Essex and Suffolk Youth Enquiry Service (YES)

Garden Maintenance Volunteer

About YES

At YES, we believe every young person deserves someone in their corner. Since 1988, we've been supporting young people aged 11 to 25 across Colchester and Tendring with practical help, emotional support and opportunities to build brighter futures.

We provide practical and emotional support through services including housing and homelessness prevention, pregnancy and parenting support, life skills and counselling. From our centres in Colchester and Holland-on-Sea, we work alongside young people to build confidence, develop resilience and take positive steps towards a brighter future.

Role Overview

This rewarding volunteer role helps care for and develop the YES Community Garden, creating a welcoming outdoor space where young people can connect with nature, learn new skills and enjoy positive experiences outdoors.

Whether you're planting, watering, weeding or helping with seasonal projects, you'll play an important part in keeping the garden thriving for young people, families and the wider community.

This role is perfect for someone who enjoys gardening, being outdoors and making a positive difference in their local community.

Ideally, volunteers will be able to offer around two hours each week, but we can be flexible and discuss a level of involvement that works for you.

Why Volunteer with YES?

Volunteers are a valued part of the YES team and make a real difference to local young people and families. Whether you're sharing skills, leading an activity or offering encouragement, your time can help young people grow in confidence, learn new skills and feel connected to their community.

We'll provide training, guidance and ongoing support to help you feel confident in your role. You'll have regular contact with a member of the team and be part of a friendly organisation that aims to provide safe, welcoming spaces for everyone.

In return, you'll gain valuable experience, develop new skills, meet new people and help shape our services. Most importantly, you'll play a part in making a lasting difference to the lives of local young people and families.

Safeguarding and Professional Boundaries

At YES, creating safe, supportive environments for young people and families is everyone's responsibility. As a volunteer, you'll help people feel welcome, respected and valued.

We'll give you safeguarding training, guidance and support throughout your volunteering. While volunteers aren't expected to deal with concerns themselves, if you have any concerns about a young person's wellbeing or safety, you must share them with a member of the YES team so the right support can be provided.

To keep everyone safe, volunteers are expected to maintain appropriate boundaries and follow YES policies and procedures at all times.

Please note: This role is subject to an Enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references.

Key Responsibilities

- Help maintain and develop the YES Community Garden, supporting a safe, welcoming and enjoyable outdoor space for everyone to use.
- Assist with practical gardening tasks such as planting, watering, weeding, pruning and seasonal upkeep.
- Contribute ideas and support projects that help the garden grow as a valuable community resource.
- Work alongside staff, volunteers and young people in a positive and supportive way.
- Help identify and report any maintenance, health and safety or wellbeing concerns in line with YES policies and procedures.

The Type of Person We're Looking For

We're looking for a friendly, practical volunteer who enjoys spending time outdoors and takes pride in caring for outdoor spaces. You'll be happy working independently as well as alongside others, and motivated by the opportunity to create a welcoming environment that benefits local young people and families.

You will ideally have:

- An interest in gardening, horticulture, conservation or outdoor spaces.
- Experience of maintaining gardens, allotments, community spaces or similar outdoor environments.
- The ability to work independently, use initiative and identify tasks that need attention.
- A positive, reliable approach and a willingness to contribute to a welcoming and inclusive environment.