

## 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 and a polytunnel in the community garden, help with conservation work on the farm, enjoy walks in the woodland and creatively engage in a variety of activities 50 weeks of the year. We have stunning indoor space in the form of The Straw Lodge for the winter months, enabling us to create wonderful jams and chutneys from our own home grown produce. 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 three days a week, on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9 am and 3.30pm. Light refreshments are provided but not lunch.

If you are aware of somebody interested in attending our care farm days, here is how it works...

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

e-mail: [bex.syrett@fordhallfarm.com](mailto:bex.syrett@fordhallfarm.com)

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

This will be a brief meeting with time to look around, meet Bex and one of the current group groups working on that day.

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

This will enable your client 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 your client and their family member or support worker. Ideally transport issues will have been looked into by the social work team, or whomever is representing you and we will be able to set a start date.**

This is a crucial time for your client and it is important we continue to support them in order to ensure a smooth and successful transition to the care farm group.

It may be that your client only comes along for a half day to begin with and if they are very new to being part of a group then we may suggest that they 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 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 company 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 contact Bex to discuss.**

**Many thanks**

Please note that currently (Feb 2020) we do not have availability but it is still worth getting in touch as the service may expand at a future date or for example, an existing client may relocate.