

Plymouth Soup Run Report to PCC for May 2021:

In May 2021:

- Plymouth Soup Run served 2208 meals (an average of 71 meals per night, 8% or 5 meals per night more than April 2021, and 22% or 21 meals less than May 2020 when the impacts of the first lockdown were most noticeable, leading to the highest monthly total ever recorded).
- Ample food donations were received from supermarkets, local shops, businesses, community groups and individuals; a hot meal is often now served as well as or instead of soup, and clients were also provided with tinned and dried food when available.
- Teams made 24 referrals to the Rough Sleeper Team and met 34 other rough sleepers (some referrals and sightings will have been of the same individuals on different nights).
- 60 sleeping bags/blankets were given out to rough sleepers.
- There were a lot of requests for warm clothing and some clients were very wet after spending all day out in the rain; the lack of somewhere to be during the day was felt to be impacting very negatively on some rough sleepers and night shelter residents.
- Toiletries and hygiene items were prepared and distributed by Plymouth University Islamic Society students who attended all Sunday Soup Kitchens during May, taking them to the end of their academic year.
- Two clients were helped meet the cost of electricity as an emergency.
- Police sought help from the Soup Run in locating three individuals who were missing or considered to be at risk.
- Teams reported concerns over the physical and mental health of clients, and volunteers with medical training supported five clients with first aid and/or advice; two clients were helped to get to their accommodation.
- Soup Run volunteers and clients were saddened to learn of the sudden deaths of four individuals known to them, and a number of clients were highly distressed by the news.
- Soup Run Plus had participation from Shekinah, the Eddystone Trust, and Community Health Outreach Nurses.
- StreetVet volunteers provided outreach services to Soup Run clients on six occasions during May.
- Teams reminded clients about the Covid vaccination event on 20th May and Soup Run volunteers provided refreshments on the day.