# **Example Risk assessment:** For Social and Therapeutic Horticulture Activities in ABC Care Home, Anywhere

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN EXAMPLE ONLY – THERE MAY BE DIFFERENT RISKS IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT, YOU MUST CARRY OUT YOUR OWN RISK ASSESSMENT AND PUT IN PLACE YOUR OWN PLANS TO MITIGATE RISKS. GROWING SUPPORT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THS SAFETY OF YOUR CLIENTS.

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| **Name:** ABC Care Home | **Assessment date**: April 2015 |
| **Location:** 1 High Street, Any Where | **Review Date:** April 2016<br><br>The risk assessment should be reviewed at least every 12 months. Every activity session should also be risk assessed in advance. |

| HAZARD<br>Potential for harm | Who's at risk? | Level of Risk (Likelihood x potential consequences) | PRECAUTIONS | Who will do them? | When? Before / during? |
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| Slips, trips and falls | All involved (clients, staff, volunteers and carers) particularly those with poor mobility | Medium | Make aware of hazards | Growing Support Activity Leader (GS) | During |
| | | | Take breaks and provide seating where necessary | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Ensure seats available before |
| | | | Ensure appropriate footwear | ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before |
| | | | Ensure appropriate clothing | ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before |
| | | | Ensure area is clear of potential trip hazards, including gardening equipment | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before and during |
| Temperature | All involved | Low | Make all involved aware | GS | Before and |

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| • Weather<br>• hydration | | | | | during |
| | | | Ensure appropriate clothing | ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before |
| | | | Application of sun cream / barrier where necessary | ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before and during |
| | | | Drink plenty of water | ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | During |
| | | | Short breaks if working in sun | GS | During |
| | | | Work in shade if possible on hot days | GS | During |
| | | | Give verbal warnings | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | During |
| Injury through:<br>• Poor hazard awareness<br>• Limited comprehension of instructions | All involved | Medium | Support and guide in recognition of hazards | GS | Before and during |
| | | | Make all involved aware | GS | Before and during |
| | | | Make site as safe as possible before the session | ABC Care Home Activity | Before |

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| • Limited comprehension of social situations<br>• Limited / lack of concentration | | | | Coordinator | |
| | | | Close supervision, especially when any sharp tools are being used | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | During |
| | | | Simple clear instructions | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | During |
| | | | Repeat instructions where necessary | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | During |
| | | | Support self confidence in communication | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | During |
| | | | Short and achievable tasks | GS | Before and during |
| | | | Reduce external distractions | GS and ABC Care Home Activity | Before |

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| | | | | Coordinator | |
| | | | Regularly check / monitor work to ensure safety | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | During |
| Injury / accident / distress through:<br>• Anxiety<br>• Allergy<br>• Allergic reaction | All involved. Clients with dementia may be more likely to get anxious and or try to eat inedible garden resources / materials. | Medium | Ensure care staff are present who can manage personal care tasks, including medication / mouth swipes | ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before and during |
| | | | Ensure there is a first aider who can respond to any accidents / injury promptly | ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before |
| | | | Make site as safe as possible before the session | ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before |
| | | | Ensuring inedible gardening resources / materials that are used are out of reaching distance from those at risk of trying to eat these. | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before and during |
| | | | Use non-toxic plants / gardening materials | GS | Before and During |
| | | | Close supervision | GS and ABC | During |

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| | | | | Care Home Activity Coordinator | |
| | | | Support self confidence in communication | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | During |
| | | | Short and achievable tasks | GS | Before and during |
| | | | Reduce external distractions | GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before |

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| Injury / accident through use of mobility aid:<br>• Cane<br>• Wheelchair (manual / motorised)<br>• frame | Anyone using this equipment | Medium | Ensure site is accessible beforehand<br><br>Make aware of hazards<br><br>Take regular breaks and provide seating where necessary<br><br>Ensure appropriate footwear and clothing<br><br>Make site as safe as possible before the session<br><br>Close supervision | GS<br><br>GS<br><br>GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator<br><br>ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator<br><br>GS<br><br>GS and ABC Care Home Activity Coordinator | Before<br><br>Before and during<br><br>During<br><br>Before<br><br>Before<br><br>During |

<u>Use of gardening tools</u>

Growing Support will provide simple gardening equipment such as hand trowels and watering cans to be used during sessions. Equipment should be used and cleared away in line with health and safety guidelines to prevent risk of slips, trips and falls. Any

use of equipment will be monitored according to Growing Support's health and safety policy and there will be shared responsibility between Growing Support and the Provider to ensure service users are able to safely use this equipment.

Risk Summary

Growing Support has assessed the risks associated with these activities as ranging from low – medium. Where risks have been identified, precautions have been put in place, to be shared by both Growing Support and ABC Care Home to reduce the risks involved.

Please note that it is ABC Care Home's responsibility to assess whether it is appropriate and safe for individuals to take part in Growing Support activities, according to their individual care plans and risk assessments and Growing Support will be guided by ABC Care Homes in this respect.

Signed on behalf of ABC CARE HOME…….

Date……..

Signed on behalf of GROWING SUPPORT …….

Date……