

Plymouth Living Skills Group (PLSG)

'Co-ordinating service delivery to vulnerable adults'

Services Directory:

A directory of living skills
and related development options



Plymouth Living Skills Group (PLSG)

The PLSG worked to draw services and agencies closer together to better coordinate living skills service delivery to vulnerable adults.

This directory aims to clarify some of the courses and services available throughout the city for service users seeking to develop their skills for life, especially services from those agencies linked to PLSG.

It details:

- The courses that are available in the city
- Who clients can be accessed by
- How they can be accessed (referral route)

Who made up the PLSG?

The Plymouth Living Skills Group (PLSG) was a group of agencies willing to work together more effectively for the benefit of the client's personal development. It came about from discussion and collaboration between the Plymouth Gateway (supporting offenders with their accommodation needs) and partners, aiming to increase and coordinate living skills opportunities for clients.

There was a core board of members which include representation from: Plymouth Access To Housing (Path), Shekinah Mission, Broadreach: Ocean Quay, Supporting People (SP), Devon & Cornwall Probation Area (DCPA), Fata He, Business In The Community (BITC) & the Open College Network (OCN).

There were also two "sub-groups", one concerned with identifying existing training delivery & the other existing mentoring services to ex-offenders in the Plymouth area & inviting them to work more closely together for the benefit of the client & ultimately the city. The sub-groups attempted to identify gaps in training & mentoring provision & coordinate the development of solutions where needed, whilst also working to reduce and avoid duplication of training & mentoring services where possible.

They also, among other things, aimed to promote a city-wide standard of training delivery to ex-offenders, support the development of a DCPA "Volunteer Bureau", related training and specialist bolt-on training based within specialist services in the Plymouth area. The sub-groups also actively worked to coordinate inter-agency referral into appropriate training & mentoring services, better inter-agency information exchange and coordination, whilst encouraging other agencies who offer similar services to offenders or others to join with the appropriate sub-groups.

Directory Contents

(Service Providers)



The Shekinah Mission
The Ocean Quay Project
Community Advice and Support Services
(CASS)
Plymouth Works Plus (A4e)
Working Links
The Resettlement Agency



Shekinah Mission

Head Office

Bath Street

Plymouth PL1 3LT

Telephone: 01752 203480

Fax: 01752 265916

Email: reception@shekinahmission.co.uk

Shekinah is an accredited training provider offering training in vocational and non-vocational training which includes personal development and construction skills (and much more!) We also use our Social Business **Wood Knot Waste** as an opportunity for trainees to work with reclaimed wood and make small and large bespoke items of furniture. Additionally we run 2 employability programmes. **Ready for Work** is an unpaid 2 week work placement with a local employer which provides the participant with an opportunity to improve their confidence and develop their skills and use the opportunity as a stepping stone into employment. The 2nd employability programme is **Plymouth Sustainable Employment Project (PSEP)** which works with employers to offer 52 week paid traineeships to our clients. This is a 3 year funded pilot which comes to an end in Feb. 2010.

Examples of the courses available are:

- Computers for beginners
- Drama
- Art
- Ready to Go (Employability Training)
- Your Shout
- Budgeting Workshops
- Literacy
- Anger and Stress Management
- Steady works
- Construction

To access any of the above courses please contact Pat Andrews or Laura Crewes on 01752 203480.

Shekinah Mission (Plymouth) Limited
Company Registered in England: 4687832
Charity No: 1097409



Ocean Quay
Richmond Walk
Devonport
Plymouth
PL1 4LL

Telephone: 01752 500003
Training Direct: 01752 566211
training@broadreach-house.org.uk

The Quay project is for people who are no longer misusing substances. This service provides what may be the first step on a path that will lead to voluntary work, or to training and education, with an eventual goal of paid work. The project offers a varied timetable of classes such as photography and IT training, cookery, music, woodwork, landscaping, arts and crafts, as well as basic skills such as reading and writing. The courses are set up so that anyone can take part. You will have a named staff mentor who you will meet weekly to review your progress.

The programme allows you to spend at least 20 hours involved in a range of activities. These include:

- Support services
- Recovery maintenance training
- Careers advice and job seeking skills
- Training centre with courses which may include cookery, arts, personal development, photography, desk top publishing, arts and crafts, holistic therapies, ICT, web design, reprographics, woodwork, gardening, etc.
- Service user newsletter
- Service user website
- Monthly action plan review
- Lunch provided made from fresh, locally sourced nutritional produce, prepared by those on the cookery course.

Accredited Courses offered:

- First Aid
- Health and Safety in the workplace
- Counselling Skills Level 2
- Mentor Training
- Diploma in Volunteer Work
- Beginning Computing
- Using Cooking Skills in a Domestic kitchen
- Budgeting and Money Management
- Personal Development
- Food Safety Foundation Certificate
- Art and Design

Soon to be Accredited Courses offered:

- Digital photography

To access these courses please contact Ian in the training department on 01752 500003 ext 2029. Phone referrals taken Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10-12am. All students must bring proof of benefits with them to enable them to access courses for free.



Community Advice and Support Services

CASS
Plymouth District Magistrates' Court
The Court House
St. Andrew Street
Plymouth
PL1 2DP
Telephone: 01752 206187
Mobile: 07780 997961
Fax: 01752 220469

The Community Advice and Support Service has been based at Plymouth Magistrate Court for two and a half years. Previously run by Prison Advice and Care Trust, it was taken over by Rethink in Nov 2008.

It aims to support defendants and their families through the court process on the day, continuing that support, if necessary, when someone is remanded/sentenced into custody.

The service has close links with agencies based in the local community and signposts defendants to the necessary support. This support may address many issues, including housing and homelessness, debt, benefits, employment, training and education, drug and alcohol, to name a few! We support defendants through this initial referral process, continuing that support and encouragement, where appropriate. The intention is to help the resettlement process and support defendants back into their communities and to help reduce the levels of re-offending.



Registered Charity No. 271028



improving people's lives

Plymouth Works Plus (A4e Ltd)

2nd Floor St Andrews Court

St Andrews Street

Plymouth

PL1 2AH

Telephone: 01752 312737

Email: plymouthworksplus@a4e.co.uk

Website: www.a4e.co.uk

Who we are:

Plymouth Works Plus is a European Social Fund (ESF) and Department for Work and Pension (DWP) funded project.

The organisations working together to provide this support are A4e, The Neighbourhood Learning Consortium, Pluss and RITE Associates Ltd.

Our Team consists of trained advisors, consultants, employment engagement advisors and trainers.

What we do:

Plymouth Works Plus are here to help improve the employability of unemployed people. We do this by tackling barriers faced by people with disabilities or health conditions, lone parents, people aged 50+, ethnic minorities, those with no or little qualifications and anyone over 16 not in education, employment or training.

How we do this:

We ask the people we work with three simple questions:

- What do you want to do?
- What is stopping you?
- What can we both do to get you where you want to be?

Answers to these questions are all very difficult, but from this we can build a base where we can understand, then tailor training and support to address individual needs.

Who can join:

- Plymouth residents on JSA and working less than 16 hours per week.
- Or in receipt of other benefits and working less than 8 hours per week.
- Anyone over 16 years of age, not in education, employment or training.



Progress2Work
Working Links
4th Floor Coburg House
32 Mayflower Street
Plymouth
Devon
PL1 1QX
Telephone: 01752 672007
Freephone: 0800 917 9262
Fax: 01752 672074

Background

In March 2001, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a £40 million investment over three years to help unemployed people with previous drug misuse problems into work. This resulting initiative, named progress2work (p2w), reflects the wider approach to helping those who are disadvantaged in the labour market. The project has been so successful it is still running today.

Aims of P2W

- Take up and/or remain engaged in mainstream provision.
- To secure and sustain employment.

Eligibility

- Someone who has ever had a drug misuse use problem.
- Someone who is unemployed.
- Someone who is living in the Plymouth area.

What we would like from our clients

- For a Client to be drug free for 2 – 3 months; or stable on a script.
- To regularly attend P2W meetings.
- To be ready to engage in provision and/or look for employment.

What P2W can offer

- Help write your CV and fill in application forms
- Help to get you a Bank Account
- Help to get you some ID
- Help with finding courses, In-house + External
(Including Motivational, Confidence, Literacy, Numeracy & Computer Skills Courses)
- Help with Job Searching
- Help you prepare for Interviews
- Organise work experience or training
- Signposting to other useful organisations
- Disclosure Letters



The Resettlement Agency

80 - 84 Union Street

Plymouth

PL1 3EZ

Tel: 01752 217046

Fax: 01752 293999

contact@resettlementagency.org.uk

The Resettlement Agency is a not-for-profit community project and a member of the national Furniture Re-use Network and the Community Recycling Network. It is registered as an Industrial & Provident Society and has tax-exempt charitable status with the Inland Revenue. Beneficiaries of this service include the long-term unemployed, ex-offenders, those that have suffered from poor health and substance misuse and those that have suffered from homelessness. This service is part funded by the Tudor Trust.

The Agency operates an in-house advice and guidance service. The aim of the service is to empower the socially excluded so that they can overcome barriers that would otherwise hinder rehabilitation and personal development.

The Agency values the input of all members of staff equally, paid or unpaid, and it will continue to take on volunteers on a regular basis. Many of our volunteers have gone on to work for the Agency in a paid capacity.

As a volunteer you can expect the following from us:

- You will be treated with respect and have your contribution valued.
- You will have your travel and lunch expenses met for the days that you volunteer (up to a total of £6 per day).
- You will have the opportunity to learn transferable skills and improve your employability.
- You will obtain a reference if your input and commitment are satisfactory; and you may even find paid work with the Agency.
- You will receive relevant training such as manual handling.
- You will gain experience of volunteering in a furniture warehouse and/or office environment.
- You will be offered a degree of flexibility on what hours and days you want to volunteer so long as they are within our normal opening times.

The Agency is keen to assist paid staff and volunteers with personal development. To this end a number of the Agency's volunteers and paid staff are now undertaking accredited NVQ training in such areas as warehouse operations, PAT testing and electronic servicing of white goods. This new initiative has been facilitated with the help of skills brokers from Business Link through Train to Gain. The Agency has also signed a Train to Gain Skills Pledge to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to this initiative. The Resettlement Agency is offering NVQ2/3 in Warehouse & Distribution, free to all volunteers and people undertaking Community Service. NVQ2/3 will shortly be available in Mechanical & Electrical, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration & Carpentry.

If you want to enquire about volunteering and NVQ training with the Agency, please ring our Social Inclusion Worker, Karen Patheyjohns on 01752-265600. If you like what you hear and want to give it a go, we will be more than happy for you to join in.