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**Grounds Maintenance Volunteer**

**2.5 to 5 hours per week (Tues or Thurs)**

**Midlothian Community Hospital Garden, 70 Eskbank Road, Dalkeith EH22 3ND**

**Overview**

The Midlothian Community Hospital Garden is an NHS Lothian initiative with a mission to make opportunities for good food and healthy lifestyles available to the local communities in which NHS Lothian hospitals are based.

We endeavour to provide a beautiful, interesting and relaxing amenity space for the hospital community and wider community alike.

Along with the garden, we have an outdoor kitchen for community meals and learning, a variety of workshops and garden gate sales.

Our goal is to provide a space for cultivating relationships - with the land, with ourselves and each other. Compassion, Respect, Integrity and Innovation are at the heart of all we do.

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

* You will be part of a friendly team of staff and volunteers, supporting the work we do to tackle the causes and consequences of homelessness.
* Maintaining green areas within the garden.
* Weekly grass cutting with mower, strimmer (and possibly scythe).
* Help us to support wildlife by developing suitable cutting regimes.
* Working alongside staff, volunteers and residents to undertake all grounds maintenance activities.
* Helping to identify and report servicing needs as well as fuel/oil levels for machinery.
* Appropriate outdoor dress and safety gear required (We can provide steel toe cap footwear and other PPE if you don’t have.)

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

We are recruiting a Grounds Maintenance Volunteer to help out at the Midlothian Community Hospital Garden. The community garden is set within a 3 acre site and has a lot of lawn, paths, flower beds and hedges which all need maintaining with wildlife in mind. You will be working alongside a small friendly team of staff, volunteers and service users.

We are looking for someone with practical skills and experience and a can-do problem-solving approach. Ideally you will have experience in assessing risk and safe-working techniques as well as both team and solo working.

There will be opportunities to get involved with other areas of garden operations.

**Essential**

* You must be 18 or over.
* You must be willing to be a member of the PVG Scheme (we will process this for you)
* Work as part of a team as well as alone.
* You must be familiar with grass/hedge-cutting equipment and safe-working techniques and be able to assess risk in an outdoor setting. (Ideally 3+ years working in a similar setting)
* You must be confident working with tools.
* Be able to approach issues with problem solving mentality.
* Able to attend training

**Desirable**

* Good listening skills
* Enjoy being creative and work inclusively at times.
* Friendly and approachable
* Reliable with good time keeping
* Able to work with individuals who may have different support needs
* Non-judgmental
* Flexible and able to adapt to changing needs
* Respectful of confidentiality
* Basic skills in trades (e.g. plumbing/construction)
* Happy and confident to do some greenkeeping (strimmer/mower/tractor) – the role could increase to include greenkeeping as we are also looking for this.

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

* Rewarding experience in seeing your input improve the gardens
* Meet new people and feel part of a team
* Bring ideas to fruition

**Further Info**

We encourage you to bring a sun hat and sun lotion in the summer, wear warm layers in the winter, and bring a waterproof when it’s wet! We provide tea, coffee and biscuits!

**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**

For over 50 years we have been tackling the causes and consequences of homelessness. Starting with one community for those experiencing homelessness, we have grown to offer over 50 projects all working towards our vision of an inclusive society in which we all have the opportunity to live valued and fulfilling lives.

We are a values-led, relationships-based organisation with people at the heart of all we do. By joining us as a volunteer you will be integral to helping us achieve our vision of an inclusive society for all.

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