



## Community Garden Support Volunteer Role Description



**Main Aim:** To support a group of residents, including vulnerable people, in a weekly session enabling them to gain social and therapeutic benefits from gardening.

**Responsible to:** Volunteer Manager

**Locations and Times:**

- East Redcliffe Estate, Thursday 9.45am to 12.15pm
- Lawrence Weston Bungalow, Wednesday 1.30pm to 3.30pm
- Bristol Community Links South, Friday 10.30am to 12.30pm

### Experience:

Essential:

- To be compassionate, respectful and able to relate to vulnerable people
- Excellent communicator and ability to adapt the way you communicate to meet the needs of different client groups
- To be able to act on own initiative
- To be reliable and committed to regularly attending the group at least once a fortnight

Desirable:

- Experience of supporting vulnerable people who have health or social care needs (at home or at work)
- Some personal or professional experience of caring for or supporting people who have dementia
- Basic gardening knowledge and skills - you do not need to be an expert
- Passion for or an interest in growing, nature or wildlife

### Main Tasks and Responsibilities:

1. To be available for 2 ½ hours, at least once a fortnight
2. To be able to travel independently to the Community Garden.
3. To commit to volunteering in the role, wherever possible, for a minimum of six months.

4. To attend an induction training session.
5. To attend volunteer meetings.
6. To work with and support residents to engage in gardening.
7. To assist the Growing Support Staff member in:
  - setting up gardening activities
  - welcoming new participants
  - obtaining data required from participants
  - providing additional one to one support for any residents who may need it
  - being aware of any risk issues during sessions
  - tidying up at the end of sessions including ensuring all tools and equipment are collected
8. To be enthusiastic about gardening and enable users to get involved in as many garden tasks and activities as they want or are able to.
9. To offer companionship and a listening ear to participants.
10. To be willing to share your knowledge and skills in the garden, as well as to listen and learn from those attending the sessions.
11. To have a sense of humour and fun and ability to share this with others
12. To contribute to the debriefing sessions with Growing Support staff after gardening activities and contribute to monitoring when required.
13. To carry out the responsibilities of the role with full regard to the Volunteer Policy.
14. To stay in touch with your supervisor and provide feedback when requested.
15. To provide two references, preferably including one manager who knows you from your current or past employment or volunteer experience.
16. To undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service check.

**What do our current volunteers say about this role?**

“I love every minute of it, its becoming the highlight of my week”

“There is good support to volunteers during sessions. It is rewarding”

“The introduction session before we began volunteering was very useful... to get a clearer idea of what we would be doing”

**If you would like to know more about this role please contact Sam Grief on [sam.grief@growingsupport.co.uk](mailto:sam.grief@growingsupport.co.uk) or call or 07548 206158**

**If you are ready to go ahead and apply you can find our application form at <http://growingsupport.co.uk/get-involved/>**

**Thank you for your interest**