

Plymouth Soup Run Report to PCC for April 2021:

In April 2021:

- Plymouth Soup Run served 1983 meals (an average of 66 meals per night, 20% or 17 meals less than April 2020 when the impacts of the first lockdown became very noticeable, and 3% or 2 meals per night less than March 2021).
- We received ample food donations from the Co-op and others; a hot meal is often now served as well as or instead of soup.
- Teams made 30 referrals to the Rough Sleeper Team and met 26 other rough sleepers (some referrals and sightings will have been of the same individuals on different nights); Path/HISS information was provided to two clients at risk of losing their accommodation.
- 41 sleeping bags/blankets were given out to rough sleepers; supplies ran out some nights and 6 requests could not be fulfilled.
- A lot of requests for warm clothing and shoes; not all requests for shoes could be fulfilled; teams also gave out numerous toiletry items, masks and hand sanitizer; care packs were prepared and distributed by Plymouth University Islamic Society students and Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise; panic alarms were provided to Soup Run Plus clients.
- A number of interactions with the police: assisting in the care of distressed or injured clients, one requiring paramedic attention, checking on welfare of vulnerable clients, and alerting teams to missing persons.
- Teams reported concerns over the physical and mental health of clients, and volunteers with medical training supported clients on several occasions; three clients were helped to get to their accommodation.
- On one occasion, a client well known to teams was threatening harm to himself and others; there were more reports than usual of unruly or drunken behaviour.
- A member of Hamoaze House staff joined the Soup Run on one night, and Soup Run Plus had participation from Shekinah, Harbour, the Sunflower Project, the Eddystone Trust, and mental health practitioners.
- Easter was celebrated with a service arranged by Soup Run Plus, fish and chips on Good Friday, a roast meal on Easter Sunday and distribution of donated Easter eggs.
- Soup Run volunteers participated in PCC and Alliance discussions on the night shelter, funding for enhanced support to complex needs clients and plans for a second Covid vaccination session, and underwent training on de-escalation and on food safety and hygiene.