

Plymouth Soup Run Report for February 2024

The month in numbers

- 2,322 meals served, equivalent to 80 per night.
- 44 sleeping bags, 6 blankets and 9 roll mats given out.
- 18 referrals made to the Path Rough Sleeper Team.

Key points

- Numbers have steadied, with the total served in February 2024 being 99% of that in January 2024, and 6% lower than February 2023. A Cost-of-Living payment received by some clients towards the beginning of the month was thought to have impacted on numbers temporarily.
- Two families, one with two children, and another with three children and in a B&B, were provided with food over several days.
- The month's rainfall was double the average for February; consequently, dry clothing and sleeping bags were in high demand.
- Most nights were calm with only occasional issues including the behaviour of one very distressed client for whom assistance was sought from the police. Paramedic assistance was required for three clients. The emergency services are thanked for their prompt responses.
- Once more, we met recent prison leavers who were rough sleeping. We assisted six people to get to emergency accommodation, and arranged a total of four nights B&B for vulnerable clients with no accommodation options.
- We were joined on runs by staff from West Devon and East Cornwall Breast Screening Service, Shelter and Harbour. The latter distributed rucksacks containing a blanket, power pack, insulated cup, foil blanket and torch.
- Our AGM was held 1st February. During the month, representatives attended rough sleeper and risk management meetings and presented a talk on the work of the Soup Run to a church group.
- The Sunday Soup Run served for the last time at Shekinah, Bath Street, on 24th February.