

Plymouth Soup Run Report for March 2025

The month in numbers

- 2,573 meals served, average 83 per night (equal to March 2024 and 6% higher than February 2025).
- 41 sleeping bags and 24 blankets given out.
- 43 referrals made to the Path Rough Sleeper Team.

Key points

- **A month of contrasts:** Volunteers commented: *“Every night is so different”*. Numbers served ranged from 50 to 128, presenting a catering challenge. Careful management of supplies or restocking was necessary on several nights. Teams reported some nights as *“Calm but cold”*, *“Crisp and clear with little incident”* others *“Busy with a high level of need”*, *“We were delayed by a couple of incidents”*, or simply *“What a night!”*.
- **Severe weather:** SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) was called on the coldest nights of the month. As well as regular services providing emergency accommodation, Mutley Baptist Church joined the effort with a volunteer-led offer. The Soup Run also funded a total of 29 nights of accommodation for 5 particularly vulnerable clients.
- **Health and wellbeing:** Client’s mental health challenges were as evident as ever with many people wanting to talk and share their concerns, and one client with significant behavioural challenges requiring careful management to meet his needs whilst keeping teams secure. A serious and traumatic incident involving a client who was suffering a great deal of distress necessitated intervention by police and ambulance services.
- **Resources:** Our regular donors, suppliers and generous members of the public continued their support. The most recent Government/DWP Household Support Fund grant made available to the Soup Run by Plymouth City Council ended in March. Over its six-month duration, it enabled us to support 117, mostly single-person, households. We were able to ease the discomfort and enhance the welfare of rough sleepers, and help others meet cost of living pressures, some setting up a stable home for the first time.
- **Networking and community collaboration:** During March, Soup Run representatives participated in Creative Solutions and Risk Assessment meetings, and in Plymouth Careers Fair. Our volunteers were from 9 churches, 7 businesses or workplace groups, and 5 community or philanthropic groups. Each Monday, StreetVet volunteers joined the run to tend clients’ companion animals, and two Livewell staff joined the run on one night. In addition, the month saw diverse parts of the community contributing to the overall Soup Run effort. One night was organised, resourced and served by Plymouth Argyle under-18s team. There were regular chants of *“Green Army”* with lots of praise for the team’s efforts. On another night, a coordinated effort by Wetherspoons customers from Plymouth and beyond provided a burger and soft drinks for all clients.