

## **Plymouth Soup Run Report for April 2024**

### **The month in numbers**

- 2,712 meals served, equivalent to 90 per night.
- 47 sleeping bags, 9 blankets and 2 roll mats given out.
- 31 referrals made to the Path Rough Sleeper Team.

### **Key points**

- Numbers are rising steadily, with the total served in April 2024 being 8% higher than March 2024, and 7% higher than April 2023.
- Weekend operations were conducted from Shekinah Centre at Stonehouse Creek from the beginning of the month.
- As always, clients appreciated the opportunity to talk. Several were suffering with toothache. Tensions among clients occasionally boiled over, requiring de-escalation. Teams noted a lot of anxiety, including a young father in distress due to his circumstances.
- Paramedic assistance was sought for two particularly unwell clients.
- One young person was supported with arrangements for his mother's funeral.
- We funded two nights in a B&B for a vulnerable client with no accommodation options.
- We were fortunate to receive a Household Support Fund grant from the Department for Work and Pensions via Plymouth City Council, and were pleased to receive practical items from Plymouth Argyle Trust to distribute, including clothing, fleece blankets, slow cookers and electric blankets.
- On 23rd April, World Book Night, staff from Plymouth Library Service joined us on the run, giving out 47 books as well as 15 coats donated by library users.
- Teams came together in a meeting of the Plymouth Soup Run Development Group, and representatives attended rough sleeper and risk management meetings, and a meeting of Plymouth Food Aid Network.
- Support from the police was appreciated including a meeting with a local PCSO, and officers checking in at our busiest stop.
- Volunteers were given training to help them support people with drug addictions to stay safe.