance Business Support Officer
- Facilitation of Alliance Induction Sessions
- Collaboration with Changing Futures to include and respond to the voices of lived experience in the commissioning of Alliance Services
- Collaboration with Public Health Colleagues to support the additional funding and work around Treatment services
- Working with Operational Colleagues in Community Connections, Safeguarding and Children's Services to ensure proposals link to practice and are practical and deliverable
- Project managing to ensure that key strategic projects stay on track
- Supporting the procurement of services where required or other approaches to enable providers and partners to work innovatively together, including encouraging providers to have capacity and interest in engaging with developments
- Monitoring the impact of key projects and whether they deliver strategic and operational benefits
- Contract establishment and linked monitoring of associated contracts including
  - ~ Plymouth Community Homes
  - ~ Trevi
  - ~ Probation Service

For any queries in relation to Commissioning Activities under The Plymouth Alliance please contact: [jointcommissioning@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:jointcommissioning@plymouth.gov.uk) FAO Senior Commissioner The Plymouth Alliance.

# NEWS FROM HARBOUR

## Naloxone Advocates Plymouth

Harbour was joined by George Charlton – Independent Consultant to develop a peer-to-peer Naloxone project in Plymouth. We were joined at Harbour on Monday 20th May from many stakeholders in the city including Alliance partners, commissioners, Police, Probation and the hospital. We were also joined by 7 potential peers.

In the first month, the peers went from strength to strength. They continued to train staff and visitors to Harbour and started to get out in the community and delivered Naloxone training, harm reduction information about Nitazenes and distributed naloxone kits to individuals and organisations.

This project has been a great success, in respect of it being the starting point for Plymouth developing its own Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO) and seeing the peer's confidence and self-worth grow. Thier story was picked up by BBC Spotlight who spent a morning with the team: [Former drug users to help prevent heroin overdoses in Plymouth](#) - [BBC News](#)



The peer-to-peer Naloxone project is called NAP66; you can find out more at @NaloxonePlymouth on Facebook or email the project and [napplymouth66@gmail.com](mailto:napplymouth66@gmail.com)

## PORT expansion across the Alliance

In July 2023, a team from Harbour, Livewell and HIPP set up Plymouth Overdose Response Team (PORT) which aims to deliver a harm reduction based intervention to people who have experienced a non-fatal overdose. The evidence available tells us that a person who experiences a non-fatal overdose is at high risk of death of the following 28 days post overdose.

PORT has been delivered at Devonport Lifehouse, BCHA George House and BCHA Supported Accommodation. Following an agreement at ALT in June 2024, each Alliance partner will identify one member of staff to join a roundtable discussion to plan the expansion of PORT to include all Alliance Partners.

Watch this space, we will provide updates in due course!

# THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD

## Changing Futures

### Changing Futures Plymouth Workforce Development Survey

For Staff Supporting Individuals Experiencing  
Multiple Disadvantage

If you have any questions, please contact  
act  
[Gemma.Gowan@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Gemma.Gowan@plymouth.gov.uk) or  
[Katy.Krysiak@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Katy.Krysiak@plymouth.gov.uk)



### FREE TRAINING

Available for volunteers, volunteer coordinators, or **anybody who wants to get into volunteering**

Taking place at **Hamoaze House**



Scan above or email  
[kevin.tapscott@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.tapscott@plymouth.gov.uk)  
for more info & to book your space

#### Session 1:

GDPR/Confidentiality  
Equality & Diversity  
Safeguarding  
Boundaries & Effective Communication



2nd July 10-1pm  
4th July 2-5pm

#### Session 2:

Health & Safety  
Drug & Alcohol Awareness Training  
Wellbeing  
Signposting



16th July 2-5pm  
18th July 10-1pm

#### Session 3:

Introduction to Trauma Informed  
Practice



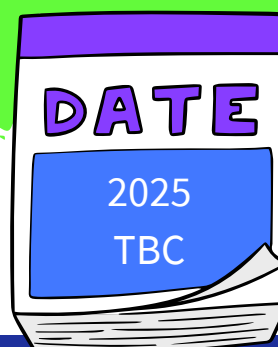
25th July 10am-12pm

## Alliance Induction Sessions

Alliance induction sessions are now running every quarter.

These sessions take place in the training room at Hyde Park House from 3pm - 4pm on the following dates.

To book a place for you or a colleague, please check with your manager and email [amy.mackay2@nhs.net](mailto:amy.mackay2@nhs.net)



# THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD

## Partnerships and Pathways Sessions

We are now taking bookings for the last two sessions of the year - sessions will take place on Tuesday 15 October (substance use) and Wednesday 20 November (homelessness), at Hyde Park House, starting at 9:30am until 12pm.

Partnerships and Pathways sessions aim to get staff from Alliance members and subcontractors together. We want people to learn more about other services, build relationships and links and understand and improve pathways.



We intend for these sessions to be based around mutual respect, participation and shared learning. We ask that people listen to and value each other, using a positive and problem-solving approach.

If you would like to book a place, please check with your manager and email the Alliance Business Support Coordinator, Amy - [amy.mackay2@nhs.net](mailto:amy.mackay2@nhs.net)

## Hamoaze House Memorial Garden

Hamoaze House have started a GoFundMe page to raise some funds to turn part of their garden into a memorial spot for anyone who has been affected by the loss of a loved one to substances.

The loss of a loved one is difficult at any time but when substances are involved it is a different kind of grief. Hamoaze would like to create a quiet space for families to go and sit, maybe get some support if they need it, but mostly a place to remember their loved one in peace. Click the button to donate:

**DONATE** 

