

InTouch

Issue 66 Summer 2026



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Read InTouch online
bit.ly/PCHInTouch



Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of InTouch

To make sure everyone stays safe, remains mindful of their neighbours and has a great experience while enjoying the warmer weather, we're here to help you get ready to enjoy your shared outdoor spaces this summer with some friendly reminders about how you can use your communal areas.

In this edition, we share what Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) resident Martin is doing to support the local community through his role as Director of Plymouth Pride and Men's Community Builder. This year, PCH is sponsoring both Plymouth Pride and Plymouth Community Pride and we're excited to see what they've got planned.

We shine a spotlight on our Tenancy Sustainment team who work with residents experiencing complex or multiple challenges that may place their tenancy at risk, giving them extra support to help them to live safely and sustainably. We share a story of a resident who was supported by two of our Tenancy Sustainment Officers to move to a more suitable property, secure pension credits and to set up their first bank account at the age of 81.

We also provide information on the support available if you're experiencing financial hardship or are in immediate financial difficulty, including our Financial Support Fund. Find out more on page 12.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you can also find out more about the work of our Communities and Partnerships team, how we're supporting sustainability and staff wellbeing, how we're investing in our homes and our charity fundraising.

If you have any stories about your achievements, or the good work of your neighbours, we want to hear from you.

Contact us on news@plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk or message us on Facebook, X or Instagram.



Valerie

**Valerie Lee,
Chair of the Board**





We're here to help you get ready to enjoy your shared outdoor spaces this summer.

To make sure everyone stays safe, remains mindful of their neighbours and has a great experience together while enjoying the warmer weather, we have some friendly reminders to help everyone enjoy their shared spaces safely.

Fire safety

Many residents enjoy spending time outdoors together during the summer, including using barbecues safely in shared spaces.

When using barbecues or fire pits, it is important that they are not used on balconies, or by sides of buildings, sheds, fences, trees, shrubs, garden waste, or any other combustible items and are never left unattended while lit, cooking, or cooling.

Gas cylinders should be stored away from direct sunlight, and after use and once cooled, they should be put away in a store/shed and not left in communal areas. Barbecue coals, charcoal and any related rubbish should be disposed of responsibly once cooled. Please see Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue's website for more information on safe barbecuing.

Shared spaces

Shared gardens and outdoor areas are there for everyone to enjoy, relax and spend time together.

Due to the risk of accidental drowning, water borne viruses and for the safety of you and your neighbours, swimming and paddling pools, including hot tubs, are not allowed in communal areas.

To guarantee a safe environment for everyone, trampolines and any other fixed or temporary play equipment, including slides and swings, are not to be

used in communal gardens or courtyards. Please remember to store any garden furniture after each use and make sure it is not left in your shared spaces.

If you have any doubts about what you can and cannot use in your shared spaces or are concerned about anything you find in your neighbourhood, please don't hesitate to contact your Housing Officer, who will be more than happy to assist you.

To make sure residents are enjoying their shared spaces responsibly and considerably, any equipment found that is not allowed in our communal areas will be removed by our Tenancy Management team, so please do contact us if you are unsure.

Being a good neighbour

Summer is a great time to enjoy being outdoors and connect with neighbours in our communities.

With warm weather comes more social gatherings in gardens, communal places and the outdoors. Unfortunately, this can increase littering and fly-tipping in certain areas. We ask you to be considerate and help us to keep our communities clean and safe this summer for everyone to enjoy.

Those caught fly-tipping can be prosecuted and could face a fixed penalty notice for small-scale offences as well as larger incidents. Fly-tipping can be reported here.

While using your shared outside spaces, please be mindful of loud music and noise outside of social hours. If you are experiencing ASB in your area, then please [click here](#) for our good neighbourhood management and ASB toolkit and information on how to report it.

Hot weather advice

Warmer weather can be enjoyable for everyone, but it's important to take a few simple steps to stay safe and well.

Warm weather or a heatwave may be a risk to your health, so it's important to make sure it does not harm you or anyone you know. The main risks posed by a heatwave are dehydration from not drinking enough water, overheating, which can make symptoms worse for people who already have problems with their heart or breathing, heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

A heatwave can affect anyone, including older people, those who live on their own or who may have a health condition, so please make sure you check on neighbours this summer.



Communities and Partnerships & Health and Housing Project Update

What we're doing in our communities, who we've helped already and what comes next.

Communities and Partnerships

Our Communities and Partnerships team have been busy supporting a variety of community projects and providing tailored support to residents, focusing on work that supports stronger neighbourhoods, healthier communities and better access to support.

What will the team be focusing on?

- **Developing a new Community Investment Plan**

This will set out how we invest time, funding and support in communities, shaped by resident feedback and local priorities.

- **Improving social value support**

We'll work with contractors and partners to bring more benefits to residents, such as skills, training, community projects and local opportunities.

- **Delivering a refreshed Resident Learning Offer**

Including free courses, workshops and a new offer of one-to-one support to help residents build skills, confidence and access pathways into training or work.



- **Strengthening local partnerships**

Working closely with health services, wellbeing hubs, community groups and voluntary organisations to make support easier to access.

- **Supporting wellbeing at neighbourhood level**

Linking learning, health, housing and community services so support feels local, joined-up and relevant.

Our work will be shaped by resident feedback, partnership learning and what we know makes the biggest difference locally.

Our aim is simple: to be able to support residents to live well in their homes and communities, with the right help at the right time.

Health and Housing Project

We continue to work closely with Livewell Southwest and other local partners through our Health and Housing Project. We recognise that our homes, health and wellbeing are closely linked, and that early support can make a big difference.

By working together, we aim to help residents stay well, safe and independent at home. Making it easier to get the right support earlier and provide help to access health and community services.

What we've been working on

Since April 2025, the partnership has focused on prevention, early help and joined up support. This has included:

- **Trusted Assessor support** – helping residents get the right adaptations or support at home sooner.

- 162 residents supported. 80 referrals to other support services carried out.

To find out more about how our Communities and Partnerships team may be able to help you or to get involved, please contact them via email at healthandhousing@pch.co.uk or call us on 0808 230 6500.



- **Wellbeing Officer support** – offering personalised help with health, confidence and connection to local services
 - 91 residents supported. Delivering 380 support houses and 275 referrals to support services.
- **Community Wellbeing Champions Programme** – local people trained to spot wellbeing needs and help others find support
 - 65 champions now trained, with highest numbers in PL2 and PL5.
 - 3 further programmes scheduled until April 2027.
- **Digital Inclusion Support** – providing access to digital support and funding for devices for those facing hardship.
 - 82 residents supported with access to support and devices.
 - Work with partners to create a city-wide offer of support.
- **Support for residents with complex needs**, working on a new approach to support hoarding and health related housing issues
- **Work to reduce isolation**, improve confidence and strengthen community connections

Many residents have told us this support has helped them feel listened to, more confident and better able to manage daily life.

What we will now be focusing on

As we move into the next stage of this partnership, we'll be focusing on adding what works best into our day-to-day services. This means successful projects and ways of working will sit within our Communities & Partnerships team, helping to ensure that support continues long-term, learning is shared across teams and residents can benefit from joined up help.

Digital Inclusion Update

Our Digital Inclusion Scheme continues to support residents who may be digitally excluded or experiencing digital poverty.

Through the scheme, we aim to support residents in getting online, enable digital access to support services online, provide digital support to help improve skills and confidence and provide access to devices and data to help residents to get online.

Following some recent changes, support will now be provided mostly through monthly digital support 'drop ins' at The Beacon. Staff will be available to help you with getting online, using tech and to help build your skills and confidence.

We are also a Data Bank Hub, part of the National Data Bank (run by Good Things Foundation). We are able to provide FREE data sims for residents experiencing financial hardship.

Monthly sessions will be run within the Atrium (café area) at The Beacon, North Prospect on the following dates:

- Tues 23rd June – 12.30 – 2.30
- Tues 28th July – 12.30 – 2.30

There's no need to make an appointment, just pop in for a cuppa and a chat.



LEARNFORFREE

We're updating our resident learning offer, aiming to make it easier for residents to get the right support.

Whether that's learning new skills, finding training, moving towards work, or building confidence for everyday life, our refreshed commitment to resident learning will help you work towards what matters to you, connecting you with the right opportunities at the right time.

What we are introducing

Alongside our free courses and workshops, we will be offering one-to-one personalised support for residents who would like this help.

This means you can:

- Talk to our Resident Learning Coordinator about your goals, ambitions or next steps
- Get help exploring training, learning, volunteering or job options
- Get support to navigate local services and providers
- Get practical help with things like applications, referrals or confidence building
- Access small grants to help remove barriers to learning or work (for example travel or equipment)

What courses will be available?

We are working to update our course and workshops offer and will be sharing these as they become available.

This will include:

- Skills for Life & Tenancy Sustainment – digital support, budgeting, cooking on a budget, looking after your home
- Jobs and Training Success – CV writing, interview skills, courses and links to local training providers
- Community Resilience, Health and Wellbeing – courses and workshops to improve confidence, reduce isolation and support wellbeing. Including seasonal workshops

- Resident Empowerment & Involvement – offering training to support residents who want to get involved and have their voice heard

We work with trusted local partners, so residents can be supported into opportunities across Plymouth and beyond.

How to get involved

You can take part in courses or ask for one-to-one support by contacting our Resident Learning Coordinator on 01752 388051/ 07850212412 or by emailing learnforfree@plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk

If you're not sure what course you want to take part in, or whether one-to-one support is right for you, our Resident Learning Coordinator is here to support you, so please do reach out.

Help us shape it

This is a new way of working, and we want residents involved every step of the way.

We want to hear from all PCH residents to understand what skills or topics you want to learn, how you prefer to learn and what would make it easier for you to access learning opportunities so we can improve our Learn for Free programme to benefit everyone.

Complete our survey and be in with a chance of winning a £50 voucher.

This survey will be closing on Sunday 19th July at 11pm.



Take part in
our survey



PCH partners with Zebra Collective and Clarion Futures to offer free activity sessions in Devonport

Earlier this year, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) and Clarion Futures, the charitable foundation of Clarion Housing Group partnered to jointly fund a new programme of activity delivered by the Zebra Collective in Devonport.

This joint investment supports a yearlong programme to deliver free or low-cost, safe, inclusive, and consistent early years opportunities, and supportive social networks that reduce isolation. As well as, expertise in parenting, healthy eating, and child development and activities for families who often face barriers to accessing early years support, to build confidence and support welcoming community spaces for all local residents.

The initiative includes a new baby and toddler group supported by volunteers and local residents, offering free stay and play sessions for babies and toddlers up to the age of four. It also includes parenting courses informed by parents themselves and delivered by Action for Children and healthy eating sessions for children, delivered by Food is Fun CIC, combining hands-on cooking with fun and practical nutrition guidance. 58% of local people who attend the group attend it regularly and 33% of attendees are PCH residents.

The Zebra Collective has leased the Mount Wise Neighbourhood Centre since 2024, a community space familiar to most residents living in Devonport. The Centre hosts a Youth Club, monthly cafes run by the Plymouth Cancer Champion Project, vaccination clinics and more, and through our new partnership we are proud to be supporting their journey.

Rachael Fox, Communities and Partnerships Manager at Plymouth Community Homes, said:

“We’re proud to be working alongside Clarion Futures to fund this fantastic programme with the Zebra Collective. This joint investment reflects PCH’s new approach to community investment. Building stronger partnerships and supporting the organisations who know our communities best. By joining forces, we’re able to deliver the kind of support families need to create a lasting impact. I hope this collaboration is just the start of what we can achieve together.”

We heard from local residents who took part in the sessions:

“The sessions helped me improve my confidence and my English. They also helped me feel more connected with the community.”

“Help massively with my mental health, building my confidence, getting me out of the same four walls and give me purpose.”

“It was a lovely little set up with friendly volunteers and my little one really enjoyed playing and interacting with everyone there.”

“I love the community spirit. I enjoy seeing the children thrive at group and the parents get to enjoy a hot drink. It’s a lovely atmosphere.”

“Everyone was so friendly, chatty and welcoming. Made it feel like I could talk to them about any worries I may have. Super lovely and interactive with the kids too.”

More details about future sessions will be shared on our social media and in our resident newsletters.

For more information, residents can contact the Zebra Collective via email on info@zebra.coop.



Read full story



Andrew Lawrie reaches major milestone at PCH with more than 1,500 homes delivered across Devon & Cornwall

Andrew Lawrie is the Head of Development at PCH, and in his role he oversees the Development Team who are responsible for delivering and selling new affordable homes. He is also a Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing with more than 30 years' experience working in the housing and development sector.

Before joining PCH in 2013, Andrew has overseen and directly managed a wide range of new housing and commercial projects across the South West, including for Places for People, Sovereign, Signpost and Spectrum.

As of April 2026, Andrew had officially overseen the delivery of more than 1,500 homes across Devon and Cornwall. This represents his ability to drive collaboration on key PCH projects, including North Prospect Regeneration, a project that won the 'Best Regeneration Project' (Inside Housing Development 2025) as well as both 'Best Project' and 'Best in Region' at the Regional Royal Town and Planning Institute awards 2025.

To put the figure into perspective, Andrew's achievement in leading this for PCH has enabled the organisation to house 6,286 people in total across Devon and Cornwall, delivering 211 one-bed homes, 646 two-bed homes, 603 three-bed homes, 63 four-bed homes and one 5-bed home.

Andrew received a plaque to commemorate his achievement. PCH also made a pledge that a house type will be named '**The Lawrie**' in his honour and to mark his well-deserved recognition for his valued time at PCH.

Sharing his thanks at an event to celebrate this milestone, Andrew said: "Thank you to all my friends and colleagues at PCH for this lovely award. "I have worked in various South West housing associations since 1989 and with street homelessness before that. My life ambition since my early 20s has been to eliminate homelessness in England. These affordable homes I trust have gone just a little way towards this goal. Clearly I have a way to go but as was once said, 'our reach should be beyond our grasp'."

Craig Francis, Senior Development Manager at PCH, shared a few words on Andrew's achievements. **He said:** "I've worked with Andrew for more years than I care to admit. The speed at which he works still amazes me - keeping up can be a challenge at times. He's incredibly honest, occasionally to his own detriment, but he wouldn't be Andrew without that. He's always supportive and never short of a solution... or more often, a question I hadn't even considered yet, which can be both challenging and oddly brilliant".



Development update

Over the last few months, we've announced some exciting news about our new and upcoming developments in Plymouth and the surrounding areas.

Bath Street, Plymouth

Construction has started on a £33.5m, eco-friendly community of affordable homes for social rent being delivered by Plymouth Community Homes in Millbay in the heart of Plymouth's city centre.

The first construction phase will include a mix of 80 1 and 2 bed flats and 3 bed houses, and the second construction phase will include a further 55 homes, eventually providing 135 affordable homes for social rent to meet local housing need.

The scheme was awarded full planning permission at the end of 2023, and last autumn Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) and Plymouth City Council jointly secured vital grant funding from Homes England to enable building work to get started with appointed contractor Classic Builders, with build contracts being signed on 31 March 2026.

Andrew Lawrie, Head of Development at Plymouth Community Homes, added: "Having started work on this project almost eight years ago, it was fantastic to mark the start of the work at one of our key schemes with our partners Homes England, Plymouth City Council and Classic Builders as we take another step closer to providing 135 new affordable homes for social rent in Plymouth city centre."

"The substantial grant funding has enabled us to make a start to the regeneration of this area of the city centre, and we're extremely grateful to Plymouth City Council for their support in helping us to secure the Government funding, and to Homes England for their grant support."

Southway Drive, Plymouth

Construction has begun on 125 much-needed affordable homes in Southway, in the north of Plymouth. The £28m scheme will deliver 81 new homes for social rent and 44 for shared ownership purchase through SO Living, helping more local people in housing need access high-quality, affordable housing.

The scheme was awarded full planning permission in 2025 before vital grant funding from Homes England was later secured to enable building work to begin through PCH's appointed contractor

Vistry, the UK's leading provider of mixed-tenure homes.

The development will include a mixture of detached and semi-detached properties, including 41 two bedroom, 38 three bedroom and 10 four-bedroom homes, as well 21 one-bedroom and 15 two-bedroom apartments. These apartments will be delivered across four three-story buildings.

The first homes are anticipated for completion by early 2027.



Seabrook Orchards

Seabrook Orchards, Exeter

Construction work is in progress on the outskirts of Exeter as Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) secures 37 new homes in Bloor Homes' second phase of Seabrook Orchards in Topsham to provide affordable housing for local people in housing need.

Of the 37 homes, 28 will be offered for social rent and 9 homes will be made available for shared ownership purchase through our sales brand, SO Living. These affordable homes will be prioritised to those with a local connection to the area to meet the specific needs of the community, which has been made possible thanks to the support from PCH's partner, Exeter City Council.

The new homes, which consist of one-, two-, three- and four- bedrooms, are among 100 homes in phase two of the Seabrook Orchards development,

which will deliver 700 homes in total alongside a range of facilities including a new primary school.

Alice MacLean, Project Manager at Plymouth Community Homes, said: "Plymouth Community Homes is delighted to have the opportunity to work with Bloor Homes for a third time to deliver much-needed affordable housing for local people in housing need.

"We are confident that the high-quality homes being built at Seabrook Orchards will be a valuable and highly desirable addition to our housing stock, and provide even more social rent homes for residents in the wider Exeter area."

The first homes which are to be offered for social rent will be available from Summer 2026.



News on our developments

All available homes to rent in Devon are advertised on Devon Home Choice, a partnership of local social landlords. To bid for a property or to be considered for a tenancy, registration will need to be completed using their online application form.

**FREE
BERYL
BIKE
RIDES
FOR PCH
RESIDENTS**



Part of Plymouth's
Wellbeing Hub network



Wiseley Trust
Healthy Futures Service

Plymouth
Community Homes





Meet PCH resident Martin – Director of Plymouth Pride & Men's Community Builder

Martin Jared-Davis has been a vital part of Plymouth Pride CIC since it was formed in 2022 alongside a group of individuals and collectives from across Plymouth who have come together to focus on bringing Pride events to the city.

This year, Plymouth Pride is back and they are still on the hunt for volunteers to support their event on Plymouth Hoe. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, more information can be found on the Plymouth Pride Facebook Page.

Martin, Director of Plymouth Pride, said: "Being a part of Plymouth Pride is my way of giving back to the community and doing my bit to make things better for the next generation and the LGBTQI+ community. Even if you're not a part of the LGBTQI+ community, everyone is welcome to attend and have a great day!"

This year, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) is sponsored both Plymouth Pride & Plymouth Community Pride.

Jonathan Cowie, Chief Executive at Plymouth Community Homes, said: "PCH is a long-term supporter of Pride events in the city because we firmly believe in celebrating what makes us all unique, and supporting our local LGBTQIA+ community.

"We're really pleased that Plymouth Pride will be returning to Plymouth Hoe in 2026, and we're delighted to be an official event sponsor, as well as once again supporting Plymouth Community Pride with lots of fun events planned."

Martin is also Plymouth's Men's Community Builder, where he is working to build a stronger more connected community for all men, so that they know what is

available for them and are more able to talk about the issues affecting them. The Community Builder team is funded by NHS Devon and employed by Four Greens Community Trust, managed in partnership with Plymouth City Council.



He added: "Before joining the Community Builder team, I knew that I had a real interest in the community and supporting people, so when I found out I was successful for the position, I was delighted.

"In my role I support men's groups in Plymouth and raise awareness of the support available for men, including mental health support, physical health support and more. There is so much already going on in the city, and it's my job to shout about these and make sure everyone gets the support they need."



Find support
near you



Financial support available for PCH residents

If you're struggling to find the money to cover your rent or bills, the most important thing is to let us know.

We have dedicated staff who are waiting to help you and can assist with information and support about claiming benefits, recommend local charities and offer helpful advice on financial matters.

We can also support residents who are experiencing financial hardship through our Financial Support Fund. The Financial Support Fund is grant-based fund available to help residents cover essential costs including energy bills, food or white goods.

To apply and for more information, residents can contact our Income Recovery and Financial Inclusion team on 0800 028 0350 or scan the QR code and complete the online form. Each application includes income and expenditure checks to assess eligibility and ensure support is provided fairly and appropriately.

To allow us to support as many tenants as we can, applications for the Financial Support Fund are limited to one per household in any 12-month period. This ensures the fund remains available to others who may also be in need of help.



For help
and advice

Support provided through the Financial Support Fund in 2025

Last year, we issued 518 grants up to a total of £140,000 to support residents through challenging circumstances.

Gordon Briggs, Rent and Financial Inclusion Manager, said: "Our Income Recovery and Financial Inclusion team are here to look out for residents who may be struggling to find the money to cover their rent or bills, and we want to make

sure they know we're only a phone call away should they need our support.

"Our Financial Support Fund is available to help residents when they need it most, and by sharing about the fund that they may not already know is available, we can make sure that no resident misses out on the support they may need."

How to contact your local housing team

There are many ways that you can contact your local housing team directly, including via email or phone, and the details of your Housing Officer, Assistant Housing Officer and Incomes Officer or Leasehold Officer can be found on our website.

Visit 'Find my Housing Team' and enter your postcode to find out who your local team are, and how to contact them.

You can also visit the housing team in your area during a drop-in session or during a community walkabout.

Or you can call us on 0808 230 6500 and speak to our friendly Contact Centre team, email us at enquiries@plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk or get in touch through social media channels like Facebook, X or Instagram. You can also visit us at our Head Office – Plumer House, Tailyour Road, Plymouth, PL6 5DH.

A spotlight on our Tenancy Sustainment team

Our Tenancy Sustainment Officers work with residents experiencing complex or multiple challenges that may place their tenancy at risk, giving them extra support to help them to live safely and sustainably.

They work with residents to build trust and help stabilise situations and their support involves early intervention, intensive short-term support around mental health, substance misuse, domestic abuse, social isolation or financial hardship and they work closely and collaboratively with statutory and voluntary agencies including Livewell, social services, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, schools, GPs and charities, to make sure that residents are given the best support possible.

Tenancy Sustainment Officers offer practical housing management and person-centred support and work closely with other teams within Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) to address tenancy breaches, anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood conflict.

Kirsten and Sheraton are two of our Tenancy Sustainment Officers:

Kirsten has worked as a Tenancy Sustainment Officer for six years, initially working at the Devonport Towers providing support to residents, before moving to cover all areas.

Kirsten said: “I really enjoy my role, as I support a wide range of residents aged 18 to 82, each with very different needs. It’s incredibly rewarding to see the positive transformation in residents and the confidence that develops because of the support provided.”

Sheraton has worked at PCH for a total of seven years as both a Ranger in our Environmental Services team and now a Tenancy Sustainment Officer, after leaving her previous role as a Health Care Assistant.



Sheraton added:

“I love being able to support, enable and empower the residents I work with in collaboration with local and national statutory and voluntary agencies and teams across PCH. It’s definitely person centred and each resident is so different. No two cases are the same and each is met with different and varied lived experiences.”

“When a case is closed it’s so rewarding to see the difference in the tenants’ lives and to know that we have made a difference in their life. This could be that their confidence has grown, their physical and mental health has improved, and they are now not only engaging with other departments within PCH but other outside organisations.”

Kirsten and Sherton have both supported an 82-year-old resident who was referred to the Tenancy Sustainment team for support with their day to day living due to their age and vulnerabilities.

During their time supporting the resident, they have been moved to a more suitable property, they have been helped to secure pension credits and have been supported to set up their first bank account at the age of 81.

The resident has no family support or a social network, so the involvement of Kirsten and Sheraton has been life changing.

Last year, we made a number of changes to how our housing teams operate in local communities, including moving some housing officers to cover different areas, to help improve the services we provide to residents and allow us to respond quickly and effectively to any resident enquiries.

You may find that your local housing team has remained the same, or there may be a few changes to who looks

after your neighbourhood, but should you need to contact us about your tenancy, home or neighbourhood, your Housing team is here to help.



Find your
housing team



Southway community supported through emergency incident

Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) residents and the local community of Southway have paid tribute to PCH for support received during the emergency incident.

On Friday 1 May, an unexploded wartime ordnance found at our development site on Flamborough Road in the north of the city was safely detonated by military bomb disposal experts, bringing 48 hours of major uncertainty to an end.

Throughout the evacuation, PCH, Plymouth City Council, Southway Youth and Community Group and other local organisations demonstrated an incredible collaborative effort to support local residents to find alternative accommodation, transport, food and supplies as the situation unfolded.



During the evacuation, PCH accommodated 47 households, with the Council also accommodating many residents living in the 1,200 homes within the cordon. PCH also assisted residents with emergency payments to help with the costs of being away from home, with staff working tirelessly all day and night alongside the Council who led on the major incident response.

Several residents supported throughout the evacuation shared thanks and grateful words for the dedication and commitment given to those who sought support at the evacuation centre, online or via the telephone.

Sheila and Steve, PCH residents living within the 400m cordon appreciated what PCH did to support them and wanted to express their thanks to PCH for their support.



Royal Navy

Sheila said: “We were so well looked after, and we couldn’t praise PCH enough for it. From the minute we stepped foot in the community centre we were made to feel so welcome. The staff at Plymouth Community Homes were so helpful. We had cups of tea while we were waiting, they organised us a hotel, it was just absolutely brilliant. We have been so cared for. “

Steve added: “I have never had better service in all my life. When we came up to the community centre, we had a cup of tea, I had my dog with me, it was all sorted out so quickly. We had a taxi laid on for us and they got us into a local hotel which was beautiful. We were

looked after so well, and with the messages coming through it kept us to date.

“I want to thank the people who have done such a marvellous job for us. PCH has triumphed and I want to make sure they know how much we appreciate what they’ve done for us.”



Read the
full story

Residents enjoy a trip to The Box to visit the Beryl Cook Exhibition

In this story we hear from Hayley Kemp, a Communities Worker at Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) who took a number of residents on an exciting trip to visit the Beryl Cook Exhibition at the box, where they got stuck into a painting workshop of their own.

Plymouth is celebrating the life, work and legacy of one of Britain’s most distinctive artists in a landmark exhibition at The Box which marks 100 years since her birth.

PCH residents were treated The Box’s ‘Pride and Joy’ exploring the most extensive display of Beryl Cook’s work to date with more than 80 iconic paintings to rarely seen treasures from private collections and the Cook family archives. 2026 marks both Cook’s centenary and 50 years since the 1976 Sunday Times feature that launched her career following her first exhibition at Plymouth Arts Centre in 1975.

After the tour the residents enjoyed a pet portrait workshop for beginners. Beryl Cook loved animals; they feature in many of her paintings including her own beloved pet cat Cedric. Stout dogs and cats litter her work and often steal the scene. This fun workshop took residents through the basics of creating their own Beryl-style portrait using acrylic paints. Art is a great tool for improving mental health.

Residents shared their feedback about what they loved about the experience:

“Really enjoyed the talk and really enjoyed painting the picture of my dog.”



“Had such a laugh.”

“Loved the whole experience.”

The only complaint was that they would’ve liked to spend longer there!

These workshops by The Box working with the Communities team at PCH are to encourage residents who may have previously been unable to access The Box, to enjoy it and explore with fellow residents. The residents said they would love to do some more workshops and would visit again and encourage their families to come along.

Half of the residents who joined the visit have said they will carry on painting at home, and our residents in North Prospect have asked me to get the equipment for their Beacon group to be able to continue painting there.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) or Good Neighbourhood Management?



Visit our
toolkit

Everyone has the right to feel safe in their home and community and we are fully committed to resolving any problems that arise in your neighbourhood.

We know that sometimes problems can arise from neighbourly issues such as lifestyle clashes or sometimes problems can cause more serious harassment, alarm and distress which is classed as anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Our Good Neighbourhood Management and **ASB Toolkit** can help you with any issues you are experiencing to find out if they are classed as ASB, or if

they are an issue that requires good neighbourhood management.

Our toolkit will tell you:

- Whether we consider the issue to be good neighbourhood management or ASB
- What we can do
- What you can do
- What other agencies can do

Together, we can make our neighbourhoods a better place to live.

If you have an issue you want to discuss then contact your housing team. If you want to report ASB then visit our website and complete our online form or call us on 0808 230 6500. It's important you tell us who you are, what happened, and how it affected you.

Issues classed as ASB include:



Graffiti



Fly-tipping and bin stores



Hate crime



Cannabis



Cuckooing



Harassment and stalking



Criminal behaviour



Drugs

Issues that require good neighbourhood management include:

Day to day issues

Disagreements with your neighbour

Communal areas

Animal and pets

Noise nuisance

Untidy gardens

PCH Charity Fundraising



All you need to know about our charity fundraising

2025/2026

At the end of March 2026, we announced that colleagues from across the organisation came together to raise an incredible £11,279.36 for our 2025/2026 charities of the year, St Luke's Hospice Plymouth and Children's Hospice South West.

The money was raised through several PCH led fundraising events, as well as through the phenomenal effort of staff in both our volunteer charity steering group and beyond, taking on personal challenges to raise even more money.

PCH organised a whole host of fundraising events which included a charity football match,

a quiz night, themed lunchtime quizzes and a Bring Your Dog to Work Day. Colleagues took on challenges to raise

even more money, including a Skydive, a bake sale, participating in the Midnight Walk, hosting a music event in a local nightclub, a dog walking challenge and so much more.

Find out more about the charity fundraising for St Luke's Hospice Plymouth and Children's Hospice South West on our website.



2026/2027

In April 2026, PCH announced that Andy's Man Club, a men's suicide-prevention charity, which helps end the stigma surrounding men's mental health had been chosen as its Charity of the Year for 2026/2027.

Andy's Man Club offer free to attend peer-to-peer support groups across the UK and online, giving men a confidential space to talk openly about their mental health without judgement.

To kick off the partnership, Steve Doyle, Andy's Man Club Area Lead for the South West, visited Plumer House to meet Jonathan Cowie, Chief Executive at PCH, who presented an initial £500 donation.

Jonathan Cowie, Chief Executive at PCH, said:

"It is a pleasure to support Andy's Man Club this year. Their work is vital in breaking down the stigma of men's mental health through the support they offer.

"I know our staff will support the cause with passion and enthusiasm to raise well deserved funds in the year ahead."

Steve Doyle, Andy's Man Club Area Lead for the South West of England, said: "It's an honour for Andy's Man Club to be chosen as Charity of the Year for Plymouth Community Homes.

"PCH do so much for their residents but also Plymouth in general by supporting and sponsoring various charities and fundraising activities. We're very grateful to be included in that list over 2026/27.

"We can't wait to work closely with Plymouth Community Homes, their staff and residents over the next year, and beyond."

The charity has 320+ locations nationwide, and you can find your nearest support group on their website (andysmanclub.co.uk). If there are no groups nearby to you, or you feel more suited to their online meetings, then these are available via Google Meet – you can attend online by emailing info@andysmanclub.co.uk.

Throughout the year, PCH will be raising money for Andy's Man Club through a variety of events, sharing updates about the fundraising efforts of staff on our website and on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn.





Lend a Hand, Boost Your Wellbeing: Volunteering with the Pioneers Project

An abandoned railway platform left untouched since the 1960s is being brought back to life thanks to the St Budeaux Platform Garden Men's Project.

Led by the Pioneers Project, the group is transforming an overgrown former train platform into a community garden that will eventually be used by local schools and groups. The plot that they're working with is large in size and the progress so far has been very impressive. Members, including PCH residents and men from the

wider community, have already cleared huge amounts of undergrowth and built three large, raised planting beds using reclaimed railway sleepers. With ambitions to fill the planters with vegetables, fruit shrubs and other greenery, the project revitalises the area for commuters and locals alike.

Paul (Project volunteer), said:

"I'm a single dad, it's nice to come here and clear your head now & then. I've done a bit of everything here, breaking down the stones, cutting trees down, putting it through the shredder. You don't need any experience either, everyone's happy to help."

The project is about much more than gardening. The group provides a welcoming space for men who may be feeling isolated, looking for company, rebuilding confidence or taking steps towards work or volunteering. Sessions offer fresh air, a free lunch and refreshments, friendly conversation along the way and the chance to take pride in what they're building together.

Louis (Project volunteer), said:

"It gets me out of the house, and we've made great improvements to the site since I arrived. It's hard work, but I really enjoy it. I've also made new friends here, which has been a real positive, we've all clicked. I'd encourage others to get involved."



Big plans ahead

There are ambitious next steps for the site, including plans to bring a shipping container onto the plot. This would be used for storing tools, providing shelter in bad weather and making it a space to use year-round. As the seasons change, the plot itself will continue to come to life.

Steve Knight, Men's Project Coordinator at the Pioneer Project, said:

"The men's project has come on leaps and bounds since I took over the role as Men's Project Coordinator in October 2024. We started with one volunteer and have now grown to around 8-9 regular volunteers. What has struck me the most is how much the men get out of the project, not just from a physical exercise point of view, but more importantly, how much they have grown within themselves since joining the project. What I love the most about this job is how much it means to every man that comes down. We are looking at expanding the project from just the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, to every Monday and are looking for some more regular volunteers, so if you are struggling a bit for just want some male company then please come down and have a chat, trust me, it will have a big improvement to your wellbeing."

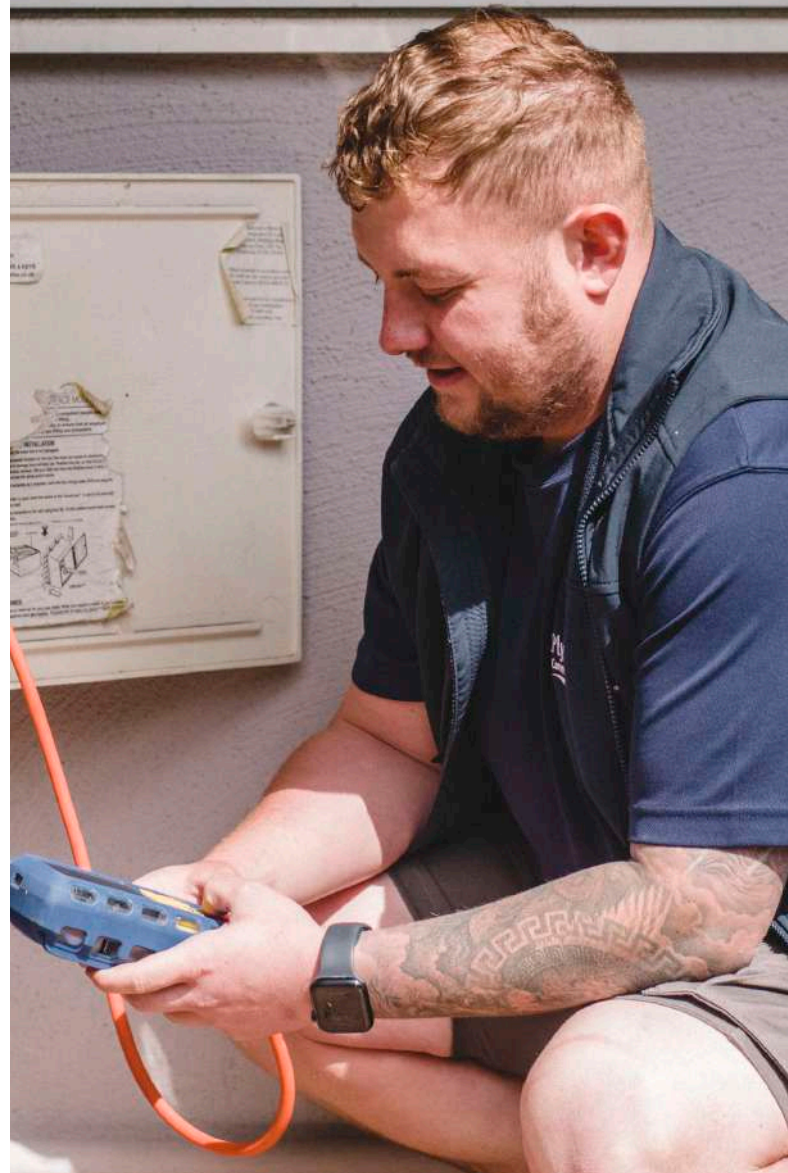
How to get involved

The St Budeaux Platform Garden Men's Group is always keen to welcome new people who might enjoy getting involved but aren't quite sure where to start. No previous gardening experience is needed, just a willingness to muck in, enjoy the outdoors, and be part of a friendly group.

If you or someone you support might be interested in finding out more contact: Steve Knight, Men's Project Coordinator on 07956 566 018 or email steve@thepioneersproject.co.uk



Visit their
website



Investing in your home

Every year, we have a Major Works Investment Programme to refurbish and upgrade our homes and blocks, decarbonising more properties to help reduce energy bills for our residents.

To ensure everyone has a high-quality affordable home, it's vital we look after the places we own and invest in our communities to keep our homes safe, comfortable, warm and dry.

Earlier this month, we shared the first update of our 2026/27 programme which includes an update on our stock condition surveys, our five-year replacement component programme and more.



More info on
programme

Sign up to **MyPCH**



Visit mypch.plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk
or download the new MyPCH app.

We're always keen to hear what you're up to, so if you'd like to tell us about something we can include in one of our publications, we'd love to hear it.

Email news@plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk

Plymouth Community Homes

Plumer House, Tailyour Road, Crownhill, Plymouth, PL6 5DH



www.plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk



0808 230 6500

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