VETERANS AND FAMILY HUB

NEWSLETTER

(01752 241057

VFHub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk

JAN 2024 ISSUE 94

"Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word." - Göran Persson

"To the old, long life and treasure; to the young, all health and pleasure." Ben Jonson

Happy New Year Wishing you all a safe happy 2024!



USEFUL CONTACTS

NHS Non-Emergency - 111

Police Non-Emergency - 101

South West Water 0344 346 2020

British Gas (Emergency Number) 0800 111 999

Western Power Distribution (Contact in the event of a power cut) 0800 678 3105

> **Adult Social Care** 01752 306900

Livewell Plymouth mental health support (24 hours) 01752434922

Veterans Gateway 0808 802 1212

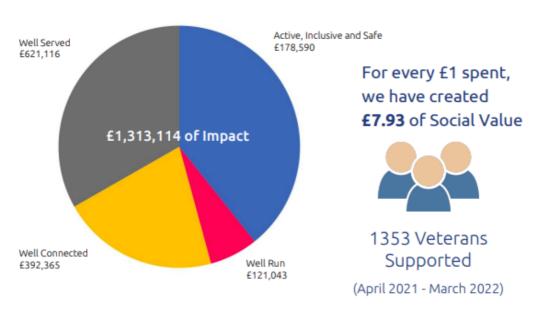
> **Samaritans** 116 123



■ VFHub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk

What impact has the hub had since we formed?

Social Value



The Hub was a pilot project, set up by ILP in 2018 to support ex-military personnel and their families in their transition from military to civilian life



The services currently offered at the Hub Social Value include (but are not limited to): Information, advice and signposting for veterans and their dependants. Opportunities for community based social activities. One to one support for veterans, their dependents and unpaid carers to navigate and choose services that best meet their needs. Work with partner organisations to deliver the required support. Assessments of need and development of individual support plans. Outreach work in various community settings.

Outcomes

Living in a good place Achieving Life Goals Relief of Depression Befriending Being a member of a social group Improvements in Mental Health Feeling valued as an unpaid carer





■ VFHub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk

Plymouth Veterans and Family Hub Survey



"Although families and carers of Forces personnel experience difficulties in common with civilian families, they also face unique challenges which can cause stress, anxiety, financial difficulty, ill health

"The clue is in the name 'Hub' – it's in the centre of a spider's web and from their veterans have access to other teams at ILP and access to other agencies and their services.'





"They've grown during COVID - from a nice little drop in place 3 years ago to become the 'first go to' place for veterans in Plymouth"

> of respondents said they would definitely recommend the Veterans Hub

> got rated the support services available at the Veterans Hub as good or excellent

93% rated the activities available at the Veterans Hub as good, very good or excellent

93% answered that the Veterans Hub had a good or excellent impact on their mental health and wellbeing

87% of respondents said that if the service did not exist it was unlikely or highly unlikely that they would be able to find similar support elsewhere

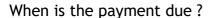


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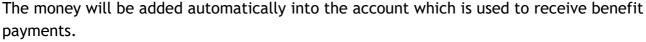
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Cost of Living Payment 2024



The £299 payment will be made directly into bank accounts between 6 February and 22 February.

Am I eligible for the money?



The reference will be DWP COL, along with the claimant's National Insurance number.

To qualify for a payment, you must receive one of universal credit, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance, income support, working tax credit, child tax credit, or pension credit.

You will need to have been entitled to a payment for one of these benefits between 13 November and 12 December, or payment for an assessment period ending between these dates. Low-income pensioners who are eligible for, but not claiming pension credit, can still qualify for the cost-of-living payment if they make a successful backdated pension credit application. Those who qualify solely through tax credits will receive their cost-of-living payment with the reference HMRC COLS.

Background information

The February payment of £299 is the last of three instalments that totalled £900, which will have been paid within a year.

Work and Pensions Secretary Mel Stride said: "We will always protect the most vulnerable, while ensuring fairness for the taxpayer."

After this final instalment, no further cost-of-living payments are currently scheduled, creating some concern among charities.

However, the government pointed to a 6.7% rise in benefits and an 8.5% rise in the state pension, as well as an increase in the financial support provided to those on benefits who rent privately, which all come into effect in April.

Information from DWP Armed Forces Champions.

improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk



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Warm welcoming spaces.



We have been lucky enough to receive some funding from from Plymouth City Council to continue our warm space offer. We facilitate a Fish and Chip supper once a month for £7pp if you are on a low income or would struggle to fund this please get in touch.

We also provide warm drinks and Wi-Fi to anyone accessing our drop in service.

If you are struggling with finical pressures the hub is able to support in a number of ways, from benefit checks, to external grant applications, please get in touch if you are would like support and advice.

If you need financial support or advice, the following organisations or services might be able to help you. Click Here

For more information please follow this link,

Plymouth's Cost of Living Action Plan





➤ VFHub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk

Garden waste scheme



Garden waste collections in Plymouth is an optional chargeable service.

Collections run from April to November. We collect garden waste every other week.

Your garden waste collection day may not be the same as your other collections. You can always take garden waste to our recycling centers.

You must have a My Plymouth Account to register for garden waste collections. If you already have an account, you will need to sign in. If you do not have an account, you will be asked to create one.

Register here.

Registering for garden waste should take around 10 minutes. You will be asked: for your address, to confirm the bin details we have for your property, your contact details debit or credit card.

Early bird period.

If you register before Sunday 11 February 2024: each garden waste permit will cost £42 (discounted rate) we will provide your permit and any bins before April 2024, you will be ready to use the service as soon as it starts

If you register on or after Monday 12 February 2024:

Each garden waste permit will cost £52 (standard rate) we will provide your permit and any bins within 8 weeks from the date you registered, you might not be ready to use the service when it begins in April 2024

If you would like support to register please call to book an appointment at the hub on 01752 241057









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D-Day 80 Victory Ball

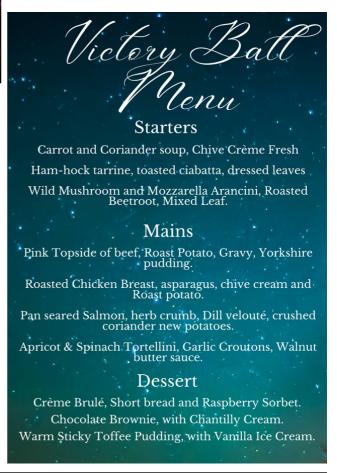


Improving Lives Plymouth Veteran and family hub England Reg. Charity No. 106677

DMWS: Reg Charity in England and Wales (1087210) & Scotland (SC045460

Plymouth Veterans and Family Hub along with Defence Medical Welfare service with be holding a Black Tie Ball in celebration of D-Day 80, tickets are priced at £60pp and include welcome drinks and live entertainment!

If you are registered with the Veterans and Family Hub we have some 50% off vouchers to give away please register <u>here</u> to be in with a chance of getting half price tickets.





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Getting Back Into Work

















■ VFHub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk

Plymouth Veterans & Family Hub

£3.70 pp



Brew and Banter

Every Friday 10:30 - 12:30

Union Rooms Wetherspoons Union Street

Please Pre Booking

01752 241057 / vfhub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk



Plymouth Veterans and Family Hub

in association with



are offering a

Free Legal Clinic

1st Thursday of each month

Ernest English House

By appointment only

Please call the Veterans Hub on 01752 241057 to book your appointment.

WoollcombeYonge

Unpaid Carers Group



Are you a Veteran who cares for someone or someone who cares for a Veteran?

If so, Please feel free to attend our carers group on the,

1st Thursday of every month 13:30 - 15:00

> at Ernest English House, **Buckwell Street,** Plymouth, PL1 2DA.

We arrange a wealth of activities to help promote the Mental Wellbing of carers and their cared for and povide a safe space to discuss and share experiences with caring roles.



Podiatry Appointments



Ernest English House

Next available appointment **Tuesday 12th December**

Call the Hub on 01752 241057 to book

£30pp





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About Shout 85258

Shout is the UK's first and only free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope.

We launched publicly in May 2019 and we've had more than 1.7 million conversations with people who are anxious, stressed, depressed, suicidal or overwhelmed and who need in-themoment support.

As a digital service, Shout has become increasingly critical since Covid-19, being one of the few mental health support services able to operate as normal at this time.



BEAT THE JANUARY BLUES Emotional Resilience for Veterans



What annoys or frustrates us? And what can we do about it?

We're back for '24 with another of our popular veterans' Emotional Resilience Courses. Ahead of 'Black Monday' (regarded by some as 'the worst day of the year') renowned military life-coach and behavioural expert Liz Abram will be here to help with the skills and life-hacks we need to help us through everyday life.

These unique Veterans Outdoors Courses have already been described as life-changing by those who've attended:

"It's given me skills I use every day." erstand myself better - it's changed my relationships with those close to m

The course will be held at Plymouth Veterans Hub, Ernest English House, Buckwell Street, PL1 2DA on FRIDAY 19TH JAN 1000-1500. Admission is free. Places are limited but if you'd like to register to take part, contact Jodi – Jodi@veteransoutdoors.org.uk



Events November 2023 -April 2024

Saturday 04 November 9-11am

Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University (Added Extras)

> Saturday 18 November 9-11am Breakfast Venue to be confirmed

Saturday 02 December 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Saturday 16 December 9-12am

Festive Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen Plymouth University (Added Extras) Festive hats and jumpers very welcome!

Saturday 06 January 2024, 9-11am

Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Saturday 20 January 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Saturday 03 February 9-11am

Breakfast Venue to be confirmed

Saturday 17 February 9-11am

Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Saturday 02 & 16 March 9-11am

Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

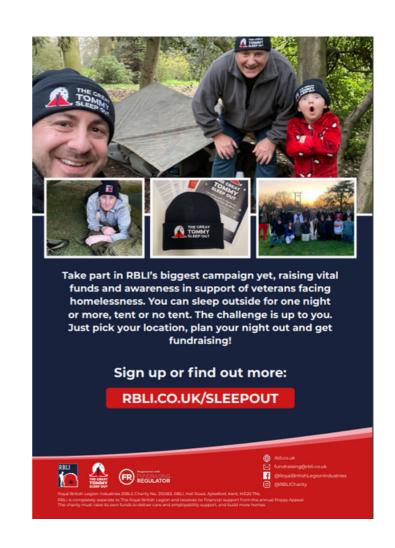
Saturday 06 & 20 April 9-11am

Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

**A Sunday roast and Curry & Bingo Night planned for early 2024

Any questions, please contact us: 07568 148685 PlymouthVeteransBreakfastClub@outlook.com





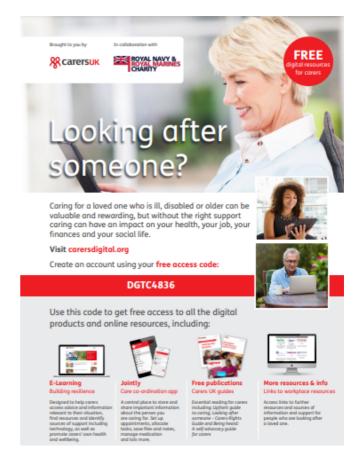


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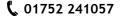


If you are in immediate danger always dial 999









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What's On January

**NO Bingo In January **

Tuesday 2nd - Veteran Hub Staff return to the office

Thursday 4th - Unpaid Carers Support group - Veterans Hub 13:30- 15:00

Saturday 6th - Armed Forces Breakfast Club- Drakes Kitchen- 09:00 -11:00

*Monday 8th - Age UK Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 - £2

*Tuesday 9th - Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00-£2.50

*Friday 12th - Brew and Banter - Union Rooms Wetherspoons - 10:30 - 12:30

*Saturday 13th - Veterans Brunch - Age UK Mount Gould- 10:00 - 12:00- £6

*Monday 15th - Age UK Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 - £2

*Tuesday 16th - Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00- £2.50

**Tuesday 16th - Podiatrist - EEH - By appointment

**Wednesday 17th Fish and Chips evening - 17:00 - 19:30 - Vets Hub, must book by 12/1 - £7

*Friday 19th - Brew and Banter - Union Rooms Wetherspoons - 10:30 - 12:30

*Saturday 20th - Armed Forces Breakfast Club- Drakes Kitchen- 09:00 -11:00

*Monday 22nd - Age UK Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 - £2

*Tuesday 23rd - Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00-£2.50

*Friday 26th - Brew and Banter - Union Rooms Wetherspoons - 10:30 - 12:30

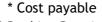
*Sunday 28th - Veterans Brunch - Age UK Mount Gould- 10:00 - 12:00- £6

*Monday 29th - Age UK Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 - £2

*Tuesday 30th - Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00-£2.50

Thursday 1st Feb - Unpaid Carers Support group - Veterans Hub 13:30- 15:00

*Friday 2nd - Brew and Banter - Union Rooms Wetherspoons - 10:30 - 12:30



^{**} Booking Required









