

Plymouth Soup Run Report for May 2025

The month in numbers

- 3,020 meals served, average 97 per night (5% more than May 2024 and 2% more than April 2025).
- 55 sleeping bags, 1 blanket, and 1 roll mat given out.
- 42 referrals made to the Path Rough Sleeper Team.

Key points

- **Improving weather:** The weather generally took a turn for the better in May which made for more harmonious runs but an increase in the number of people seen: *"Good conversations and a lovely dry evening"; "Busy, but settled and cheerful - a fair crowd across the stops ... a calm, cheerful atmosphere with a good deal of lively chat between servers and clients"*. Nevertheless, several of the relatively high number of sleeping bags given out were to replace wet ones, and there was still demand for warm dry clothing.
- **Health and welfare concerns:** Police officers looking for a vulnerable client reported as missing were directed to the person's usual Soup Run stop and the client was safely returned to their accommodation. Some relatively serious injuries, from violent encounters or self-inflicted, required intervention to dispense first aid and/or call paramedics. One client was administered naloxone having apparently overdosed on an opioid drug. Six clients were given bus tickets to enable them to get to hospital. One long-term rough sleeper with complex needs was supported to access emergency accommodation pending a more stable solution.
- **Social isolation:** It is often evident that clients have limited options for social interaction and conversation, and appreciate the opportunity to share how they are feeling. *"A few grumbles from a couple of clients ... focused on their personal circumstances"*. One with a complex medical diagnosis was supported through the highs and lows of his treatment journey. Another *"was delighted with his progress having been in detox for three weeks. Great to see him looking so well"*.
- **Home cooking, food donations and sponsorship:** On some nights, creative work in the kitchen using ingredients from redistributed food supplies meant that clients enjoyed variety in the food offer: *"... a delicious pasta dish and a tasty quiche"; ... homemade tomato soup was much appreciated"*. Three food businesses donated their end-of-day surpluses, providing goods for clients to select in addition to the regular fare. Sponsorship of one soup runner in the Run Plymouth 5K took the form of 100 portions of chips that were really welcomed by clients. A total of 20 runners participated over the different distances on behalf of the Soup Run, raising around £4,000 in sponsorship for team funds. More detail is given in social media posts.