

GREEN COMMUNITY HUBS



What are Green Community Hubs?

Our Green Community Hubs offer familiar, accessible places where local residents can engage in practical environmental action, such as food growing, building relationships and developing skills. Many hubs also provide access to other services, such as veg boxes, community fridges or food banks. They are co-designed and co-managed with the community, building long-term capacity through promoting stewardship of natural assets.

Why are they important?

Green Community Hubs respond to the unique character, needs and opportunities of its local area. Hubs are built on existing social and environmental assets and often located in communities experiencing multiple forms of disadvantage, especially where access to quality green space is limited. They provide opportunities for individuals to experience the well-being benefits associated with being outdoors, getting to know other people in their community, tackling loneliness and isolation, enabling people to learn new skills, grow healthy produce and learn to maintain the green space. They provide a valuable green oasis for wildlife and communities.

What activities take place?

Green Community Hubs offer tailored support and host targeted sessions - for example, wellbeing activities for older residents or cultural festivals that foster cross-community understanding. Development is rooted in meaningful community consultation, ensuring that the design, services and activities reflect what local people value most.

Examples of Green Community Hubs across the UK

Blackpool

Food grown by volunteers at their local hub is used to prepare nutritious meals for residents of the nearby Grange Estate.

Middlesbrough

Berwick Hills Allotment has regular volunteers from a Men's Shed, enabling men to come together and chat shoulder to shoulder, reducing isolation through skills based activities.

Leeds

Lady Pitt Allotments is a hidden lifeline for local residents living in back-to-back housing to enjoy nature on their doorstep.

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Hyde Bank is situated in a neutral place, enabling people from any community to get involved in growing and sharing produce.

Coventry

The People's Patch is a wildlife oasis providing space for nature and for people to grow food.

Flintshire

Quayscape Community Garden provides weekly volunteer sessions for people, enabling them to learn new skills, grow produce and benefit from being outdoors.

Kettering

The Green Patch provides safe and welcoming outdoor space for families with limited access to gardens and has a food bank, veg box scheme and runs after school activities.





Paul

When Paul was originally referred by green social prescribers to his local Green Community Hub he was in a really bad place.

Time in the armed forces and other tough life experiences had left him struggling with PTSD, C-PTSD and depression. He was forced to give up a subsequent career as a landscape gardener after serious physical health issues. On top of everything else, Paul recently lost his partner after illness.

The project's flexibility suits Paul and many of the other regular participants who sometimes need to dip in and out due to health issues. There's no shortage of tasks to slot back into, and the relaxed, welcoming environment created by the group is a given, no matter how long it's been between visits.

He is now in a much better place, knowing that the hub is always there for him whenever he needs it.

"I have good days and bad days. When I come here, it's a good day".



Diane

Diane's journey from tentative newcomer to steering group member in the space of three months at her local Green Community Hub has been impressively swift.

Speaking of her involvement, Diane said:

"My mental health deteriorated about five or six years ago and I've needed support since then. I was attending a different support session for around 12 months and was coming to the end of my time there. I heard about the Green Community Hub at The Settlement and was supported to come the first time.

"At first we were weeding, sowing seeds, re-planting seeds out, and harvesting some of those crops. Since then I've had the courage to join the steering group, and as time's progressed I've nominated myself to do the garden co-ordination."

"Without volunteers, and volunteers who want to support it going forward, it wouldn't happen."



Zeshan

Zeshan, originally from Pakistan, has been in the UK for the last two years, caring for people with additional needs. He has accompanied Abbas to his local Green Community Hub for around six months.

Speaking of his involvement, Zeshan said:

"Abbas usually gets bored very quickly, so we try a lot of places and a lot of activities.

"I've never seen him get bored here - I have to say 'ok, time is over, let's go'. He likes this place. He has found a good community here.

"He learns a lot and he's doing different things like planting, digging and weeding. It gives him a sense of peace. He's tried to do some things when he's gone home and tells his mum stories of what we've done here. He laughs and tells her 'I did digging today and we were planting'."

"People come from different backgrounds with different mental health issues, and for two or three hours they're happy."

How can you support Green Community Hubs?

- > **Share your time** – Join us as a volunteer and make a hands-on impact.
- > **Help fund Green Community Hubs** – Your contributions can help us create vibrant, sustainable spaces for everyone.

Here's a breakdown of how your contribution can help make a difference:

£25

would help us to purchase seeds and compost for a Green Community Hub.

£50

would help us to purchase 10 trowels and two spades to run a gardening session with volunteers.

£250

would help us to run a day's training session for 10 volunteers.

£1500

would help us to set up a vegetable box or community fridge.

£3000

would help to support us to run a whole season of activity in one of the Green Community Hubs, enabling a community gardener to run weekly sessions throughout the growing season.

- > **Donate resources** – Got tools, seeds, or materials to spare? We'd love your support in bringing our projects to life.



Please get in touch with Groundwork's Fundraising and Partnerships Team to discuss opportunities to work together: getinvolved@groundwork.org.uk