

## **Gardening Co-ordinator**

Do you have a keen interest in all things horticultural? More importantly, do you have a passion for supporting adults with learning disabilities to help them gain new skills in an enjoyable and healthy environment?

We are looking for an energetic and creative Gardening Co-ordinator to support us with two gardening projects. Each runs on a different site and in different environments. One is to support the learning of people with LD in growing their own food and the other is to work with volunteers and people with LD to maintain ornamental beds in a small community park.

Our Gardening Club in West End, Southampton, is for adults with learning disabilities who want to learn how to grow their own food, or who may have a real interest in and love of horticulture. The club is held twice a week during the season (roughly mid March to late October). Members meet for three hours per Club Meeting, twice a week - Mondays from 1.00pm to 4.00pm, and Saturdays from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Outside of the season, four short meetings are held to plan for the next season. We have a dedicated group of volunteers who support the running of the Gardening Club, and work alongside our members. The Club is proudly responsible for two allotments on the site.

The sessions are an excellent opportunity for members to learn more about gardening and different plants, work in a team, meet new people and make friends, to do some physical work outside and grow their own fresh food and flowers. We have several very dedicated members who are enjoying these benefits.

The role and main responsibilities of the Gardening Co-ordinator include:

- discussing horticultural interests and job preferences with all Club members, keeping records of what individual Club members wish to grow in the following season
- allocating roles and jobs to members as judged appropriate; supporting people to undertake different tasks and teaching people how to do unfamiliar tasks
- ensuring that members know how to use tools that are appropriate for the jobs allocated and to ensure tools are used safely.
- ensuring all Club members are included in the horticultural work and no-one is isolated.
- supporting Club members in general, listening to their successes, concerns or issues
- supporting the volunteers who work with the members at the Club

- to be at the allotment and ready to receive Club members before the Club officially begins and to leave the Club after the last members have left.
- providing people who are new to the Club with information about the Club
- ensuring club members register and pay subscriptions when they arrive and keeping accurate registers of contact details, attendance and payments.
- ensuring each club member leaves with a responsible known adult or is confident about making their return journey home.
- planning and hosting an annual Open Morning in the summer
- ensuring the maintenance of the site, e.g. extra watering and strimming as required, and co-ordinating repairs.

Our second gardening project called Grantham Green Growers was set up to maintain the ornamental beds on a recently transformed green space in a residential area in the centre of Eastleigh. The Gardening co-ordinator is supported by volunteers from the local community. The site is attended every fortnight for 2 hours (currently on Friday mornings), during the spring and summer, and monthly during the winter.

Hours:

Gardening Club: 6 hours per week from mid March to mid October, plus 1.5 hours per month from November to February inclusive.

Grantham Green Growers: 2 hours per fortnight between March and October inclusive, plus 2 hours per month during November and December.

All sessions are weather permitting.

Hourly rate: £12, paid monthly in arrears

Please visit our website, [www.ebrmencap.org.uk](http://www.ebrmencap.org.uk), to read more about both the Gardening Club and Grantham Green Growers.

To apply, please send your CV to Elaine Fish, Chair, EBR MENCAP, [chair.ebrmencap@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chair.ebrmencap@hotmail.co.uk), indicating relevant experience and reasons why you are interested in the role.

If you wish to have an informal discussion before applying, please call Elaine on 07762 931158.