



# **Annual Report 2021**

This report covers Path's work in the year April 2020 to March 2021.

# **Key Statistics 2020/2021**

- Our Rough Sleeper team evidenced 306 people who were street homeless
- Our Renting Support team moved 262 households into private rented accommodation
- The HISS Advice team gave advice to 978 people via phone advice line alone
- The Resettlement Team accommodated 240 people in our temporary housing

#### 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.

# **Director's Message**

2020/21 was a very different year to ones before, not just for us but for everyone. Covid-19 and its implications were massive, affecting every aspect of what we do and how we do it. Where people worked from, how we communicated, how we made ourselves accessible and provided support were all affected. But we were clear throughout that we must adapt so as to be able to respond to the needs of people who come to us.

We kept our building open throughout, with some staff members needing access so as to be able to do their jobs. They carried on going in and moving around the City, seeing people face to face, visiting venues and properties but using PPE and social distancing. Others moved to largely or completely working from home, contacting people via the phone and internet even more and doing whatever it took to keep providing services. For a few, it was a combination of these approaches. All were committed to keeping going, being available and effective and also learning as we went.

That was vital as, while many things may have been somewhat on hold during the lockdowns, homelessness remained a constant. Indeed, in Plymouth the numbers of people presenting to the Council and services meant consistent demand for advice, support and accommodation. And arguably greater need to ensure people had somewhere safe to be. Hence the government's 'Everyone In' scheme, where local authorities and services worked to help people off the street. Plymouth's response was largely effective and was cited as a model of good practice by the Local Government Association. We were pleased to play our part in it. (See Housing the homeless.)

One of the things that we did as part of that response was to take on more houses to provide temporary accommodation. Our focus is always to help people move towards and into their own settled accommodation but sometimes people need something sooner and more flexible. We firmly believe that temporary accommodation therefore has its place; but also that it should be temporary. During this year we moved to having well over 100 rooms that we provide in Plymouth. That is a core part of what we provide; but we also made an important move to starting to provide housing for tenancies, as well.

Indeed, we at Path need good quality and affordable accommodation, run by flexible landlords, for our clients; and in 2020/21 we became more one of the providers of that accommodation, something we will now build upon. There can be a lot of barriers to homeless people securing their own accommodation; Path's work and future increasingly includes not just supporting people through that but providing for it, ourselves.

Mike Taylor, Director

# The Plymouth Alliance

Path is an active member of The Plymouth Alliance, along with six other service providers and Plymouth City Council. The origins of The Alliance go back several years, with a few Plymouth services and some commissioners looking at how organisations can work together better, more based around the needs of people using services than specific council contracts.

The Alliance therefore brings together previously separate work in homelessness and substance use, making it all one contract that is planned and overseen together. It's a huge, innovative change in how things are done, with new systems and structures having to be set up and new opportunities for working together. Three core elements of Path's work (and identity) are in the contract: rough sleeper support, housing advice and support and private rented access work. So Path is very definitely at the table.

That means being part of meetings and plans, sharing responsibility across services and working on what we can do together, from workforce development to use of buildings. For us at Path, that doesn't just mean taking into account services that are funded by and as part of The Alliance: we want all our work aligned and effective.

https://theplymouthalliance.co.uk/

# **Housing The Homeless During The Coronavirus Crisis**

During Covid, partners in The Plymouth Alliance worked hard to house people who were homeless. With the initial lockdown that meant responding differently for many, as we couldn't move people out of temporary accommodation in the way (and the numbers) we usually would, moving them into their own accommodation; and therefore we couldn't free up those temporary spaces for 'new' people. At the same time, we worked hard on the 'everyone in' approach, aiming to have no one sleeping rough.

We needed to respond to:

- Moving people who were in communal space into their own rooms
- Moving people off the street
- Moving people out of B&B
- Having options for people newly presenting, often to the Council
- Providing family homes

There were 4 things that Alliance partners did, in particular, to meet these needs and aims.

- 1. Take on 2 very large properties for people with more complex needs.
- 2. We at Path took on 44 rooms for less complex homeless people
- 3. Community Connections and Path worked to get families housed
- 4. Ensure shared coordination of access to temporary accommodation

At the same time Alliance partners continued to provide existing housing and homeless services, including:

- Rough sleeper outreach
- hostels
- other temporary accommodation
- housing advice and support
- access to private rented housing

All this meant that there were decent offers for many people in a time of crisis, with numbers in B&B being higher but being managed all the time. The priority then was to maintain and develop that.

# Services Review, April 2020 to March 2021

# **Rough Sleeper Outreach**

The Rough Sleeper (RS) team works to reduce and prevent rough sleeping across the city in Partnership with other housing and support providers. For us, the work is funded within the Plymouth Alliance contract and partnership.

The team carries out early morning outreach sessions, where workers find and engage with those on the street. Our initial aim is to ensure the person's welfare, alongside supporting them to come off the street. This work entails supporting people, directly, and linking them with other agencies for support and access to accommodation.

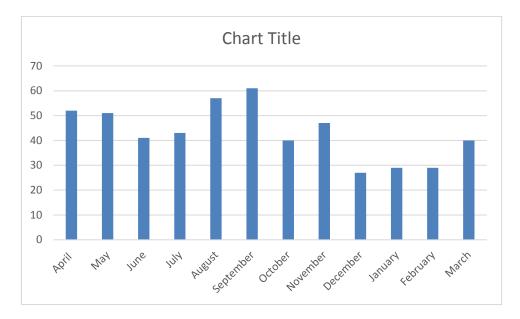
In 2020/21 our team evidenced 306 people sleeping rough in Plymouth, a 10% decrease on the previous year, reflecting shared progress in preventing street homelessness.

- **238**, male
- 68, female
- 218 had a local connection to Plymouth
- 71 of those evidenced were known to us in previous years.

Despite lockdowns, numbers were consistent April – November however, there was an obvious decrease in the numbers of people out towards the end of 2020, when the night shelter opened. Run by BCHA, this is made up of 10 self-contained bunks and 2 pods for people to stay overnight, increasing accommodation options for people at risk of sleeping rough. As an Alliance, this needed to be adapted this year to ensure people were not sleeping in communal spaces.

We also had to invoke the severe weather protocol (SWEP) twice during the year, providing emergency indoor overnight space for people who were out. Both occasions were for low temperatures, once in January for 11 nights (which was a record) and once in February for 10 nights. This proved challenging, as we were not able to use communal spaces. Jointly working with PCC, BCHA and other agencies, we were able to ensure anyone who was at risk of rough sleeping, had an offer of accommodation. We are grateful to the Plymouth Soup Run for being such a vital partner in that (and much else).

# Rough sleeping numbers:



#### **MARS**

The MARS (Multi-Agency Rough Sleeper) team is the intensive support part of the Rough Sleeper team. It's a government funded initiative that was established in July 2018, with Shekinah contributing a member of staff.

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. The luxury we have with this service is there is no 'end date' for our clients, we understand this work will not be a quick or easy process so we work with clients at their pace.

#### During 2019/20

- 49 people received ongoing support
- of these 49, only 3 remain on the streets having all been street homeless at some point.

A significant change for us this year was Path taking over the housing management of the MARS house. This is specific accommodation for MARS clients who were struggling in alternative forms of housing. This accommodation is supported by the MARS staff to upskill the residents while supporting them around their physical, mental and substance misuse issues.

It is a model like no other in Plymouth in that we will work alongside people, in a residential setting, while working on harm reduction and support them to live a healthier life. We do this in collaboration with Harbour, GPs, Hep C Trust, our Alliance health care assistants and many other services.

### Case Study:

L came to us street homeless and in a situation where because there were allegations of antisocial behaviour and drug use and dealing. No agency service or landlord in Plymouth was willing to house him. He was regarded as an anti-social drug dealer with a long history of sleeping rough and refusing offers of accommodation. Multiple engagements with police due to begging and drug related crime.

We took a calculated risk by offering a room in shared house managed by us with one main rule - not to have visitors; and as long as he cooperated with staff e.g allowing room checks and following a harm reduction model, we took a pragmatic, harm reduction approach to his ongoing drug use, prioritising his safety from Covid.

He loved having his own room and enjoyed the feeling of warmth and safety of being housed, it has given him aspirations that he did not have before. By setting up a bank account we have been able to start the process of independence. He now gets paid weekly into his own account which he loves.

By building a very detailed picture of his past and his mental health, we were able to put that into words for the GP which led to a prescription which, together with his methadone, allows him to actually sleep.

We introduced him to a Housing Association and advocated for him leading to him being accepted for permanent social housing and lined up an Adult Social Care assessment. This will was a long and delicate process but the disclosure of so much of his background and fears with staff was a milestone and a vial step on his way forward.

### Resettlement

Our Resettlement service provides temporary accommodation to single people who are homeless. We run an increasing number of shared houses in the community, as accessible accommodation for people who need somewhere short term, enabling people to be safe and secure while we help them plan for their own accommodation.

The scheme is completely self-funded from the rental income, from houses we run completely ourselves and some where Reestart is the landlord but we do the housing management. Prepandemic people typically stayed for up to 13 weeks; but our aim is to reduce the length of time people can stay, acknowledging we want people in their own tenancies sooner.

During the first lockdown, we took on an additional 44 rooms in a very short space of time. This was a part of the City's approach to 'Everyone-in' where we were able to offer fast access to anyone who found themselves homeless as a result of the pandemic.

#### Numbers

- 240 people housed in year
- 138 people who moved on successfully
- 19 weeks average stay

The average length of stay increased this year, not drastically but is in correlation with fewer landlords carrying moving people into permanent accommodation during lockdown 1.0, less availability of affordable accommodation and us at Path seeing an increased need of support in our accommodation and therefore people being less ready to move on quickly.

#### Case Study:

P was rough sleeping in the Toys R Us carpark for two years before accepting accommodation under the government 'Everyone In' programme during the first lockdown. He was initially sleeping on the floor in a B&B. We moved P into a house after a few days and established that P had an addiction to alcohol, had undiagnosed MH and was using a different name. P had no documentation apart from a post office card where he received ESA payments bimonthly under the different name.

Once settled we had to establish identity so with the help of the Police, we were able to flag this with Adult Social Care for an assessment and claim benefits for his housing. We were able to use MARS (MHCLG) money during this time for additional support.

Due to lockdown restrictions, referrals were difficult and P was experiencing high levels of anxiety around new staff and assessments but we managed to persuade P to engage and established ASC support of 12 hours to begin with. This then qualified P for supported accommodation with Colebrook. After a year in our accommodation, we went and viewed two properties and he decided to move into a room that has a view of Mountbatten.

The team were kind and patient were P, enabling us to work with him at his pace to get the best outcome for him.

### **Picture of Accommodation:**



# **Housing advice and support**

The Housing Information, Signposting and Support Service provides (HISS) support to single people in Plymouth who are vulnerable to homelessness, especially people with complex needs such as health issues and offending histories.

Providing individual support to people who are marginalised and / or vulnerable to homelessness can ultimately enable them to live independently; and living independently is the goal we want for as many people as possible.

HISS support is more than just help to keep or gain housing, it includes an understanding that housing is vital for people to be safe and well; and also that being safe and well is vital for people living independently. The support therefore tends to be provided by staff members working one to one with the person, looking not just at how they keep or secure their home (income, budgeting, advocacy, furniture/furnishings, bills, responsibilities and rights etc) but motivational work too; how they spend their time, what they aspire to and their health and their social links.

This year, people could access HISS support via a phone line, or via a referral from another agency.

### Referrals

- 176 were allocated to a relevant housing support worker
- 15 referrals were signposted elsewhere / not eligible or did not require a service

### **Drop-ins / Advice Line Calls**

At the start of this year we had to rethink the way we were providing support, as a big part of HISS and how people accessed our service was via our drop in at the Harwell Centre where people could get access to immediate support. To enable people to still get the support they need, we started the 'HISS Advice Line' which has proved really popular for clients and other agencies. The advice line is available 5 days a week. If people we speak to require more support following the phone call we take them on as clients.

- > 978 people contacted the advice line and were given on the spot housing advice
  - 180 of these callers were offered a case worker

#### **Housing Support**

- ➤ 429 people received Housing Support and advice during the year
  - 3835 pieces of work were recorded as being done for these cases

# Main Outcomes at closure

- 155 people were given advice and/or signposted to other services
- 32 secured a Private Rented Tenancy and were supported to maintain it
- 15 Secured a Social Housing Tenancy and were supported to maintain it
- 32 secured supported or temporary accommodation
- 30 were assisted to maintain their current tenancy

Work done (this does not include our Prolific Offender worker who uses a different recording system)

- 1036 pieces of partnership work
- ➤ 195 pieces of work with Universal Credit / Housing Benefit
- ➤ 177 Landlord contacts / accommodation searches
- > 78 referrals to the PRSS Team / another agency for support
- ➤ 61 A2As were completed
- > 58 benevolent fund / DHP applications sent
- 34 utilities contacts
- 28 people had their income maximised

### **Benevolent Fund Money**

➤ £8081.57 was secured in benevolent fund money for HISS clients during the year

## Some thanks from Clients

- 'I just wanted to message to let you know I'm doing really well at the moment and just to thank you just started a new job part time and been looking after the flat not using it as party den no more lol. Just wanted to thank you now I have a clear head for putting up with me and helping me when I needed it because I really wouldn't be where I am now if it wasn't for you!'
- 'Path was very good to me and Tracey was very helpful in getting me help I didn't have a lot and under lockdown was offered a home and my daughter got in touch with path Tracey and she got me a nice fridge and washing machine and some flooring the stress was of me better then can't thank Tracey enough in her helping me big thank you and God bless you'
- 'Thank you for putting me in the right direction and I can't say more than that but I can say this, I appreciated everything you done on my behalf from helping me out found accommodation when I was in deepest trouble and again your help contribute a lot to me once on my own only it will be a bit difficult, so you know what? Old saying that when one door shut another is welcoming open that is something I will never forgetting to the rest of my life.'
- 'When I first went to Path my life was completely unmanageable and I was facing eviction. I never expected the help I would get. Tracy rang up my landlord and arranged a meeting. From there we managed to get myself another chance on my tenancy and the support I received was amazing. In the last year I have gone from strength to strength and thanks to path got funding for a washing machine and my bedroom carpet. Also the emotional support I received has made it possible for me to have a good life. Thanks for all your support, you have changed my life.'

# Case Study: C

C was referred to HISS from the Complex Needs Team. She is an 18 year old female at risk of exploitation, from others and self, substance misuse issues, mental health issues, sex working. At the time of referral she was sofa surfing between her mum's and a current boyfriend. A meeting was set up for C at the Zone with me and the Harbour worker however due to a psychotic episode she was unable to attend and was seen by the first response team at Avon house; her mother took her to this appointment.

I spoke with her mother the day before Christmas Eve and she said C could stay there over the Christmas period, however mum suspected C was using substances intravenously. On Christmas Eve I received an email from PCC stating C had been taken to PCC by the police as she was now street homeless and they had placed her in a B&B. PCC asked us to house her as she stated she was not staying at the B+B and was staying with an unknown male. I emailed the necessary information to Primrose and C was offered a place.

C has been collecting her prescription daily, maintaining her accommodation, engaging well with the staff, adhering to her license agreement and is attending the Freedom programme that is offered in Primrose house.

# Refugee Integration Service (RIS)

RIS is a multi-agency partnership formed of Path, START, ODILS and PDREC to support refugees in Plymouth. This contract is funded under the Home Office Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPR) 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.

#### Path's work in 2020/21:

- Clients supported into temporary accommodation: 26
- Clients helped to move into tenancies in the private rented sector (PRS): 22
- Clients helped to move into Social housing: 9
- Family reunion cases supported: 3

### **Move On Service**

As part of the national response to Covid-19 we were awarded a grant from Homeless Link and the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The grant was aimed at supporting people to move on from our emergency temporary accommodation into settled accommodation. The work was carried out between July and October 2020. Our team:

- Supported 55 people into settled tenancies
- Supported 8 people into other forms of accommodation
- Processed applications to a move-on fund for 76 people; spending £25,000 towards helping people to move on into settled housing

# Supported by





# **Renting Support Service (RSS)**

#### **Referrals**

During the year we received 607 referrals:

Fig. 67 Priority Cases from PCC, 269 Single Non Priority, 92 YP, 117 Offender, 61 Move on Worker

At the end of March 2021 there were 268 referrals still open and being worked with by the team to secure private rented accommodation.

#### **Move ins**

Despite 3 national lockdowns, during the year we moved 262 people into private rented accommodation; 182 of these were housed with deposit guarantees to the value of £69,326.96.

- ▶ 64 'priority' cases, where Plymouth City Council has a duty to support
- 55 single 'non priority' cases (not owed a duty to be housed)
- 22 Young People
- 23 Offenders
- ➢ 9 Move on

89 people were moved into accommodation without a deposit guarantee. We raised £52,952.43 over the year from benevolent funds towards the cost of cash deposits, rent in advance, white goods and furnishings (etc).

We are currently finding that we have rooms available, but a very short supply of 1+ bedroom properties. We feel this is due to the ban on evictions, people not wanting to move during the pandemic, and people moving here from out of area.

We get lots of thanks from tenants that we assist and support into tenancies:

- May I just say thank you very much for sorting out my bed payment for me. It means more than I can put into words, can you pass on my gratitude to her as she has supported me endlessly since I have been released from prison thanks again.
- Due to personal circumstances and becoming homeless and losing my job due to the virus I had been homeless for a while. I received a referral to Path who have helped me secure my own room so I am no longer homeless which also gives me somewhere I can access a doctor's surgery and look at going back to work now I have proof of an address. Alex, Esther and Paul have been nothing but helpful and have helped me through the whole process going above and beyond. This service has helped me so much already.

#### **Savings**

> 171 people were supported to set up a savings account during the year.

£63,492.93 was saved by our clients in the 212 accounts that were closed during the year, a whopping 80% of the full value of the deposit guarantees being saved for. These monies were either forwarded to

landlords to replace the deposit guarantee or used to offset the cost to the alliance of a claim on a deposit.

#### <u>Claims</u>

We have seen a higher than average claim rate at 10%, this being where a tenancy ends and there's a claim against the deposit guarantee.

In the first 2 quarters we had a higher level of abandonments due to people leaving to move in with family/partners etc; and people fleeing their accommodation due to the nature of other residents' behaviour/attitude to lockdown rules. We have also allowed the length of the DGs to be extended in cases where a tenant was due to be evicted but couldn't be due to current coronavirus legislation.

# **Landlords**

We have started working with 26 new landlord/agents during the year. We made 1126 contacts with landlords on behalf of our clients.

Every week we produce a 'Property Bulletin' which we send out to all Alliance colleagues (over 100) to assist them to find accommodation for their clients. To produce this we have a list of 114 landlords/agents that we call that have agreed to be contacted on a regular basis for information about vacancies. We also search Rightmove, Zoopla, Openrent, Facebook (etc) regularly to find new landlords.

### **Tenancy Training**

During the past year we have delivered out Tenancy Training programme to over 100 members of staff from across the Alliance via 13 Zoom sessions. We have had some great feedback:

- Thank you for taking the time to deliver the training. I found it really helpful to distinguish between factors such as the difference in UC payments and Housing Benefit for rent. It was very interesting to know about the differences in tenancy agreements regarding social and private housing, and the different Sections within the law that can be used to evict tenants. I found it very useful to find out the responsibilities of both tenants and landlords, and also the things to look for/questions to ask when viewing different types of accommodation.
- Overall, I found this training extremely clear and easy to understand; although housing/tenancies can be quite complex, it was explained in a way that was simplified. It was engaging and covered things like the advantages and disadvantages of both social and private housing, and to be able to convey these thoughts back to service users may be very beneficial when they are unsure on what route to take. It was nice to be given the opportunity to ask any questions too.

# **Easylet**

### <u>Aims</u>

To recruit landlords and their properties on to the EasyLet Scheme and Syrian Scheme managed by PH4L or self-managed and be specifically used to house vulnerable homeless households approaching through PCC Housing Options and the Home Office.

To help raise property standards across the city, by educating landlords and ensuring all properties meet the decent homes standard and are free from Category 1 Hazards in line with HHSRS.

#### **Year Overview**

This year covered a period of full lockdown due to Covid 19, followed by restrictions which have had an effect on the housing market and therefore the Easylet Service.

Despite this, we have been working from home to remotely support landlords and tenants and have secured 48 new units of accommodation and housed 58 households.

With the HMOs we support, we initially spent time speaking to and supporting tenants with regards to Covid safety and visited properties to put information up in communal areas. We have seen an increase in work supporting tenants and landlords around breaches of Covid restrictions. We also started to provide tenancies, ourselves, with funding from Crisis.

#### **Key Outcomes**

- > There are currently 130 properties (200 Units of accommodation) signed up to Easylet.
- ➤ During the year we secured 27 new properties (48 units of accommodation) for Easylet. These are made up of:
  - 6 x HMOs comprising of 26 rooms
  - 11 x 1 Beds
  - 6 x 2 Beds
  - 3 x 3 Beds
  - 2 x 4 Beds
- > 58 households were supported into accommodation brought on by the service
  - 24 of these units of accommodation were 'recycled'
  - 55 of the 58 are still in their tenancies

#### **Other Outcomes**

➤ We secured a grant of £20,000 from the DPS charity to use towards works required on family properties that didn't meet decent homes standards, in order to bring them on to the scheme. This money is recouped through rent by PH4L, the social letting agency we particularly work with. Together with the monies from MHCLG for the Local Lettings Posts this year:

- £23,196.07 has been spent on properties
- £19,626.60 has been recouped
- All HMOs signed up with PH4L are visited/inspected at least every 2 weeks by an Easylet worker to ensure communal areas are being looked after and residents are happy
- > Tenants are being supported in their tenancies by the Easylet workers to ensure the tenancies are maintained.

# **Service Promotion**

Despite lockdown, we still had 82 enquiries from landlords over the year. These landlords were spoken to over the phone about the services Easylet provides and sent information via email. 29 properties were inspected.

The Easylet Team regularly check property sites and send information to landlords advertising their properties to rent to see if they are interested in signing up to Easylet / housing tenants coming through PCC.

We continue to promote Easylet on the Path Website.

This year, we have found securing properties for families more difficult as people have not been moving due to the pandemic.

### **Case Study**

I met a landlord in August 2020 who had 4 HMO properties that were previously student accommodation. Due to the pandemic and lack of students needing accommodation, the landlord invited me and PH4L to view the properties. 2 were of interest to Easylet/PH4L as they were in very tidy condition and good central locations. Total rooms = 11.

PH4L completed their paperwork and I completed 2 full inventories of the houses and advertised them as Easylet rooms, taking on tenants who were recommended by the Resettlement team at Path. I completed viewings with all potential tenants and arranged their moves into the property, some in the same month, August 2020.

The landlord is happy with the service Easylet provides of communal checks every 2 weeks and room checks every 3 months. Any health and safety concerns are reported directly to this landlord who responds promptly. Tenants are familiar with communal checks and if they are in communal areas, they will stop and speak and if necessary report any room defaults. One tenant needed a vertical blind securing to his window frame which I was willing to complete and another has locked himself out of his room so I visited the property within 20 minutes with the spare keys to let him in.

# **Plymouth Frontline Network**

Path is pleased to be a member of the national Frontline Network and a partner of St Martin's In The Fields, which runs it. With funding from St Martin's, we run a local network for staff who support people vulnerable to homelessness.

For the Plymouth Frontline Network (PFN) the aim of supporting the health & well-being of colleagues has been more important than ever in the last year.

Exactly how to effectively & sensitively do that during a pandemic took some time to work out. We needed to quickly get to grips with providing an online presence for events & training sessions. Sifting through huge amounts of ever changing information meant our monthly newsletters effectively helped our colleagues receive the most important news & updates all in one place.

We worked very closely with the Trauma Informed (TI) Plymouth Network & supported the delivery of Trauma Informed training sessions across all Plymouth services, as well as linking with colleagues outside of Plymouth to provide online TI communication training in October.

We have worked with the Dentistry School to support their students, as part of their Community Engagement Programme, to understand a little more about homelessness & how important being Trauma Informed is when working with vulnerable patients.

Other online sessions that we were able to provide:

- Joint Navigator meet ups for the whole South West region, in partnership with MEAM (Making Every Adult Matter)
- 16 Days of Activism Event supporting the National events against gender based violence. Linking with Plymouth City Council's Safer Communities & Ahimsa.
- Meet with a new Livewell team FUSE (Frequent User Support & Empowerment) & an introduction to the High Intensity Use programme at Derriford, who identify those that would benefit from the support of a worker from FUSE.

We have learned over the past year how important our connections are with colleagues, not only from our own service, but from partner services within the City & indeed across the UK. We have learned from what the Frontline Network community has told us, that we are poorer without those connections. We receive support from them, by knowing we are not alone & learning from each other. This year, out of all the uncertainty & panic, we have learned how much we can achieve together.

# 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

Plymouth City Council (PCC) funds several of Path's services, that work now being part of the Alliance contract. We also receive Rough Sleeper Initiative funding, money from central government (MHCLG), again via PCC.

We also received funding from the Probation services (National Probation Service and the local Community Rehabilitation Company: KSS), supporting our private rented work for offenders. As noted above, Homeless Link and MHCLG also supported Move On work. Charitable funders in this period included: Crisis and St Martins in the Field. We greatly appreciate all the support and funding that we receive.

As we are now an accommodation provider in Plymouth, we also receive income from rents, enabling us to provide accommodation for people most in need, both temporary and now tenancies.

With fund-raising, we are lucky and grateful to have the support of various individuals, community groups and enterprises, who voluntarily raise or donate funds to help our clients. 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.

During the year, one specific fund-raising activity was carried out by one of our staff members, Becky Saxton. As she said on Just Giving:

On my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 7.45pm me and my friend Freya, will be shaving our heads and running into the cold Atlantic sea live on Facebbook. I don't think Freya was counting on the sea part when she offered to shave her head to support me.

We're raising money for Path (Plymouth Access to Housing), where I've worked for 12 years. I really want to support them whilst I am not able to be there; so hopefully in this way I can. Any money raised will go into our Hardship Fund, which goes directly to help the vulnerable homeless people we work with.



#### Website

We use our website, in particular, as a source of information for landlords and other agencies as to what we do; and also for staff recruitment. We now also have a section for articles we write, to share with others:

https://www.pathdevon.org/latest-news--articles

#### **Twitter**

We continue to use Twitter and have over 1400 followers. We use our account to share news and information about Path, partners, housing and homelessness. You can follow us **@PathDevon**.

# **Legal & Administrative Information**

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

Registered Office	Trustees/Directors in 2021
The Harwell Centre	Mr D Millar (Chair)
28 - 42 Harwell Court	Mr C. McClellan
Western Approach	Ms N Sarlaka
Plymouth PL1 1PY	Mr G W Wheeler
	Ms J Laing
	Mr L Budge
	Miss J Beer
Chief Executive Officer	

Registered Company Number Registered Charity Number

Mr M Taylor

4478819 1097772

Contact Tel: 01752 255889 Email: info@pathdevon.org

# **Funding Partners**









