



# Plymouth Alliance for Complex Needs

Best for people using services

September 2020

## **PATH Tenancy training**

Dates still available: Monday 9th November, Friday 4th December AM & Monday 7th December PM

This Tenancy Training programme has been developed and is facilitated by Path.

Tenancy Training is suitable for staff, volunteers and people who work in housing or related services.

The training aims to help staff support their clients in understanding and accessing private rented tenancies. Looking at rights, responsibilities and affording and securing a tenancy. Training is delivered by at least one Path Renting Support Service worker.

Training will currently be delivered via video call (Zoom).

### Course Outline:

First half – different types of accommodation / monies required / tenancy agreements:

- Myth Busting!
- What is Private Rented Accommodation and Social Housing?
- Understanding Tenancy Agreements
- What are landlord's expectations of you – and their obligations to you?
- How can you and the landlord end a tenancy legally?
- How do you secure Private Rented Accommodation and Social Housing?
- Sharing communal spaces with others

Second half – Looking for properties / viewing a property / moving into a property:

## **World Homeless Day 10<sup>th</sup> October**

To commemorate World Homeless Day this year the Alliance has been promoting the hard work of staff from across all organisations to tackle homelessness, particularly in light of the ongoing coronavirus emergency.

To raise awareness we are promoting the Alliance website <https://theplymouthalliance.co.uk/> which has links to related articles, videos and media releases. In addition, Livewell will have a report in their bulletin about World Homeless Day and the Alliance, sharing how we responded to the government's 'Everyone in' initiative and giving an overview of individual partners.

PCC are running their Make A Change campaign again this year which provides places for people to make a small donation as easily as possible through contactless 'tap to give' points, knowing that all the money will help the homeless and tackle the complex issues behind why people become homeless. The money is shared equally between PATH, Shekinah and the Soup Run, who spend it directly on clients.

## Refugee Awareness Training

Plymouth & Devon Racial Equality Council are offering training on the following dates:

- the 12th of October from 11 am to 1 pm
- the 22nd of October from 11 am to 1 pm
- the 9th of November from 11am to 1 pm
- the 19th of November from 11am to 1 pm
- the 3rd of December from 11am to 1 pm
- the 14th of December from 11 am to 1 pm .

The training is delivered on Zoom.

To book your place, please email:

[l.porfir@plymouthrec.org](mailto:l.porfir@plymouthrec.org)

Once the booking is confirmed you will receive a link to the Zoom online training

### **Weekly Property Bulletin**

Many people probably know already but there is a Weekly Property Bulletin sent out, sharing vacancies in private rented accommodation so that staff members can alert and support clients needing housing to consider them.

The Path Renting Support Service have a list of 130 landlords/agents that they contact regularly to obtain information about vacancies; which they then share via the bulletin to over 100 alliance staff and is used, for instance, to help people move on from temporary accommodation.

Anyone wanting to receive it should email:

[David.Ringwood@pathdevon.org](mailto:David.Ringwood@pathdevon.org)

### **GRANTS FOR PEOPLE REQUIRING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

If you haven't already explored the Turn2Us site then please take a look!

<https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/>

**Frontline Worker Survey 2019: Full Report Launched!** The Frontline Network has announced the launch of the '[Frontline Worker Survey 2019: Full Report](#)'. Now more than ever decision-makers must listen to the voices of those experiencing homelessness, and the frontline workers who support them. 1,435 frontline workers responded to this survey, which makes this report the largest collection of frontline workers' views across the United Kingdom. This report highlights the significant challenges facing people experiencing homelessness, and the many hurdles frontline workers must overcome to prevent homelessness. Thank you to all the frontline workers who took the time to feedback your expertise. Your insight is central to the work at the Frontline Network.

## PEC Plymouth Energy Community NB for STAFF INFO ONLY

**ADVERTISING OF THIS SCHEME IS PROHIBITED** (*This is a stipulation from the funder*)

PEC are due to start a scheme offering emergency credit top-up vouchers for anyone with a pre-payment meter that has been affected by COVID-19. This may be an employment related issue or it may be that costs were much higher during lockdown for gas, electricity, water and food etc. and therefore people are struggling.

Recipients can be awarded with £49 per family or £30 per individual. Each household can receive up to 3 vouchers, either one, two or three at a time. We have been asked not to automatically award 3 vouchers and therefore the amount of vouchers issued needs to be weighed up against the length of time until a payment will be received. So, if it's a week until pay day, one voucher should be sufficient. If needed, another voucher can be requested at a later date until 3 have been received (there is no time limit). Vouchers can be split between gas and electricity when redeemed at the shop in whichever way works best.

We are obliged to collect evidence that the recipient has a pre-payment meter with a low balance (under £10) so whenever possible, please get the client to provide a photo of their meter showing the balance. We understand that this will not always be possible, but please do obtain it whenever you can as we may be audited. If no evidence can be collected, you can sign to confirm the client has a pre-payment meter with a low balance. (Referral form attached)

Due to the level of funding we have and the amount of time required for processing applications, we will not be able to chase missing information. It is therefore imperative that the application form is filled in completely and accurately. If there is information missing, we will not be able to process it.

This scheme will be available until October 20th or until the funding runs out, whichever comes first.(See attached form) It may also be helpful to make clients aware that their energy supplier may provide the Warm Home Discount which is £140 off their winter bill if eligible. Some suppliers' schemes are open already.

### Coming up in October:

We will shortly be sending out dates for the next **Big Teams** meeting please email Sharon Tucker [sharontucker1@nhs.net](mailto:sharontucker1@nhs.net) if you would like to attend.

**World Homeless Day 10<sup>th</sup> October** – if you have any events that are taking place within your organisation please let Sharon know so that she can promote them across the Alliance.

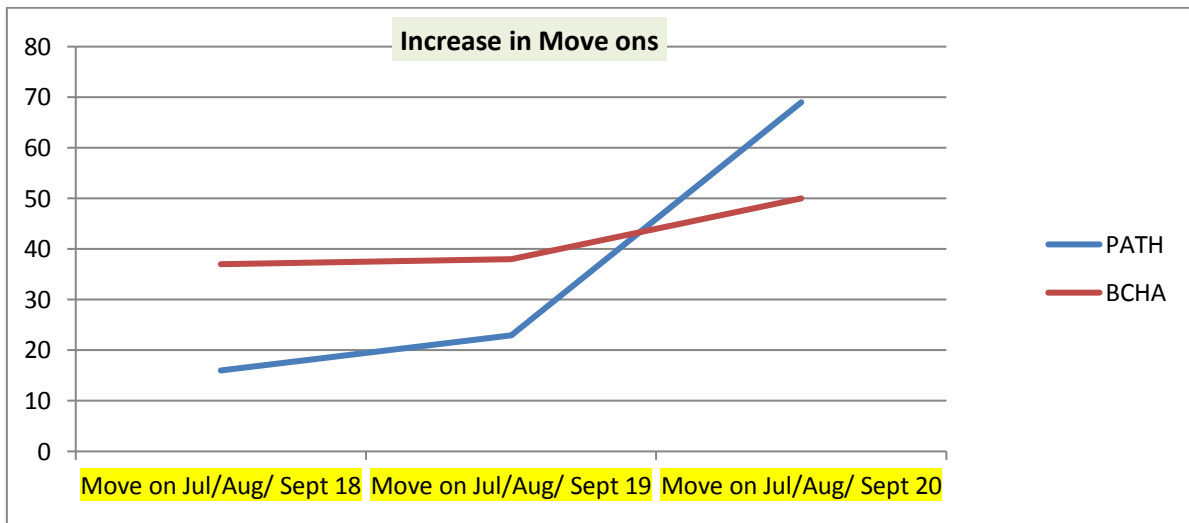


## Moving on

For the lockdown, Alliance partners took on over 70 units of accommodation as temporary housing for people presenting as homeless. Some areas mainly used empty hotels but Plymouth's approach was to offer housing, where possible.

Ordinarily, services would be helping people move on from 'temp' to their own tenancies all the time. But with lockdown that wasn't possible, so as things eased the priority came helping people get their own places. That means those people have somewhere more secure, somewhere of their own, and also frees up temp accommodation for other people.

As the graph shows, Path and BCHA between them moved 120 people on between July and early September: a phenomenal achievement and an improvement year on year.



## **Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP)**

Alliance partners bid for funding that was made available as part of NSAP programme to support the continued housing and longer term resettlement of people accommodated under the response to Covid and Government 'Everyone in' agenda

Plymouth bid for £491,780 of revenue funding and were awarded £381,780 to support people to remain in accommodation until March 2021.

The funding will enable us to support 132 people, including:

Creating 47 bed spaces until March 2021

Leasing 2 additional 6 bed HMO properties totalling 12 units.