



Office use only	
Role Ref:	RG-GGV

Gardening Group Volunteer

Role Description

Based at: Rutland gardens recovery unit

Days/times: To be negotiated

Volunteer Supervisor: Occupational Therapy (OT) team member group facilitator during the session/ lead activities facilitator for supervision

Main Purpose:

As a gardening group volunteer, you will encourage and support our service users to take part in gardening activities and develop a green space that everyone on the ward can enjoy.

Background to your OT team and your ward:

The OT team (2 occupational therapists) work within Rutland gardens which is a recovery unit / community ward for 10 men aged 18 – 65 who have experienced psychosis and have either been admitted from an acute or forensic setting. The admissions to recovery unit are for further period of assessment, to assess the residents' functional needs and support needs when discharged. We engage with a recovery pathway and utilise activity to support people with their recovery. We facilitate a range of skills based activities and community activities that encourage social inclusion.

There is a main garden with flower beds and containers.

Overview of role:

We are looking for a gardening group volunteer who can bring skills, knowledge and experience to our ward based occupational therapy (OT) gardening activity. The volunteer will co-facilitate the group alongside their occupational therapy team supervisor. The supervisor will be responsible overall for the group allowing the volunteer to focus on the activity.

As a gardening group volunteer you will work with the OT team to facilitate indoor and/ or outdoor gardening projects. You will use your enthusiasm and knowledge to engage service users to get involved in the planning, development and maintenance of gardening projects. You will bring your own unique talents to this role.

Duties:

1. To follow the instruction of the OT team supervisor who will co-facilitate the gardening alongside the volunteer.
2. To receive a handover from OT team supervisor about priorities and issues that will impact on the group. This may include information on service users.
3. Co-facilitating a gardening activity alongside OT team members
4. To understand and follow group protocol and related risk assessment especially in regards to use of gardening tools.
5. Helping and supporting service users to participate in the activity to the best of their ability.
6. Encourage service users to share their own related gardening skills, knowledge and experience
7. To have good communication skills and be able to encourage service users.
8. To inform OT team member or other staff if a service user expresses any significant changes in mood or behaviour.
9. To clear up after the activity and keep areas safe and tidy.
10. To undergo training as required.
11. Seeking service users' feedback on their experience in the group.
12. To participate in regular supervision. This will most likely be group supervision with other volunteers.

Person Specification

Essential

- Aged 18 or over
- Able to commit reliably to at least 2 hours a week for a minimum of six months
- A commitment to improve the patient's experience of their time in hospital
- Well presented, with a friendly and approachable manner and good verbal communication skills
- An ability to relate well to people on a one to one basis and be sympathetic to others' situations
- An ability to be patient and calm even in the face of difficult situations
- An ability to act on own initiative within the role description
- A willingness to be flexible and to follow the guidance of a placement supervisor
- A commitment to the trust's equal opportunities and diversity policies
- A willingness to abide by the Sussex Partnership volunteer guidelines, including rules on confidentiality, health and safety, safeguarding adults and children and manual handling
- To be willing to receive training any areas as appropriate to the volunteer role
- Knowledge, skills and experience in gardening. Formal qualifications not necessary.