

Care Farming at Fordhall Organic Farm

The first steps to joining.

Thank you for your interest in the Fordhall Care farm.

A Care farm provides health, social and educational care services through supervised, structured programmes of farming-related activities for a wide range of vulnerable people (Care Farming UK 2014).

At Fordhall we are able to offer a wide variety of opportunities for adults with learning difficulties who wish to experience working outside in a range of settings.

We grow, cook and eat produce from raised beds in the community garden, help with conservation work on the farm, enjoy walks in the woodland and creatively engage in a variety of activities 48 weeks of the year.

We work to help build people's self-esteem, their communication skills and a sense of place and belonging within the community.

This is a chargeable service and support is given to each individual from fully trained and experienced staff.

We currently run a service two days a week, on a Wednesday and Thursday from between 9.15 am and 3.30 pm. Light refreshments are provided but not lunch.

If you or someone you are aware of, is interested in attending our care farm days, here's how it works...

Initial contact is made with Bex Syrett our care farm manager.

As Bex is freelance it is best to contact her by
phone: 07875742522 (please, not on a Wednesday or Thursday) or
e-mail: bex.syrett@fordhallfarm.com

A date is made for you and a family member or support worker to come to Fordhall and meet Bex and the group.

This will be a brief meeting with time to look around, meet Bex and the current Wednesday or Thursday group.

If all is going well, then a second date is made for you with a family member or support worker to come back to Fordhall for a half day session on a Wednesday or Thursday with the group, either in the morning or afternoon.

This will enable you to get more of a feel for how the day is run and what sorts of activities are undertaken.

No charge is made for this taster session

After this half day taster session, Bex will have discussed ‘what next’ with you and your family or support worker.

Ideally transport issues will have been looked into by the People2People team or whoever is representing you and we will be able to set a start date for your client.

This is a crucial time for anyone new joining us and it is important we continue to support you in order to ensure a smooth and successful transition to the Care farm group.

It may be that you only come along for a half day to begin with and if you are very new to being part of a group, (i.e. not attended the Wayfarers or similar day care centres) then we may suggest that you continue to come with a family member or support worker for a few more sessions.

We want to ensure a successful outcome for everyone and would prefer to go slowly and surely rather than rush forward too quickly.

Once it has been agreed that you will be attending a session either on a Wednesday or Thursday, then Fordhall Care farm will need the following from you:

Contact details of client – full name and address and mobile number, (if they use one)

Contact details of next of kin

Name and contact details of the transport organisation bringing your client to Fordhall

Any relevant medical details

Doctors name and contact number

Your contact number and e-mail

Contact details to whom we should invoice for the service

If you should have any queries, please call Bex to discuss.

Many thanks