

Plymouth Soup Run Report for January 2024

The month in numbers

- 2,633 meals served, equivalent to 85 per night
- 47 sleeping bags, 6 blankets and 4 roll mats given out
- 15 referrals made to the Path Rough Sleeper Team

Key points

- The number of people supported and meals served continued to rise, with January 2024 exceeding December 2023 by 7% and January 2023 by 12%.
- Storm Isha made an impact, and other nights of harsh weather were experienced during the month, including a period of SWEP in which assistance was provided by Soup Run volunteers to direct rough sleepers to accommodation.
- High levels of distress were observed, especially among some long-term and repeat rough sleepers.
- We met a number of vulnerable people not meeting criteria for emergency accommodation, including a 70-year-old male, a young woman, and three prison leavers.
- Two very unwell individuals whom we have been concerned about were accommodated after treatment in hospital.
- New volunteers included Plymouth Argyle under-18s, and nursing lecturers.
- The NHS Mass Vaccination team joined runs on three nights, providing flu and Covid vaccinations.
- Large quantities of clothing and toiletries were given out.
- Household Support Funding was used to help several clients, including one moving into his own accommodation with very few possessions.
- Volunteers were trained in naloxone administration.
- Generous support was received from individuals, supermarkets, churches and businesses.
- Sadly, we report the death of Simon Howard, a founder member of Plymouth Soup Run.