

Appendix 4: GreenCare

=Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)

Reference	6026			
Name of Organisation	GreenCare			
Organisation Type	CIC			
Ward	Covers the whole of Letchworth			
Project Type	Social and therapeutic horticulture			
Green option considered?	/			
NHC Councillor involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest	None that we are aware of.			
Previous financial support within six years	2020/21 – Disability access provision - £2,500 2020/21 – Polytunnel and shed - £2,052 2022/23 - Equipment for the next phase of their development - £898			
Documentation reviewed and approved*	Safeguarding	Yes	Accounts	Yes
	Demonstrates clear governance	Yes		
Total applied for	£500	Total project cost	£613	
Officer Summary				
<p>GreenCare’s project aims to support and bring about positive changes in the lives of adults living with loneliness, unemployment or who are socially excluded through mental illness, learning difficulties or deprivation. Based on three different sites across Letchworth Garden City, participants work alongside volunteers to grow their own food and flowers.</p> <p>Participants benefit from having a safe and secure place to make friends, learn and develop skills, and enjoy the mental and physical health benefits of getting moving outside. They run several sessions each week, with Ray Wilson, the project director leading the planning and practical running of the sessions, along with volunteers who give what time they can. The project is free to participants and no volunteers are paid for their time. Neither do they pay any rent for their sites having negotiated with the landowners.</p> <p>They take referrals from a variety of professionals including the Jobcentre, settle housing association, Create Community Network, NHS Community Mental Health, and others, as well as self-referrals, meaning they have no barriers to someone accessing our support.</p> <p>They also have a larger section of land on Standalone Farm, Letchworth, in partnership with Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. They have established a large growing area on this site, giving their participants the opportunity to gain valuable skills such as larger-scale commercial growing of food and flowers, as well as marketing, pricing of items, floristry, architectural landscaping plus an understanding of a social enterprise business venture. They are hoping this will bring a vital source of income to Green Care at Norton, enabling us to support more people and is in fact enabling our participants to take a step towards work.</p> <p>They would like to expand their production of vegetables at their Standalone Farm site so that they can increase their vegetable sales and thus become more self-sufficient. To do this from April to July 2024 they would like to purchase approx. 500 vegetable plug plants from an online supplier (Rocket Gardens, Cornwall) representing a wide variety of produce, which will provide a succession of vegetables throughout the season. They would also like to similarly develop soft fruit production on their Standalone Farm site and to that end would like to purchase a fruit cage to protect fruit from birds and butterflies etc.</p>				

*Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation