# Volunteer Role Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role Title</th>
<th>Garden Support Volunteer – Social and Therapeutic Horticulture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Based at</td>
<td>Battersea Park (Main or Herb Garden or other London locations)</td>
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<td>Responsible to:</td>
<td>Horticultural Therapist</td>
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<td>When</td>
<td>Any weekday</td>
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<td>Time Commitment:</td>
<td>1 day a week 9.45am – 3.15pm (subject to project)</td>
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<td>Duration</td>
<td>Minimum of 6 months</td>
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### General Purpose of the Role
- To support our horticultural therapists in delivering a high level of service to individuals with a disability or mental ill-health. These individuals (client gardeners) come to our gardening programmes with a range of disabilities and the programmes they are following will vary from general gardening to working towards horticultural qualifications.
- To develop social interaction with client gardeners and encourage them to work with and talk with others.
- To work alongside client gardeners encouraging them in their work but not doing the tasks for them.
- Supervising, with others, the client gardener group over lunch breaks and occasionally when the therapists are engaged in assessing and related paperwork.

### Outline of Tasks you may be involved in.
- Attending a briefing before client gardeners arrive and helping to prepare for the planned sessions.
- Working alongside client gardeners encouraging, talking, demonstrating or guiding the individuals to a greater or lesser extent depending on their needs - sowing seeds, watering, planting out, weeding, digging, hoeing, mowing, pruning.
- Watching out for the Health and Safety of those you are working with.
- Helping to clear up after gardeners have left, briefing therapists on progress or any issues relating to the clients you have worked with.
## Skills and Personal qualities we need you to use.

- Patience and understanding with a commitment to being supportive and companionable
- Flexibility – task may need to change and client gardeners behaviour may be surprising or erratic
- Reliability – for both the therapists and the client gardeners this is important for continuity and trust.
- Understanding of professional boundaries.
- Ability to explain tasks clearly and in simple ways.
- Some understanding of basic gardening skills
- Prepared to work outdoors in most weathers.
- Robust in order to cope with the demands of supporting our clients.

## Training, Support and Supervision you will be given

- A full introduction to the site and to the task we need you to do.
- Training in relation to Health & Safety (Manual Handling and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults) within the first 6 months of volunteering
- Attend any in-house training as appropriate.
- Supervision/debrief session at end of each day with a therapist.
- Provision of Thrive polo top, jumper and steel-cap boots.

## General Duties

There are other general responsibilities and expectations set out in the Volunteer Agreement which you will need to sign before starting voluntary work with us.