



St. Benedict's Hospice
& Centre for Specialist
Palliative Care



South Tyneside and Sunderland
NHS Foundation Trust



ST BENEDICT'S HOSPICE AND CENTRE FOR SPECIALIST PALLIATIVE CARE

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION:
**Social and Therapeutic Horticulture
Volunteer**

Volunteer Role Description

Volunteer Title

Social and Therapeutic Horticulture Volunteer

Purpose

To assist with the running of social and therapeutic horticulture sessions with, and under the supervision of the Occupational Therapy team. Assist with the running of social and therapeutic horticulture sessions and play a part in improving the quality of life and sense of well-being of our patients, staff, volunteers and wider community.

Reports to

Occupational Therapy Team

Accountable to

Specialist Palliative Care Services Co-ordinator

Key Areas of responsibilities

- To adhere to the Volunteer Charter, and to support and volunteer within the Hospice Mission, Goals and Values.
- To observe the Hospice confidentiality policy whilst recognising the necessity to operate as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
- To respect the dignity, rights and privacy of patients, families and carers at all times.
- To demonstrate an understanding of social and therapeutic horticulture / gardening in supportive care.
- To assist the OT team in providing a consistent and effective service, including review and development of the service as appropriate.
- To participate in appropriate training required for the role.
- To attend regular group meetings and/or supervision as required.
- To read, be informed, and carry out your role within all the policies and procedures of the hospice.

Key Duties

- Welcome patients to the session in a warm and friendly manner.
- To assist occupational therapy team in administration, preparation and delivery of sessions for patients and carers.
- To assist with preparations for the sessions and preparation of the activity area.
- To assist patients and provide agreed social and therapeutic horticulture during session.
- To clear away and tidy activity area following sessions.
- Liaise with porters to ensure any litter or garden waste is disposed of correctly.
- To attend de-brief and share any specific observations about individual patients.
- Make refreshments and bring to the garden area.
- To support garden fundraising events as appropriate.

Skill set and Attributes

- Some gardening experience
- Ability to work outdoors and in a practical way
- Ability to engage with a wide variety of people
- Punctual and reliable
- Patient, warm, calm and friendly
- Good communication skills

Pre-employment checks

Pre-employment checks will be carried out by the NHS Trust Human Resources Department including a DBS check.

Training and support

- Volunteers are required to attend statutory and mandatory training updates, and / or complete on-line training
- If at any time you wish to enhance or develop your skills please speak to the Occupational Therapists or Voluntary Services Manager to discuss further.