

THERAPEUTIC GARDEN MANAGER – Background and role spec.



HighGround (HG) is a charity whose mission is to improve the wellbeing and employment prospects of serving personnel and veterans using the green environment. It does this in part by delivering horticultural therapy at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Stanford Hall in Leicestershire. Horticultural Therapy is an integral part of rehabilitation options available for clinicians to treat injured serving personnel at DMRC to enable a return to military life or transition to civilian life. This service is delivered by the HighGround Occupational Therapist, based on referrals from the staff at DMRC.

Responsibilities

HighGround is now looking for a Therapeutic Garden Manager who will provide support and facilities for the provision of Horticultural Therapy to these patients. The individual will be required to manage and organise the horticultural elements of the provision. This will include:

- Planning, planting and propagation of plants needed to support Horticultural Therapy throughout the year.
- Maintenance and care for both greenhouse and outdoor planting areas, including some hard landscaping.
- Light maintenance duties, sourcing of materials and services and maintenance of equipment.
- Co-ordination and management of a small team of volunteers to support with maintenance of therapeutic garden areas.

Although the post carries no clinical responsibilities, there will be some limited patient interaction, liaison with HighGround/DMRC staff, volunteers and external providers and resources.

Positive publicity is essential for the charity so the garden manager will be expected to provide regular updates to the HighGround Social Media team on key projects and activities.

On occasions the position will also be required to support visits from stakeholders and potential supporters of the HighGround charity.

Working Hours – part time (20 hours per week) with potential for seasonal variation.

Salary – £15k - £20k dependent on experience.

Person Specification

Essential

- Horticultural/Gardening background/experience, minimum 3 years, with ability to work with minimum supervision daily in a safe and productive manner.
- Extensive knowledge of plant management, including types and varieties, health, and propagation.
- Ability to plan and organise the seasonal year to provide, in consultation with the Occupational Therapist, a range of therapeutic activities for patients.
- Basic practical skills i.e. repairs, maintenance of facilities and equipment used in therapeutic garden areas.
- Good communication skills to liaise with staff, patients, HG stakeholders and external suppliers.
- Basic knowledge of the therapeutic benefits of horticulture.
- Full driving licence.
- Basic IT skills – Email & Word.
- Knowledge of relevant health & safety/COSHH/environmental procedures.

Desirable:

- Advanced Garden Design, landscaping skills and project management experience.
- Qualification in horticulture/garden design (RHS, BTEC, Degree etc).
- Experience of people management.
- Experience of working in a therapeutic environment.
- Book-keeping, accounts, and general administration.
- Understanding of the requirements of working on a military unit
- Advanced IT skills such as Excel, CAD.

Note: the successful candidate will be required to have a DBS check and security clearance to work in a military establishment prior to commencing.



For more information about HighGround's services please contact Anna Baker Cresswell
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