

#### The Growing Confidence Project

#### Youth Worker

##### About Fordhall Farm

The Fordhall Community Land Initiative (FCLI) owns Fordhall Organic Farm. It is England’s first community owned farm and now has over 8000 community landlords through an innovative share scheme that was launched in 2006. Registered as a charitable Industrial and Provident Society, this society was created by Charlotte and Ben Hollins, both in their early twenties, and is now developing into an exemplar project with wide reaching appeal and benefits.

Fordhall sits on the edge of Market Drayton, on the A53. It is a working farm of 126 acres producing beef lamb and pork. There are trails around the farm and provision for a range of community activities. There is a farm shop and tea room for visitors.

The organisation currently runs educational visits, a youth project, a community garden working with adults with learning disabilities, free farm trails, events, volunteering opportunities, weddings, an organic/local food café, short courses, issues newsletters to its membership and rents out yurts for glamping. It operates as a social enterprise, with all profits being reinvested to further its charitable objectives for the benefit of the community and natural environment.

There are exciting times ahead at Fordhall Farm, as we work to inspire more and more people to enjoy our beautiful natural landscape and the food produced from it. We want every one of our visitors to experience something new, exciting, and memorable – and good quality food and brilliant customer service plays a huge part in making people’s days.

Our mission statement is:

“FCLI aims to improve the understanding of sustainable food and farming through the resource of Fordhall Farm, by being an integral part of the community.”

**About the project**

Growing Confidence is a 5 year programme of activities to engage young people aged 11-25 with their local environment. The current funding is set to end in March 2021 so we are looking to recruit a Youth Worker to help take the remainder of the project through to fruition and beyond, into its next set of funding. It will allow youngsters with environmental interest to progress to a level appropriate to their aspirations. In is one of a portfolio of projects supported under Big Lottery Fund’s Bright Green Futures programme run by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts.

The aim of this programme is that young people of all abilities throughout Shropshire will be given the opportunity to sample environmental activities and progress to a level that suits their own needs and ambition. By doing this they will be given the confidence to create change in their local environment.

There are three complimentary delivery partners:

* **Fordhall Community Land Initiative**

Work with young people on the brink of exclusion from school or whose skills do not currently shine in the formal education setting

* **Shropshire Wildlife Trust** (lead partner)

Will deliver John Muir Awards and will help to integrate environmental education into local schools;

* **Field Studies Council (FSC)**

Develop training courses for young people with a growing and serious interest in the environment

All activity will take place close to home, utilising the sites owned by partners and neighbourhood green spaces. Young people will help to design the detail of much of the activity and help steer the whole programme.

Social enterprise is a theme running throughout. Partners and young participants will be introduced to the idea of business that builds a stronger community. Young people wishing to start their own social businesses will be supported.

**For an informal discussion please call 01630 638696 and ask for Wendy Murray**

**To apply for this post complete the application form and return with a covering letter to:** **wendy.murray@fordhallfarm.com**