

THE PLYMOUTH ALLIANCE



Newsletter - September 2023 edition

Welcome to the latest edition of the Plymouth Alliance Newsletter.

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PLYMOUTH SOUP RUN AND WORLD HOMELESSNESS DAY

On Tuesday 10th of October 2023, people around the world will mark World Homeless Day in varied ways to address one of the most pressing social issues of our time. They will all be seeking to change the lives of people experiencing homelessness in their local community. The aim and slogan of World Homeless Day 2023 is 'locals act locally on a global day'. The emphasis is on giving hands-on aid that is sensitive to local needs, while being aware of the global problem of homelessness and feeling solidarity with others striving towards the same aim around the world.

The volunteers on Plymouth Soup Run will mark the day by doing what we do every night of the year – serving hot food and drinks at the roadside to an ever-growing number of people. In 2022, the Soup Run served 28,500 meals. So far in 2023, we have seen an increase of 10% over 2022, pointing to a projected annual total of around 31,300.

Through the charity Next Meal, we are networked with other local groups in the UK and food aid providers as far afield as Johannesburg, Los Angeles and Sydney. They experience differences in the severity and scale of the challenge posed, and the circumstances in which they work, but all have a heart for serving their local community to meet fundamental human needs.

Here in Plymouth, our clientele is diverse. Some people are street homeless, some are vulnerably housed, and some are fearful of losing their homes because they cannot make ends meet financially, along with other risk factors threatening the stability of their lives. Whatever the reason that brings people to the Soup Run stops, we provide our service on a 'no questions asked' basis to all. For some it will be the only food they have in the day and may also be the only supportive human contact they feel they can turn to. And for most, the food that they receive will not be the only help that they need. Accordingly, our teams carry sleeping bags, blankets and emergency clothing. They also come prepared to provide signposting information and referrals to housing, health and other support services and, above all, a ready and non-judgemental ear to lend to people's concerns

Recognising the particular hardship of street homelessness, in collaboration with Path, Shekinah and other partners we offer a special Saturday morning session for rough sleepers. In this way, we try to make the experience less bleak and, through connecting people with services, less isolating and shorter lived than it might otherwise be. In addition, by supporting those at risk of losing their accommodation, we hope that we can make a contribution to preventing homelessness.



Volunteers
needed

If you would like to volunteer for the soup run, please fill in the application form at the end of the newsletter and email it to info@plymouthsoup.run.org.uk

PLYMOUTH SOUP RUN AND WORLD HOMELESSNESS DAY

Relationships are at the heart of everything that we do. Hence, we value the partnership that we enjoy with the members of the Plymouth Alliance, Plymouth City Council, and other services and charities, the support of our donors, the fellowship of our volunteers, and the bonds of trust that we build with our clients.

For anyone whose life has been affected by homelessness and the related trauma, it is not necessary to have a special day to mark that reality. The same goes for people working or volunteering in activities that support people affected by homelessness.

However, a wider purpose is served by identifying a day on which to focus on the devastating impact that homelessness has on individuals, families, and communities. Accordingly, we welcome the opportunity to draw attention to the part that Plymouth Soup Run plays in supporting those suffering disadvantage in our city, and to express the wish that at some point in the future, there will no longer be a need for our service.

Lyndsey Withers - Plymouth Soup Run

<https://www.worldhomelessday.org/>



THE HOUSING CRISIS DRAGS ON

We know that many people with mortgages are facing rising costs, making life difficult for both many owner/occupiers and for landlords letting their properties. For people renting, the private rented market is shrinking, with higher rents and more competition for remaining properties. Meanwhile, social housing supply completely fails to meet demand.

So, many people are facing:

- Higher interest rates
- Higher rents
- Higher bills
- But often not equivalently higher incomes
- If on benefits, inadequate levels of Local Housing Allowance (Housing Benefit)

What this means is:

- More people, including families, who are homeless
- A higher proportion of working people amongst those who are homeless
- People struggling with bills, including for food and clothing

For people and organisations providing housing, costs have risen, too. At the same time, for private landlords there is more regulation for providing tenancies but the lure of more lucrative holiday lets for some, dragging accommodation away from being for housing to being for holiday use.

All of this means a culmination of factors that are increasing homelessness in Britain. It's the reality of the housing crisis and has no obvious end in sight. There are, however, things that the government can do to help and that would include looking at the benefit levels, including the amount set for the housing element which is currently falling woefully short of actual market rents across the country.

At the same time, all these factors make us even more grateful for the landlords we work with who don't push their rents to the maximum level of "market rates". We're also grateful for the other charities working to support people through the cost of living crisis (Soup Run, Plymouth Foodbank, Plymouth Provide and the like) who make life for our clients that bit more manageable, sitting alongside what we and our Alliance partners do.

Mike Taylor, Path



SYSTEM INNOVATION FORUM

Changing Futures have created a new and exciting space to explore ways of working to optimise support for people experiencing multiple disadvantage in Plymouth. There is some funding available through the Forum to test and support new ideas.

It's simple - if you have an innovative idea that you think would improve outcomes for people experiencing multiple disadvantage, you can bring it to the Forum to generate further views and seek possible collaborations. Decisions will be made collectively by people in the room.

We have held three meetings to this date, which were absolutely fantastic! Some of the things we have discussed and supported so far:

A festival for people living in one of the hostels in Plymouth

It has been identified that activities like festivals can be common for some people, but this can be totally out of reach for people living in hostels or temporary accommodation. People should be able to take part in meaningful experiences whilst they are on their own, difficult journeys. The festival is due to take place early September and will be supported by some of those who have attended the System Innovation Forum.

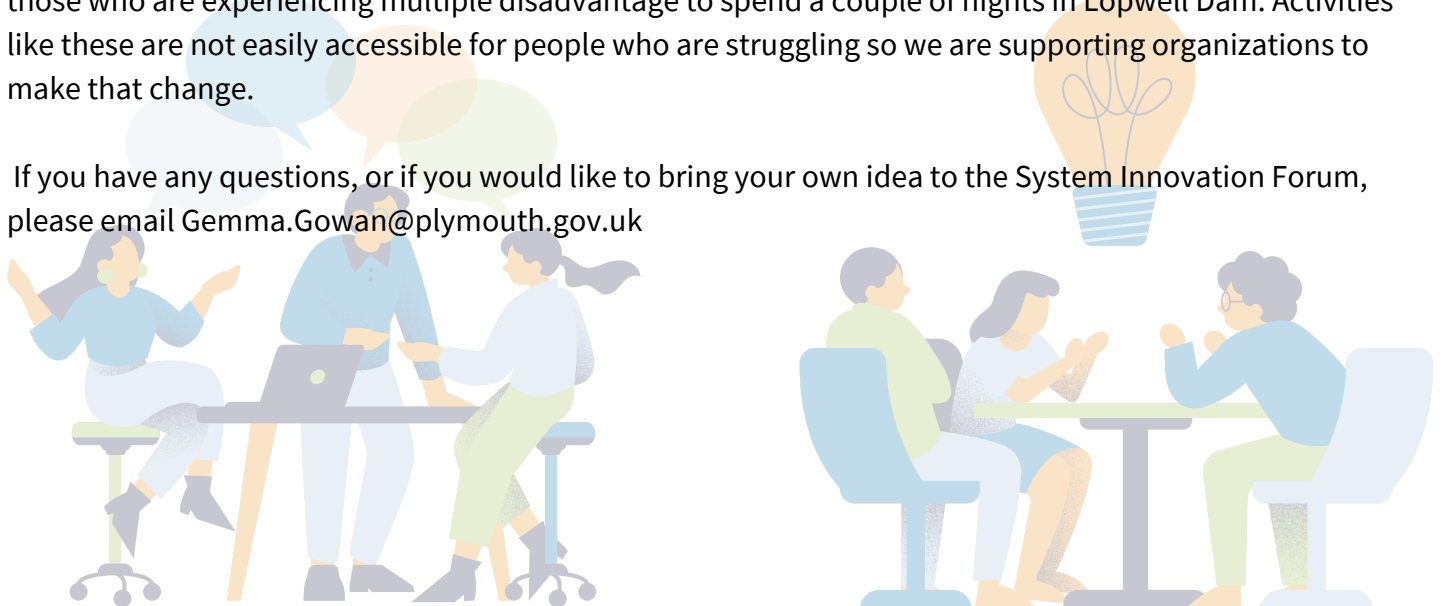
Recording and sharing monthly talks

We will be supporting one of our partners to record and share monthly talks. Hosted by guest speakers, these will cover issues such as living with addiction, mental health and wellbeing, food poverty, resilience, digital media etc. They will be improving their digital set up to make these talks more accessible to a wider audience.

Weekend away trip for people to reconnect with nature

It has been noted that people who are struggling with addiction do not have many opportunities for weekend getaways to reconnect with nature and with each other. A weekend trip has been planned for those who are experiencing multiple disadvantage to spend a couple of nights in Lopwell Dam. Activities like these are not easily accessible for people who are struggling so we are supporting organizations to make that change.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to bring your own idea to the System Innovation Forum, please email Gemma.Gowan@plymouth.gov.uk



THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD

Recruiting landlords

Every so often Path advertises to try to attract landlords to work with different services it provides, aiming to help people who are homeless get more access to accommodation. Please see the advert currently being used. →

So, if anyone knows of landlords who may be interested in advice and support renting or may wish to explore leasing, contact details are noted.



Alliance Annual Report

As people know, the Alliance contract brings together some similar and some quite different work, with the aim that services are better aligned and so more effective. Everyone's busy and so we are especially pleased to have information from partners which we've used to create a report on what Alliance members and sub-contractors provided last year (2022/23).

[Please click here to read the Alliance Annual Report.](#)



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

On Thursday 31st August, Plymouth did its bit for International Overdose Awareness Day. Despite the rain, the team from Harbour had the tent up in the city centre, and lots of naloxone was given out!

We met people who are with Alliance services, people who were open to exploring their substance use and some who spoke about and remembered people they had lost to overdose.



Purple ribbons to remember people we have lost to overdose have been given out from Harbour, BCHA George House, Salvation Army Devonport Lifehouse and Hamoaze House. The Pastor from Salvation Army held a service to remember people lost to overdose.

We lose too many people to overdose every year and we can all come together as one big network to end overdose in Plymouth and everywhere else.



www.overdoseday.com

Sean Gray, Harbour

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

Dates:

Thursday 5th October

12pm - 3pm in person

Tuesday 7th November

12pm - 3pm in person

Monday 4th December

10am-1pm - Teams

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.

SCAN
ME!



THE ALLIANCE NOTICE BOARD

Remembrance Service

A remembrance service to remember and honour the lives of people who have died from drugs or alcohol and related illnesses is being held in November.

Date: Tuesday 14th November 1.30 - 2.30
At: St Andrews Church Plymouth City Centre

This service is open to staff and clients across the Alliance.



1st Stop Office Reopened

The 1st Stop reception desk is open for homelessness advice and queries. Clients can come into the shop where they will be asked a few questions by our concierge/security staff to make sure that they are signposted to other places if the query is not about homelessness.

The 1st Stop shop is located at 71 New George Street.



The doors are automatic and open from 9:00 until 13:00 and again from 14:00 until 17:00. Clients will be given quick advice and may also be offered a follow up appointment in person or by telephone. Clients with vulnerabilities should be offered a face to face appointment and can bring a support worker with them to this.

1st Stop are unable to assist with any queries that do not relate specifically to homelessness, including queries about Devon Home Choice.

GOOD NEWS

Swap Shop at Harbour

Jenny Dean at Harbour has started up a swap shop for the clients. Lots of lovely ladies have already attended to swap their clothes, eat cake and do what women do best...yap!

If anyone has anything to donate such as clothes/ hair accessories/make up/nail varnish, please get in touch with Jenny - jennifer.dean16@nhs.net. Jenny is also looking for volunteers to do nails, makeovers, massages etc. Please let her know if you are interested.

If you have any female clients within the Alliance who you think would be interested in attending please let them know this event is every Friday 11-1. Let's share the love. ❤️



Crowdfunder Launched for Shekinah

[Click here for Shekinah's website](#)



PLYMOUTH SOUP RUN AND KITCHEN VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM

Name: Date of Birth:

Gender: Occupation:

Address:

City: Postcode:

Contact phone number: Email address:

❖ Why do you want to volunteer at the soup kitchen/soup run?
.....
.....

❖ Which night of the week are you available to help? (Please circle all that apply)

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

❖ How regularly would be available to volunteer? (Please circle) Weekly Fortnightly Monthly Ad hoc

❖ Do you have you own car? (Please circle) Yes No

If Yes, are you happy to drive occasionally as part of the Soup Run? (Please circle) Yes No

❖ Which aspect of the soup run/kitchen are you available to help with? (Please tick all that apply)
Collecting food from Plymouth city centre Preparing food Serving food and clearing up after Driving

❖ Have you ever had a CRB/DBS completed? Yes No
If yes, please provide a copy of your latest CRB together with your application.

❖ Where did you hear about the Soup Run/kitchen?
.....
.....

❖ Please provide details of two referees (This can include personal references).

Full name: Full name:

Relationship: Relationship:

Email: Email:

Mobile: Mobile:

Signed/Name: Date:

Please email this form to info@plymouthsoupapun.org.uk