



JOB DESCRIPTION

STH SOCIAL AND THERAPEUTIC HORTICULTURE ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

Role title:	STH (Social and Therapeutic Horticulture) Assistant Coordinator
Reporting to:	STH Coordinator
Who reports to you:	Session Volunteers
Other key staff:	OT Adviser / Horticulture & Site Manager Key interaction – supporting the volunteers who support the Gardeners (service users with mental health needs)
Based at:	Lindengate site
Hours:	34 hours Monday (9.00 – 16.30) and Friday (9.00 – 13.00)
Salary	£10.75 per hour

Lindengate is a young, vibrant charity based on a 5-acre site in Wendover, Buckinghamshire. We provide a Social and Therapeutic Horticultural service to service users whom we call Gardeners. The Gardeners may have autism, brain injury, dementia, learning disabilities and mental health needs. We provide a non-clinical service which uses the healing power of nature to enhance mental wellbeing and reduce social isolation.

This job is mainly outdoors and in outdoor structures. It involves supporting Gardeners with gardening, construction, craft and cooking activities. It requires a robust, calm and centered individual who is used to working with people with mental health needs and supporting *their* process of recovery. As you will be overseeing their support through a team of volunteers, understanding of volunteer motivation and guidance is also a necessary part of the job.

Main purpose of the role:

To ensure that the horticultural programme on offer specifically meets the individual therapeutic needs of the Gardeners. This is achieved through careful assessment, preplanning team briefing and debriefing for each session.

Responsibilities

- **To ensure that all Gardeners attending the session are focused, engaged and enabled to get the most out of the horticultural activities designed to meet their needs**
- **To assist with volunteer briefing and de-briefing – to be the first contact for volunteers about any concerns**
- **To empower volunteers (those volunteers who support Gardeners) to ensure their sessions are Social and Therapeutic Horticulturally based rather than creating perfect gardens– to the volunteers in carrying out session activity plans, through modelling and informal teaching**
- **To ensure a safe environment for Gardeners' sessions**

- To be aware of potential safeguarding issues of people with complex needs in an open 5-acre site
- To support new Gardeners as they start and help integrate them in their group and relate well with their support volunteers
- To attend to the needs of individual Gardeners where necessary
- To work directly with Gardeners as required (e.g. holiday cover/peak demand);
- To assist the Horticulture & Site Manager/Volunteer Supporters in gathering and tidying equipment and tools needed for sessions running on the day, ensuring the activity environment is organized and safe at all times
- To be part of the Lindengate team and participate in external events and fundraising as may be reasonably required – occasional Saturday working may be required for which time off in lieu will be awarded.
- To provide session data to ensure funder reporting is up to date and accurate.

Person Specification

- Mental health, Occupational Therapy, social care qualification or STH qualification or experience essential
- An ability to relate to a diverse group of individuals
- An ability to empower others
- Can work independently and use initiative
- A good team player
- Clear communication skills
- An awareness and willingness to learn about Health and Safety and Safeguarding
- An interest in growing, nature and wildlife - basic gardening skills

Support: Training, where specifically required for the role will be provided

Security checks: Employment is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Please send your CV and a cover letter to info@lindengate.org.uk

Date issued: Monday 1st April 2019

Deadline for Application: Monday 15th April

Telephone: 01296622443