

Plymouth Soup Run Report for July 2025

The month in numbers

- 3,104 meals served, average 100 per night (equal to July 2024 and 8% more than June 2025).
- 83 sleeping bags, 8 blankets and 6 roll mats given out.

Key points

- **High numbers:** We expect to see high numbers of people coming for food in the summer and this year is no exception. The demand for sleeping bags at double a typical month was, however, unexpected and a major draw on resources. A few were to replace wet sleeping bags, and some rough sleepers reported having their possessions confiscated or stolen.
- **Resourcing runs:** Teams were generally well prepared for the level of demand for food, with the occasional need to top up. *"A very busy night with JUST enough food absolutely nothing left at the end!"* Surplus food supplies made a major contribution to the food provision, and fish and chip shops made welcome contributions on two nights. A local business made a generous donation of sandwiches and, one night, *"a man on the Hoe kindly gave the team £5"*. Demand for clothing and toiletries was met thanks to donations including via our Amazon Wish List. Special thanks to those who donated sleeping bags to help meet the high demand this month.
- **High temperatures and heightened moods:** Typically, and despite a few wet nights, teams reported *"a calm, but very busy run"* for most of the month, with the warm weather making for a pleasant run environment. However, there were *"some interesting moments"*: instances of tension among clients, occasionally turning to aggression, alcohol-fuelled behaviour, and rowdiness, all requiring sensitive management to keep volunteers and clients safe.
- **Concerns for health and wellbeing:** A person in very poor health, newly homeless and sleeping in a car, was signposted to the Soup Run and, alongside other services, we were able to help them with emergency accommodation and food, access to podiatry services, and transport to hospital appointments. Several other clients were also given bus tickets to help them reach medical and other essential appointments. Teams reported a number of clients struggling with their mental health and were grateful for support from Livewell and HIPPP practitioners, who also donated dressings, and Livewell donated vapes. First aid was dispensed to one client, and volunteers supported two others awaiting attention from paramedics.
- **Collaboration with other services:** Many of our teams are based in churches that offer support to clients in the daytime to meet their wider needs. And we responded over the month to requests from emergency and health services to look out for missing and vulnerable people, take food in exceptional circumstances to people who are housebound, and pass on information on accommodation offers to clients. StreetVet volunteers provided weekly kerbside treatment for clients' companion animals