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**Access Place Garden Activity Volunteer**

**Time commitment: 10.30-3.30pm**

**Access Place: 6 S Gray's Cl, High St, Edinburgh EH1 1TQ**

**Overview**

The Access Place is a one stop shop offering services including housing, health and social work to anyone experiencing homelessness. In partnership with Cyrenians, ELGT and others a community garden has been established in the derelict playground attached to the building providing a green haven for staff and service users. It has become the heart of a wider green nature health programme involving service users from the Access Place and provides a range of garden activities, and every Wednesday a free lunch!

Over the past year we have been busy creating a community garden for service users and staff. The garden is a therapeutic space but also a catalyst to other arts and greenspace activities. We are keen to develop a range of activities for service users to engage service users in developing the garden, and in arts based activities inspired by the garden.

**What are the aims and expectations of the role?**

The TAPGAV will work with the Garden Coordinator to design and deliver a range of garden based activities to engage service users in positive and meaningful activities.

Depending on season, and the interests and abilities of the service users who attend this can include:

Gardening activities: sowing seeds, planting or harvesting crops, weeding raised beds, watering, propagating plants

Garden maintenance: making or maintaining planters, painting garden furniture, maintaining grounds

Nature based activities: making lavender bags or wands, pressing or drying flowers or plants, making bouquet garni or other products with garden produce, other craft activities using garden ingredients.

The aim of the role is to provide engaging activities for participants attending the garden, and to support them on their Nature Health Journey.

**What kind of volunteer are we looking for?**

**Essential**

* 18 +
* Being a member of the PVG Scheme (we process)
* An interest in arts and greenspace activities

**Desirable** (anything that isn’t essential but would still be pretty great)

* + Enjoy working with other people
	+ Knowledge/experience of gardening
	+ Skills/experience of arts/greenspace activities
	+ Experience of leading workshops or activities
	+ Good listening skills
	+ Friendly and approachable personality
	+ Reliable with good time keeping
	+ Flexible to needs and ability of individuals and groups
	+ Able to work with individuals who may have different support needs
	+ Non-judgmental
	+ Respectful of confidentiality

**What can you gain from this opportunity?**

(making the role sound attractive can help make sure we get the right person for the job!)

* You can mention things like:
	+ Develop knowledge and understanding of therapeutic gardening
	+ Develop skills in delivering workshops in arts and greenspace activity
	+ Be a part of a positive and supportive community
	+ Support and help people affected by homelessness to participate in positive activites
	+ Certificate at 50 hours volunteering
	+ Work with artists and horticulturalists.
	+ Meet new people
	+ Gain further understanding in issues and barriers for those affected by homelessness.

**Further Info**

**Expenses**

We cover local travel costs at public transport rate or mileage, and £2.50 or a meal if volunteering over 4 hours at one time.

**About Cyrenians**

Cyrenians is over 50 years old. We began with the creation of an innovative community to meet the needs of a group of homeless people who had fallen through the cracks of whatever support was available at the time. Our roots lie in responding to the injustice of homelessness.

We have spent the last five decades journeying with people grappling with the causes and consequences of homelessness through building and nurturing of trusted relationships and engaging with social exclusion and inequality which has so often been at the root of their tough reality. We are values-led and relationship based; our core values are Compassion, Respect, Integrity and Innovation.

Cyrenians’ head office is based in Edinburgh, with smaller offices in other areas, including Falkirk and West Lothian. Cyrenians is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), registered charity SC011052.