

Role Description

Community Gardener (casual work) NHS Community Hospital Gardens & The Access Place

Main cover days required: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

About Cyrenians

For over 50 years, Cyrenians has tackled the causes and consequences of homelessness.

We understand that there are many routes into homelessness, and that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to supporting people towards more positive and stable futures. That's why all our work is values-led and relationships-based. We meet people where they are and support them towards where they want to be.

Our Vision is an inclusive society in which we all have the opportunities to live valued and fulfilled lives.

Our way of working is built on our four core values, which are at the heart of all our work and decisions:

Compassion | Respect | Integrity | Innovation

[Read more about us and our values](#)

[Read about our strategic aims](#)

About the service

Cyrenians has worked with NHS Lothian to establish two hospital community gardens: The Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens in 2010, and the Midlothian Community Hospital Garden which was launched in 2012.

Cyrenians NHS Community Gardens are projects that offer hospital patients, staff and visitors, as well as people and groups from the local community, the chance to take part in a range of activities in the gardens and on hospital wards.

We also work as part of a partnership with Edinburgh Health & Social care and NHS Lothian at the Access Place to provide an inclusive and support environment for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The Access Place is a 'one stop' shop delivering primary care, social work and housing to people experiencing homelessness with complex needs.

The vision across all of our garden spaces is to create safe, welcoming, inclusive places for communities to grow together, with a particular emphasis on promoting wellbeing, improving mental health and reducing social isolation.

About the role

This sessional role covers both our Community Payback activity at our Community Hospital Gardens and The Access Place Garden group.

Community Payback

This involves supervising and supporting a small group of adults on Community Payback Orders to complete tasks around the Community Hospital gardens.

The Access Place Garden Group

This involves facilitating drop-in gardening sessions for people, supporting them to learn new skills.

Objectives

- Effective supervision of work groups in line with the requirements of community payback orders
- Delivery of gardening sessions across the sites with participants and volunteers
- Maintain attendance records and other monitoring and evaluation mechanisms relating to unpaid work
- Where appropriate source materials for activities
- Adhere to risk assessments to ensure a safe working environment is maintained
- Ensure that all participants are aware of all Health and Safety procedures
- Record participation of volunteers and participants, including qualitative evaluations where appropriate and inputting of attendance figures from each session
- Liaise regularly with gardens coordinator, service manager and project lead to help implement any required changes to the programmes
- Attend any relevant training to support delivery of programmes

Person Specification

Knowledge and experience	
Experience of greenspace delivery and garden development with people experiencing complex needs	Essential
Excellent people skills and active listening skills	Essential
Experience of working with vulnerable individuals and groups	Essential
Ability to follow good practice in risk management, support others to work safely, and implement risk assessment procedures	Essential
Experience of delivering gardening projects	Essential
Experience of working with and supporting volunteers	Desirable
Understanding and awareness of mental health policy and NHS ways of working	Desirable
Qualifications and training	
Relevant qualification/training in any of the following: Horticulture, art therapy, occupational therapy, Forest Schools,	Desirable

Herbology, biodiversity, Cooking outdoors, John Muir, Social Care	
Accredited first aid certificate or willingness to undertake	Essential
Values and attributes	
Positive thinker and creative problem solver	Essential
Strong organisational skills and the ability to work unsupervised	Essential

Terms and Conditions

Line Manager	Service Manager
Working hours	Casual work. Hours will be offered as and when they are available. There is no expectation that a Casual Worker will accept all hours that are offered. A Casual Worker is not an employee.
Pay	£15.23 per hour. This is an hourly rate of £13.18, plus an additional payment of £2.05 per hour to reflect any entitlement to annual leave.
PVG Membership	PVG membership required

Closing date: Recruitment for this role opened on 17/09/25. There is no set closing date. We will review applications as they are received and arrange to meet with candidates that we wish to take forward (usually within 5-7 days from receipt).

This vacancy will be closed once we have appointed.

Please refer to the Recruitment Information leaflet for further information on completing and submitting your application form.

Further information can be found at www.cyrenians.scot