

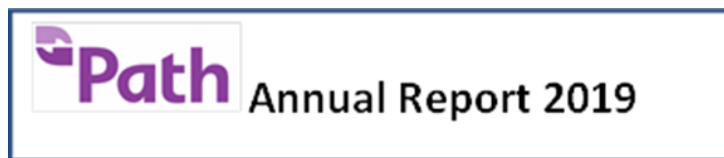


Annual Review 2019

This report covers Path's work in the year April 2018 to March 2019.

Key Statistics 2018/2019

- Our Rough sleeper team evidenced 340 people who were street homeless
- Our Renting Support team moved 232 households into private rented housing
- The HISS Advice team gave advice and support to 859 people
- We secured grants for clients totalling £72,000
- We also helped 154 clients with money we've raised, ourselves
- We accommodated 123 people in housing we run directly



Who We Are

Path is an independent charity supporting people who are vulnerable to homelessness in Plymouth, Devon. We do this by offering a range of advice and support services, from help for rough sleepers on the street through to enabling people to set up and maintain tenancies.

Path Services in 2019

Services that we currently provide the following services in Plymouth:

1. Support for Rough Sleepers

We support people who are sleeping rough to move off the street.

2. Resettlement Scheme

We provide temporary accommodation in the community to single people facing homelessness.

3. Housing Advice and Support

We provide housing information and individual support to people who are single and homeless, including people using mental health, drugs and criminal justice services.

4 Refugee Integration Service

Working with START, and now PDREC and ODILS, we provide housing and integration support to refugees in Plymouth, especially those who have recently gained leave to remain in the country.

5. Access to Private Rented Housing

Our Renting Support Service (RSS) helps single people and families set up and maintain their own private rented tenancies.

6. Easylet

We also work with Plymouth City Council and Plymouth Homes4Let to run the Easylet scheme, taking on properties for landlords and letting them to people facing homelessness.

Director's Message

Every year, like many charities, we want to find better ways of helping people, to work in partnership more and to maximise the positive impact that we can make. In 2018/19, that included us working with other service providers in Plymouth to form a complex needs alliance; and also to continue to develop our provision of temporary accommodation, something we do that directly helps people who come to us.

The numbers of people who are homeless, including rough sleeping, remains high, here and nationally. Plymouth, though, was selected as one of the areas to receive additional funding from central government under the Rough Sleeper Initiative. We worked with partners, including Plymouth City Council, to bid for the funds and we have worked together since then to provide the additional support that it enables. For us, as the operational lead, that has been a major and positive commitment and a key priority.

That said, as central government continues to cut the money it gives to councils, our other funding remains under pressure. Whilst that is challenging, our focus will always be on local need and we work with others to keep services going, Plymouth City Council again being supportive.

For the year ahead, those pressures will continue and increase. We and others are putting significant time into the Alliance and hope that over time that will enable further joining up and better responses to people needing our services.

Mike Taylor, Director

Services Review, April 2018 to March 2019

Rough Sleeper Team

The aim of the Rough Sleeper (RS) team is to work to reduce and prevent rough sleeping across the city in conjunction with other housing and support providers. To achieve this the team carries out early morning outreach sessions, where workers find and positively interact with those on the street, encouraging them to engage with services, to ultimately get them off the streets and into accommodation. This is followed up with support and advice at drop-in sessions and elsewhere.

In 2018/19 numbers of people sleeping rough in Plymouth, as for most of the country, continued to rise.

- 340 individuals were evidenced sleeping rough during 2018/19
- 44 of those were women
- The number of people accommodated was 98.

MARS

The MARS (Multi-Agency Rough Sleeper) team is a government funded initiative that was established in July 2018. Last year, the team comprised of workers from Path, Shekinah, Westward Housing and BCHA. Each worker is allocated a small case load of people to work with on a one-to-one intensive basis, to support rough sleeping clients into their own accommodation. They continue to support them to help sustain their tenancy and address any additional needs that may otherwise cause the client to return to the streets.

During 2018/19

- 42 people received ongoing support
- 40 were accommodated in temporary accommodation
- 17 moved into their own tenancies
- 46 received financial support via our 'personal budget' scheme
- 20 clients received financial support from benevolent funds we secured

Part of our work with partners has been setting up a Housing First scheme for Plymouth. The partnership includes Community Connections (Plymouth City Council), Shelter and Plymouth Community Homes. Significant work was done to develop the scheme, with the first person housed in November, in private rented accommodation.

Housing Support for women

We have been really lucky to be able to offer support specifically to women engaged in the criminal justice system and vulnerable to homelessness thanks to funding from Lloyds Bank Foundation. These women have very complex needs; and we work directly with probation and other services to ensure we offer the comprehensive support they require.

- During the year, 33 referrals into the service were received, and we supported 60 women over the course of it. At the end of the year, 26 women were open to the service.
- Of the 60 supported during the year, 23 were assisted into social housing, 15 were assisted into private rented accommodation, 7 into temporary accommodation and 2 into temporary and then on into permanent accommodation.

Resettlement

Path provides temporary accommodation to people who are homeless via shared houses in the community.

Path has been managing a number of the properties in partnership with Reestart, with Path leading on the housing management and Reestart providing the properties. In addition to this, Path also manages several of its own houses.

The scheme is completely self-funded from the rental income, with 50 rooms provided in total in the year. People can stay for up to 6 months, but the average length of stay is 14-16 weeks. Around 40% of those who move-on go into the private rented sector through the Renting Support Team and receive a Deposit Guarantee from Path.

Numbers housed

- 123 people housed in year
- 90 people who moved on successfully
- 97.37% occupancy rate
- 16 weeks average stay

Client feedback:

- 'Thanks for all of your help over the past 6, or so, months. It hasn't been easy but thanks to you, and the others at Path, I feel like I'm getting my life back. I am eternally grateful.'
- 'I cannot thank the team here enough, when I came to Path my life was in such a mess but it has given me the breathing space I needed to address my issues and I am now in a much better place. It really has been the chance that I needed'

Case studies:

- W was referred to us by PCC. He was placed in a B&B by the temporary accommodation team but struggling to manage this due to his diabetes. He was not eating well due to the lack of cooking facilities. We moved W into our temporary accommodation whilst he was bidding for suitable accommodation. W was able to cook, eat and store food and got his diabetes back under control quite quickly. He stayed with us for 14 weeks before securing social housing.
- G was referred to us by the HISS team. He was staying in a tent in his ex partners garden as their relationship had broken down. G was also known to the Rough Sleepers team as has sporadically been evidenced as sleeping rough. He was then linked into the MARS team and accommodated in our accommodation. The MARS team supported G to get a learning disability assessment and an adult social care assessment. This gave us a full picture of G's needs. G stayed with us for just under 9 months and with support he secured a one bedroom private rented flat. We used donations from the storage unit to furnish his flat and G is now thriving and has access to his young child again.

HISS






The Housing Information, Signposting and Support Service provides information, advice and on-going support to single people in Plymouth who are vulnerable to homelessness, especially people with complex needs such as:

- Mental & Physical health issues
- Substance misuse issues
- Learning difficulties

Offending Behaviour




A partnership between Path and BCHA, HISS offers advice via a twice weekly drop in and individual support for people. Access into the support element is via the drop in or referral from another agency.

The Advice Team provides a range of services including:

-  short pieces of tenancy support work
-  accommodation seeking, including homeless approaches
-  person-centred housing support work
-  raising funds via charities
-  liaison with other agencies.

If people need further support, our housing support workers work can work with them for a period of up to six months to help secure/maintain accommodation.

Our Housing Support roles work closely with other services, including probation and Psychiatric and Community Mental Health Teams and Adult Social Care. The service also helps people to understand their rights and responsibilities of being a good tenant and is able to assist with promoting and maintaining links within the local community.

-  162 people housed
-  859 people receiving housing advice
-  305 people receiving housing support

Ex-Services Housing Support



This service was provided for 12 months up until December 2018, funded by The Royal British Legion. It provided Housing Outreach Tenancy & Resettlement Support to the ex-Services community and their dependents, providing housing advice & information, assistance with applying for grants and government benefits.

Support given with attending appointments e.g. families and single people approaching the council to make a homeless approach, accommodation seeking within the private rented sector and help offered to bid for social housing on Devon Home Choice, setting up Universal Credit housing element payments to private and social landlords.

From 1st January - 31 December 2018




-  51 Referrals for Housing Advice & Support

Of these

-  12 Required Advice & Signposting
-  39 have been supported with accessing accommodation, tenancy support & had their incomes maximised.

Refugee Integration Service

The Refugee Integration Service (RIS) is a multi agency partnership formed of Path, START, ODILS and PDREC. This contract is funded under the Home Office Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (SVPR) and supports:

-  Families from Syria under the SVPR Scheme
-  New arrivals coming through Family Reunion
-  Refugees granted Leave to Remain who live in Plymouth

- 📌 Current refugees who would benefit from integration support.

The service primarily exists to support families and individuals from Syria over a 3 year period to integrate in to the local community with assistance from a caseworker who will support the individual through the development of a Personal Integration Plan. Each organisation within the partnership brings specific and specialist support to our clients.

Path provides support in housing and accommodation, START leads on integrating and supporting clients, ODILS delivers ESOL to 100+ learners per year and PDREC provides support to communities and refugee awareness sessions.

Since the service started in June 2017, our partners have supported 34 SVPR families equating to 133 individuals, along with many existing refugees in Plymouth, new refugees and family reunion cases.

In 2018/19, from Path specifically:

- 📌 42 people received housing support
- 📌 18 people were housed (directly or via RSS etc: 3 with a Deposit Guarantee)
- 📌 9 received grants that our team secured

Renting Support Service (RSS)

Our Renting Support Service (RSS) houses people in the private rented sector. Working with a large number of landlords and letting agents, we look at people's needs and options, aiming to help them move into accommodation let at affordable rents.

We support single people and – referred by Plymouth City Council – families. The local authority's Community Connections is a key partner but people are also referred by hostels and other local homelessness services.

As well as issuing deposit guarantees to secure tenancies, we secure money from benevolent funds for deposits, rent in advance, fees and furniture. At the same time, we work with the City of Plymouth Credit Union, helping people set up and use savings accounts to build up a deposit for when our Deposit Guarantee expires.

- 📌 166 people were assisted into private rented accommodation last year
- 📌 154 of those had deposit guarantees to the value of £65,984.
- 📌 We received 522 referrals; the majority received housing advice either over the phone or in person.
- 📌 £14,158 was raised through Benevolent Fund monies to assist with move in costs.

The Enhanced Young Persons Housing Support Service is a development of the wider Plymouth Renting Support Service, also funded by Plymouth City Council. We assist care leavers, and young people aged 18-24 moving on from specific supported accommodation. Many of these young people have never held a tenancy before, and therefore present a greater perceived risk to a landlord. We are able to work with landlords, provide targeted support to the young person, and offer an enhanced Deposit Guarantee to help these vulnerable young people into a more settled life.

We housed 49 people during the year, each provided with 12 months support following move in

to the property – the same as the core PRSS service.

Starting in August this year we have a new 'offender' Renting Support Service, primarily aimed at people who have already been released from prison, but are now at risk of recall for breach of licence as they have no accommodation; and those who are at risk of custody as they have no accommodation to prevent them going to prison. The service is for people ready to live independently for whom a tenancy may be the best option; however they get extra support to secure and maintain one.

17 people have been moved into private rented accommodation so far and the service is getting great feedback from agencies that work with offenders.

Grants for Renting Support clients:

- 105 grants were secured for people using this service

Easylet

The Easylet scheme is run in partnership with Plymouth City Council and [PH4L](#) letting agency to make letting easy for landlords whilst providing affordable, good quality private rented accommodation for people in housing need.

We advise landlords about renting and property standards and offer a letting service via PH4L. We therefore get more access to accommodation for people approaching PCC Community Connections and Path who are in need of accommodation. 1 property that was viewed during the year was taken on by Path to lease as temporary accommodation.

A key part of the role is also to source private rented housing for refugees coming through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPR). Plymouth committed to resettling 150 people through the programme over a 3 year period and Easylet is an important part of providing suitable accommodation for families coming here. We have almost reached the target and are pleased that the scheme has been extended for a further year. 2 properties were 'recycled' during this year.

- 63 landlords engaged with
- 37 properties seen and advice given
- 17 properties brought on with PH4L (7 of which for the SVPR scheme)
- 7 additional properties brought on for the Syrian scheme managed by landlords
- 71 flats and houses and 24 rooms (spread over 4 HMOs) supported in total.

Other support for clients

Many people we see need help to get access to suitable accommodation. That may include advice, advocacy and maybe a Deposit Guarantee. Some need and want more support, whether access to other services, including health, or more in-depth support with budgeting. As many are on a low income, a key factor is money to set up a home, whether for rent in advance, for moving or for living essentials. Path workers therefore often try to raise money for clients from external funds.

- Last year Path staff raised £72,000 for 253 clients
- We also helped 154 people via our own Hardship funds
- We also had donations totalling £7,449

We have some funds to provide various types of 'tenancy packs'. Last year we gave out:

- 📄 114 tenancy packs
- 📄 39 single bedding packs
- 📄 253 double bedding packs
- 📄 47 kettles

In terms of benevolent funds that have helped our clients we want to gratefully acknowledge St Martin's In The Field (aka Vicar's Relief), B&CE and the David Gibbons Foundation, amongst others.

For anyone able to contribute or get involved in fundraising, please get in touch with us on 01752 255889 or at info@pathdevon.org

Plymouth Frontline Network

Path is pleased to be a partner of St Martin's In The Fields, running a network for staff who support people vulnerable to homelessness. In 2018/19 we made great strides, working with St Martin's and their other partners, to create a strong basis for the Frontline Network across the UK.

With the local Network that we run, there have been 14 meetings/events that have attracted 151 attendees. The Plymouth Frontline Network has 98 members on the mailing list who receive regular newsletters and interim pieces of information that may be of interest (eg, presentation from Praxis about the EU Settlement Scheme).

One focus for the Network continues to be how to support the health & well-being of those working on the frontline in homelessness and related fields. This is a popular subject as our colleagues, working with the most vulnerable and challenging people in our communities, are finding their workloads increasing and consequently their stress levels. The Frontline Network has become a valuable, independent resource whose sole aim is to forge relationships, facilitate improved communication between services and share experiences and best practice.

Happily, Path has been awarded another 3 years of funding to continue running the Plymouth Network.

Key Developments in 2019/2020

There are some significant things for the year ahead:

- 📄 Further develop and increase our provision of temporary accommodation, increasing the number of rooms provided from 50 to over 80
- 📄 Increase the Easylet service (via further RSI funding) to increase access to private rented accommodation for people facing homelessness
- 📄 Work more with partners in the Plymouth Alliance to develop and improve services for people with complex needs

Path as an organisation

Objectives & Activities

Path's charitable objectives are that of relieving poverty within the City of Plymouth and beyond, by providing assistance to those in housing need.

Income

Path's biggest single funder is Plymouth City Council, from its own funds and from monies received locally from central government. Equally, some funding comes to Path directly and some via partnerships.

Other funders include: Lloyds Bank Foundation, the Royal British Legion and St Martins In the Field. We greatly appreciate all the support and funding that we receive.

As we provide housing, we now also receive income from rents, enabling us to provide accommodation for people most in need.

With fund-raising, we are lucky and grateful to have the support of various community groups and enterprises, who voluntarily raise or donate funds to help our clients, this year including The Penguin Pub in Plymouth. We were also fortunate to be chosen by the Cooperative Society, locally, for support.

We do not employ fund-raisers, contact individual members of the public or have any agreements; and we have had no complaints related to fund-raising.



First Class Support has named PATH as its chosen charity of the year



The Penguin Charity Pub Quiz 07/06/2018
Raising funds for P.A.T.H. (Plymouth Access to Housing)
Maximum 4 persons per team - £2.50 per person
All funds raised will be donated to P.A.T.H.
Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, plus a Cash Jackpot prize awarded randomly, irrespective of Quiz ability.
The Quiz will consist of 6 Rounds, plus Picture/TableTop Rounds, Who Am I?? Round and a Music Round.



supporting Plymouth Access To Housing 

If successful, this quiz event will be repeated regularly!!
COME ALONG FOR A FUN-PACKED EVENING HOSTED BY ONE OF PLYMOUTH'S PREMIER QUIZMASTERS!



What the Fox??

Website

Our website is used as a source of information for landlords and other agencies as to what we do, and also for staff recruitment. We regularly review it, updating information and trying to make it more useful and accessible.

www.pathdevon.org

Twitter

We continue to use Twitter and have over 1200 followers. We use our account to share news and information about Path, partners, housing and homelessness. You can follow us **@PathDevon**.



PH4L

Path set up and owns PH4L (Plymouth Homes4Let social letting agency). PH4L is a separate company, providing access to settled accommodation for people facing homelessness. At the end of March 2019, it was managing 158 properties.

Legal & Administrative Information

P.A.T.H. (Plymouth Access to Housing) Limited

Registered Office

The Harwell Centre
28 - 42 Harwell Court
Western Approach
PLYMOUTH
PL1 1PY

Trustees/Directors in 2018/19

Mr D Millar (Chair)
Mr N Thomas
Ms N Sarlaka
Mr G W Wheeler
Ms J Wharton
Ms J Laing
Mr L Budge

**Registered Company
Number**

4478819

Chief Executive Officer

Registered Charity Number

1097772

Mr M Taylor

Contact Tel: 01752 255889

Email: info@pathdevon.org

Funding Partners



**Frontline
Network**

