



## **Gardening Volunteer**

### **About DENS:**

Most people know DENS as the homeless charity for people in Dacorum, but we're so much more than that. Our mission is to be the first port of call for anyone facing homelessness, poverty or social exclusion, and to empower them to take the next positive step in life.

### **About The Elms:**

The Elms, our 44-bed hostel, provides emergency and short-term accommodation for single homeless adults who have a local connection to Dacorum. Residents are allocated a Key Worker who supports them with their specific issues, as well as giving them basic life and employment skills and supporting them to identify more long-term accommodation. Many residents improve their confidence, self-esteem and communication skills whilst at The Elms. The Elms is a pet-friendly hostel – in fact, it is one of only 10% of hostels in the UK who allow pets.

### **About the opportunity:**

We're looking for a reliable and willing volunteer to join our hard-working and dedicated gardening team at The Elms on a Monday and Thursday morning, or only a Thursday morning, between 10.30am and 1pm.

The team maintains the grounds and garden at The Elms, with occasional visits to our other sites as needed.

Our gardening team play a key role in growing fruits, vegetables and herbs for the hostel kitchen, as well as planting and maintaining flowers in the grounds. The team also work closely with residents of the hostel giving them an opportunity to contribute to the gardening tasks and gain additional skills.

The role will be active and physical. You will be bending, carrying and lifting, so a reasonable level of fitness is helpful. But don't worry, we'll provide equipment and training. It also requires empathy and patience when interacting with our residents. You must maintain a professional, working relationship with everyone you meet to ensure clear boundaries, consistency and a safe and welcoming environment for all.

### **What you will be doing:**

- Working on a Monday and Thursday morning, or only a Thursday morning, between 10.30am and 1pm
- Working as part of a team to grow produce for the hostel kitchen
- Maintaining the flower beds and pots to keep them bright and tidy
- Working alongside residents of the hostel, giving them opportunities to learn new skills



**What you will gain:**

- A sense of purpose and pride in helping your community
- New friendships and a supportive environment
- Practical skills in gardening, teamwork and communication

**Person Specification**

	Essential	Desirable
Be over the age of 25 (for insurance purposes)	X	
Willing to undertake a standard DBS check	X	
Be willing to do active and physical gardening work	X	
Be able to drive and be willing to use your own car to get to other sites	X	
Willing to follow DENS policies and procedures e.g. data protection, safeguarding, H&S	X	
Reliable and able to commit to a few hours each week	X	
Be an ambassador for DENS in the community	X	
Able to maintain professional boundaries	X	
Able to work both individually and as part of a team	X	
Good communication and interpersonal skills	X	
Be a welcoming, friendly face to all residents, staff and visitors	X	
Previous charity or voluntary involvement		X
Previous customer service experience		X

Please contact [volunteering@dens.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@dens.org.uk) for further information on how to apply.

