

Plymouth Parent Advocacy Team



Left to right: Ellen Honey, Karen Mallinson, Claire Stowe and manager Kate Cowling

Our Christmas Prize Bingo evening is on Thursday 6 December, 7pm for 7.30pm start.



Just £5 for a full evenings play.
Raffle and refreshments available.

Great line and house prizes to be won in a light-hearted evening of fun



Highbury Community Support Service has another of their popular coffee mornings on Tuesday 27 November in the main hall. Delicious homemade refreshments/hot and cold drinks.

10.30am—12.00



AUTUMN EDITION

Welcome to our Newsletter for October through to December 2018

Our Newsletter for this period is quite sparse as Nick is a little poorly at the moment.

We have received news of cuts to Advocacy Services from Plymouth City Council and the following letter explains this.....



Reduction to Non-Statutory Advocacy Service

I am writing to tell you about changes to Advocacy services in Plymouth.

- Advocacy is about your voice being heard. Advocates support you to speak up, or they might speak up on your behalf.
- The law tells us when people need an advocate
- Non-statutory means advocacy that is not required by law.

Cont.....

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Advocacy
Team

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Company No: 05554535
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admin@plymouthhighburytrust.org.uk
Chair: Wendy Brimicombe
Vice Chair: Rosemay Stoggall
Company Sec. Martin Newman

- Non—statutory advocacy services will be reduced in Plymouth. This will start on 1st September 2018
- Plymouth City Council pays for Plymouth Advocacy to provide non-statutory advocacy
- This advocacy is going to be reduced because the money the Council gets from the government has gone down
- There are other services that can help you; there is a list of them below this letter
- If you would like to tell the Council how you feel about this, please do so as follows: jointcommissioningASC@plymouth.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Kate Lattimore

Commissioning Officer

Support area	Organisation	Contact details
Mental health and access to services	MIND	http://plymouthmind.com/info/
	Re-think	www.rethink.org 01752 251072
	Plymouth Mental Health Network	info@plymouthmhn.org
Homelessness and housing	Housing Intervention, Signposting and Support Service (HISS)	http://www.pathdevon.org/hiss-service.html
	Plymouth City Council	1st Stop shop 71 New George Street, Plymouth PL1 1RJ. https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/contactus/counciloffices/1ststop
	Shelter	https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/local_services/devon
Benefits and debt	Advice Plymouth	http://www.adviceplymouth.org.uk/
Learning Disability Support	Better Futures	https://www.improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk/our-services/better-futures-learning-disability-support-advice

Find information about care and support services from the council and local organisations, voluntary and community groups and businesses.

The Plymouth Online Directory (POD) is your one-stop-shop for all of your support needs:

<https://www.plymouthonlinedirectory.com/kb5/plymouth/directory/home.page>

Parent Project receives further funding

After a long wait, we have finally heard that the Plymouth Parent Advocacy Project is to receive a further three years Lottery funding. The funding will allow us to employ an additional Advocate to support parents with learning disabilities whose children are on a child protection plan or where legal proceedings have been instigated. Karen Mallinson will join the project from the existing advocacy team.

We will also be concentrating on increasing our award-winning team of volunteers to support parents either before child protection or after a child has been removed from the parents care and training professionals in working with parents with a learning disability.

Last week, the project was excited to meet the new Grant Manager, who we were delighted to learn has experience working for Plymouth City Council as a Family Support Worker and therefore has a good insight into what we are trying to achieve. She also told us that our application 'must have been something very special' as it is very rare for the Lottery to grant continuation funding.

Comic Relief Funding for new project

We have also heard the news that a Comic Relief application for a new project, to run alongside the Parent Project, has been selected to go through to the next stage. The WISER project (Women In Safe Empowering Relationships) will support women with learning disabilities to be more aware of domestic violence and abuse. Domestic abuse is one of the main reasons for child protection concerns and the project will not only deliver awareness courses in an accessible format but will also provide informal women's groups and training to professionals working in this area. We were visited earlier this month by a representative from Comic Relief and will find out if the application has been successful in December.

A photograph of the advocacy team appears on the back page.....