**Complex Needs Alliance**

In a ground breaking piece of work Plymouth City Council has awarded an Alliance contract for services to people with complex needs (substance misuse, homelessness, mental illness and offending). An Alliance contract is a new way of bringing together services and commissioners in a partnership where power and responsibility are shared collectively for the common good of people with complex needs. This is the culmination of 4 years of co-operative development between 5 commissioners from the Integrated Commissioning Team and Public Health and over 20 services in the city. Whilst the contract will apply directly to substance misuse and homelessness services, it also defines relationships between those services and the wider complex needs system (including mental health and offender services).

The alliance approach incentivises co-operation and partnership between services, commissioners and people using services and encourages innovation, creativity and acting in the best interests of the whole system. The approach taken in Plymouth has generated interest across the country, with many councils and CCG’s visiting to learn about the process. It is a great example of Plymouth City Council’s commitment to developing new and co-operative ways of working with services and citizens in very difficult times financially.

The contract will run for 5 years with options to extend to a total of 10 years. This will enable us to build long-term sustainable relationships with providers, it will allow us all to plan for the future with some security and it means we can take a more radical approach to how we work across the whole system of services. The agencies forming the alliance with PCC commissioners are

• BCHA

• Harbour

• Shekinah

• The Zone

• Path

• Livewest

• Livewell

• Hamoaze