



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON RHUBARB FARM

More information can also be found on the Rhubarb Farm website www.rhubarbfarm.co.uk and on the Rhubarb Farm Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rhubarb-Farm/222740847792024>

Rhubarb Farm is a horticultural social enterprise set up and registered as a Community Interest Company (CIC No. 7059841) on 28th October 2009. It started operating on long-disused allotment land in January 2011.

The Farm's aims are to support people to change their lives for the better, and help them to develop confidence, resilience, new skills and knowledge.

It provides employment, work placements, training and volunteering opportunities for people with long-term needs - unemployed, ex-offenders, NEETS (young people not in education or training), recovering drug and alcohol misusers, school children struggling with their behaviour at school, ex-servicemen with PTSD, older people who want to stay fit and engaged, people who have physical or mental ill health, or learning disability from the Mansfield, Bassetlaw, Chesterfield and Bolsover District Council areas. A growing number of volunteers are now paying placements, because of high support needs.

We take school students on alternative placements coming once or twice per week, to engage them in learning, a work discipline and positive, purposeful activities. Their response is usually very positive and they do well with the high levels of support that we give them - usually one-to-two or three support. Most of our school students are now undertaking ASDAN courses, which Support Workers are assisting them with. Full training will be given for this.

Everyone who comes is called a volunteer, to acknowledge their value and the economic contribution they make, no matter what their needs or abilities. About 60 volunteers a week come to the Farm.

We provide therapeutic outdoor activities through the organic growing of fruit and vegetables in a safe and supervised surrounding. This is the core means of engagement for volunteers, but they are the reason for our existence. Support needs, no knowledge of growing

and some turnover of volunteers means that we suffer 'therapeutic loss' whereby our crop production is much less with 60 volunteers than if just a handful of knowledgeable people farmed the same piece of land.

Rhubarb Farm has 20 staff, 40% of whom originally came to the Farm as volunteers. All staff at the Farm take part in all aspects of work on site - horticulture, crafts, cookery, construction, quiet activities training and events. We are a small team and all need to pull together, helping each other on a wide variety of tasks.

Rhubarb Farm is based on 2 acres of land in Langwith village, situated at the end of Hardwick Street, Langwith, NG20 9DR.

The Youth Worker role at Rhubarb Farm requires a substantial part of every day working outside whatever the weather, winter and summer, so suits people who like the outdoors and are happy with the challenges of the weather as well as the challenges from the people we support, are interested in growing and mentoring, and want to help people to change their lives for the better.

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