

## Senior Care Farm Support Worker

### JOB DESCRIPTION

**Accountable to:** Bex Syrett Care Farm Manager

**Responsible for:** Adults with learning disabilities

#### **Background:**

The Fordhall Community Land Initiative (FCLI) is a not-for-profit community benefit society, which owns and utilises Fordhall Organic Farm in North Shropshire as an educational and social resource, promoting sustainable farming and healthy living. It raised an amazing £800,000 in 2006 through a high profile national press campaign to enable Fordhall Organic Farm to be purchased by its non-profit making shareholders, of which there are now over 8000 across 25 countries. This is the first structure of its kind in the England to place farmland into community ownership. The 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. “The 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.” More information on the current activities at Fordhall can be found at [www.fordhallfarm.com](http://www.fordhallfarm.com).

#### **Job Purpose:**

You will be actively supporting adults with learning disabilities to grow their own potential, their confidence and skills within the setting of the Fordhall community garden and care farm growing project.

Using your in-depth knowledge of gardening you will help to manage the production of vegetables, fruit and plants; leading a garden team including the people we support, staff and volunteers. You will facilitate opportunities for people to be involved in all aspects of growing food, horticulture and conservation work through your inclusive manner and your enthusiasm. You will be adaptable to working with the seasons and delivering sessions appropriate to the time of year.

You will work in collaboration with the care farm manager to implement the vision of the care farm, using your knowledge and experience to help shape the service and increase the potential of what we can offer our clients.

## About You:

You will have excellent personal skills and a genuine interest in people. You will be enthusiastic about enabling people and able to advocate on behalf of vulnerable people, above all you will be passionate about helping people fulfil their potential. Flexibility is essential and you must be willing to undertake practical, purposeful activities in an outdoor environment.

Your day may involve supporting individuals to grow fruit and vegetables, feed the pigs or the birds, help to cook pizzas or cook lunch over an open fire, run relaxation sessions, organise arts and craft sessions, and lots, lots more. Your day will be diverse and no two will ever be the same!

## Key Roles and Responsibilities:

- To play an integral part within the team, actively contributing to the planning, development and implementation of the vision for the care farm at an exciting time of expansion and growth.
- To maintain and develop the growing area in conjunction with care farm manager, staff and those attending the care farm.
- To lead care farm sessions and to supervise/guide the support worker and volunteers.
- Support people attending the care farm to ensure they are safe and are able to carry out the activities they do the best of their abilities.
- To work with empathy and understanding to support, guide and encourage our participants to achieve their potential and improve their physical, mental and emotional well-being.
- Engage in horticultural activities, leading on the planting, propagation, ground management, watering, weeding and harvesting in conjunction with care farm users, working to organic standards in the garden and on the farm.
- To help make the farm an interesting and safe place for care farm participants, staff and visitors.
- To enable and encourage participants in the tasks and activities they choose to engage in.
- Undertake training and continuous professional development in accordance with the needs of the service and the people we support.
- Keep all appropriate records and information up to date, provide any information and documentation required and prepare regular reports on the day's activities, including individual evaluations to help make sure there is accurate and timely information available.
- To be organised and have good written communication skills for the record-keeping involved.
- Undertake general cleaning and maintenance of greenhouse, shed, storage areas, all internal areas used by the group & external areas. Keeping the growing areas and grounds tidy and weed free.
- Comply with Fordhall's health and safety policies, including protection of vulnerable adults and child protection policies. Comply with Health and Safety Legislation and other relevant policies and procedures.

- To be health and safety aware and support/ undertake risk assessments as required, adhering to same, to minimise risk in all areas of your work.
- Act up as care farm manager during periods of holiday/sickness cover.

## **Your Skills and Attributes:**

### **Essential:**

- A qualification or extensive practical experience in horticulture (preferably organic)
- A qualification or extensive experience of working with adults with learning disabilities and/or other support needs
- Experience of working with and supervising staff and volunteers
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Basic computer skills – Word/excel/regular email communication
- Flexible approach and motivated attitude
- An understanding of the importance of confidentiality, data protection and the needs and wishes of service users as appropriate.
- Working knowledge of risk assessment, Health and Safety, safeguarding, person centred planning.
- Good organisational skills and ability to manage and deliver multiple activities, prioritising workload.
- A caring attitude, empathetic and understanding

### **Desirable**

- Previous experience of generating income and project planning is desirable.
- Knowledge of and practiced in person centred practice
- NVQ level 2 in Health & Social care or other relevant training

### **Working hours and arrangements:**

Start date: Late April – Mid May

Hours: An average of 12 hours per week beginning with one day and increasing to two days in the autumn as the project expands.

Start and finish times are 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 pm or later for meetings or necessary horticultural requirements according to the season.

Other hours would need to be flexible around meetings with the care farm manager, covering annual leave, training days or sick leave. The care farm currently operates Tuesday to Thursday each week.

Holidays: Equivalent of 5.6 weeks per annum pro rata.

Pay: £9.38 per hour. Payment can be averaged over the year.

Pension: The organisation has a pension scheme in place with the Peoples Pension.