



# Growing Care Farming in Yorkshire and Humberside: First report



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# 1. Overview

Regional engagement in the Yorkshire and Humberside region began in September 2019. This report collates the learning gathered in the first active quarter between October and December 2019. Learning has been gathered in a variety of different ways; via telephone conversations with care farmers, discussions at regional care farming network meetings, targeted questions to Care Farming Facilitators (CFF) at an orientation meeting and via a participatory workshop session with guests at the November Going Live event.

To provide an idea of scale, the Social Farms and Gardens (SF&G) database currently lists 21 care farms and seven prospective care farms in Yorkshire and Humberside. The Regional Support Officer (RSO) developed a series of questions with the aim of gathering information on current care farming provision from existing care farmers across the region to present to the guests at the Going Live event. Data was gathered on;

- Current numbers of sessions &/or available places at each care farm
- Existing health, social care & education (and other) referral pathways and payments.

There was also an opportunity for care farmers to raise their own successes, challenges, concerns or opportunities.

12 regional care farms were consulted between October and November by either the RSO or one of the Care Farm Facilitators (CFF) prior to the Going Live event in order to gather information on the current picture to present to the guests.

The Going Live event, which was held on 26<sup>th</sup> November, was attended by 45 guests from a variety of different professions. There was representation from care farmers (n=14), prospective care farmers (10), healthcare professionals (5), social care professionals (3), education professionals (2), one commissioner and a number of other interested parties (n=10) including Natural England, Thrive, farming press, LEAF, McClarrons and several VCS organisations.

After listening to presentations from the Growing Care Farming (GCF) team, participants took part in a participatory workshop. The aim of the workshop was to gather further data from those present on strengths, challenges and opportunities for the sector in Yorkshire & Humberside and to undertake an exercise in prioritising those opportunities. The slides below show the format of the initial questions that guests were asked to think about in six smaller groups.

## Part 1 – Table discussions



Care farming in Yorkshire and Humberside - 40 minutes

On your tables you will be joined by a mix of other 'stakeholders' - you all have experience and expertise in different areas

1. What is working for care farming in Yorks and Humber? Highlight 2 key examples/ successes
2. What isn't working? Issues to face? Highlight 2 key challenges
3. Ideas, solutions, opportunities - Outline 2 key opportunities, ideas or next steps

• Write up all points on flipcharts

• Spokesperson to report back to the rest of the room and highlight your table's suggested next step/ best idea

Growing Care Farming: Transforming the scale of the care farming sector

## 2. Summary of Learning

The current picture of the care farming sector in Yorkshire & Humberside is interesting and complex, due to the huge variations in service provision, scale, referrals and funding sources. This makes comparisons between different service provision difficult.

### 2.1 Service Users

Of the 12 care farms surveyed, most are providing services for several different 'defined needs' rather than specialising in delivering services for one service user group. It is also clear that there is a huge variation in the terminology used to describe those who are benefitting from services (service user, participant, co-farmer etc.) - however, this does not have any effect on service delivery. For the purposes of the Growing Care Farming (GCF) project we tend to use the term service user.

### 2.2 Scale of Provision

In terms of the scale of current provision the 12 care farms spoken to reported running anywhere between 2 - 37 care farm 'sessions' per week. These sessions can vary in length from farm to farm, but most are around 5 hours. They also reported supporting between 3 - 100 service users per week. To put this into context, there are farms who only operate as a care farm one day per week and support 3 individuals per week, but there are also care farms who run sessions 5 days per week, with multiple sessions per day and who therefore support much larger numbers of service users, some of whom attend multiple sessions each week.

Several care farms we spoke to currently focus on educational visits by schools, catering for 40 – 220 pupils per week (on average over a full year). It's these farms who are often delivering small numbers of care farm sessions and many keen to expand their provision, as experience has led them to understand they can offer bespoke services for specific needs to add to their educational visit offer. We also learned that Yorkshire and Humberside offers a diverse mix of care farming i.e. from site-based farms, mobile farms, residential sites, working farms, animal sanctuaries, farm gardens/plant nurseries, etc.

### 2.3 Referral Routes and Funding

From the care farms involved, we have learned that there are a variety of existing referral pathways and funding routes, including:

- service users accessing care farms through Social Services personalised budgets.
- success securing grant funding which can either pay for or subsidise care farming places (i.e. provision for carers groups, people living with dementia).
- good links and partnerships developing with local referral organisations, such as colleges, schools, GPs, social housing providers, other VCSE organisations and charities, who provide referrals, and many will cover the cost of the places too.
- good working relationships with Local Authorities, particularly in relation to education pathways, learning disabilities and alternative provision which each come with payments for sessions.
- school visits paid for through Higher-Level Stewardship or educational access both funded by Natural England.

## 2.4 Prospective Care Farmers

In Yorkshire & Humberside we are aware that there are a number of prospective care farmers, 10 of whom were represented at the Going Live event in November. The GCF project will provide care farmer training and other learning and networking opportunities to assist these potential new care farms over the next 3 years.

## 3. Successes - What is working?

### 3.1 Overview

When the learning from the consultation work and the participatory workshop at the Going Live event were combined there were several key themes that emerged. These themes form a collective snapshot of the sector in Yorkshire & Humberside in late 2019. The key themes that emerged from the 'What is working?' question were:

- Range of different types of services offered from care farms in the region
- Varied referral pathways for care farming services
- Funding for care farms and care farming places
- Varied and multiple partnerships developed
- Positivity
- Other

### 3.2 Range of services offered from care farms in the region

Participants told us that they feel the diversity of the care farm offer in the region is a key positive. There was a feeling that this diversity enabled the successful support of a wide range of service users, with a variety of needs. Key comments are listed below.

Services offered on care farms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wide variety of target groups, offering different tailored opportunities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Able to help people from many different starting points.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-hierarchical environment is good for those who struggle with authority.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Growing evidence of results – good outcomes, case studies and personal stories. This success is often closely linked to consistency of attendance/relationships.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus on empowerment of service users.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provision of services that improve quality of life.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diverse range of skills of care farming staff.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Availability of CEVAS training helps farmers move into educational visits and care farming.</li></ul>

### 3.3 Varied referral pathways for care farming services

Many care farms felt that they had developed good working relationships and referral pathways in their local areas, however there was also an appreciation that these could always be improved upon and extended. Key comments are listed below.

Referral pathways	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good relationships with Local Authorities (particularly with references to Education &amp; Social Care teams).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some strong and ongoing relationships i.e. care farms that have developed close links with local schools for ongoing referrals/visits.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mix of pathways across the region – social services, education, health (GP's, mental health teams, OT's, etc), VCS organisations, housing providers and self-referrals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some social prescribing referrals already taking place and have been for years.</li></ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personalised budgets (social care) are being more widely accessed to pay for care farming services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care farm places can be paid for privately by service users or their families.</li> </ul>
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### 3.4 Funding for care farms and care farming places

Our learning indicates that that funding is a constant source of concern for care farmers (see Challenges section). The majority of those who responded regarding funding successes highlight service users accessing care farm sessions funded via Social Services personalised budgets. There are also other referral organisations who are able to provide funding to cover cost of places. Key comments are listed overleaf.

Funding	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is also evidence of some good links and partnerships developing with local referral organisations, such as colleges, schools, GP's, Housing providers, other VCSE organisations and charities, who provide referrals and will cover the cost of the places.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some evidence of success securing grant funding which can either pay for or subsidise care farm places (i.e. provision for carers groups, people living with Dementia) or be used towards capital improvements on the farm.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several Local Education Authorities pay for services including alternative provision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools can, and do, pay directly for services on some farms.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or two reports of sponsorship from local or national companies, i.e. Joules, various banks, Utility companies, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational Access and Higher-Level Stewardship (HLS) funding from Natural England is being accessed by a small number of farms.</li> </ul>

### 3.5 Varied and multiple partnerships developed

We learned that the care farming sector is proactive and reaches out to develop partnerships and relationships with several other sectors, being open and willing to learn and share from others. Key comments are listed below.

Partnerships	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong regional care farm network already exists which can be built on.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several new care farms are being developed in, or in partnership with, special schools in Y&amp;H.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some care farms have good links with the voluntary and business sectors in their areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved links to NHS England &amp; collaboration</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-operational working – there seems to be an openness in farming/care farming sector and people willing to share learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solid relationships developing with Local Authorities in many areas.</li> </ul>

### 3.6 Positivity

One key theme which came out strongly during the participatory workshop, and which was echoed through comments made by the individual care farms, was that of the overwhelming commitment and positivity of those who work on the sector; the passion of care farming staff based on their experiences of the positive outcomes for their service users. Key comments are listed below.

Positivity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Huge passion and motivation of staff in the sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No one model – flexible to be user led or offer led.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Willing and able to help people feel better.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No standard framework – every care farm is unique.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common aim/purpose, but different methods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovative – Y&amp;H seem happy to try new things.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Striving to be inclusive, diverse and integrated.</li> </ul>	

### 3.7 Other

Other positive themes which emerged from the learning but did not fit into the above categories have been collated and listed below.

Other successes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Care farms provide re-connection with nature, being self-sufficient and growing produce.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Food (growing and eating) unites the group of service users.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Good research base which helps to prove the benefits.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teaching useable skills that can help in future life.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wide engagement of volunteers in the sector.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Qualifications can be available at some care farms.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Service users can transition to volunteers (although there can be challenges with this).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reductions in loneliness and social isolation.</li></ul>

## 4. Challenges – What isn't working so well?

### 4.1 Overview

We asked participants at the Going Live event to tell us more about what they felt wasn't going so well, or the things they felt were challenges, in Yorkshire & Humberside. These comments were then grouped into key themes. The key themes for challenges that emerged included:

- Complexities and blockages within the referral processes
- Funding for places
- Capacity
- Transport
- Other

### 4.2 Complexities and blockages within the referral processes

A significant number of care farmers we spoke to, highlighted the difficulties in understanding and then dealing with the complex referral processes of Local Authorities. Several reported that although more junior staff were positive and keen to refer, blockages were happening further up the chain of command. Some also mentioned the high turnover of staff within referral organisations. There were also reports of conflicting information being provided to care farmers on the best way for them to become an 'approved provider' for the authority.

Complexities and blockages within the referral processes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inconsistencies in incomes streams across different LA/CCG areas makes it difficult.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clarity needed – sometimes not clear whether services fall under education or health provision</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fragmented education system (state run schools, foundations, trusts, etc) can mean dealing with lots of organisations separately</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Not currently fully utilising the potential referrals through Social Prescribing.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conflicting information provided about registering as an approved provider (some say it's required, but then others within same LA say it isn't).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Finding the required names and contact information is difficult and can be a barrier to developing beneficial relationships.</li></ul>

### 4.3 Funding for places

Care farms say they are concerned at the number of referrals where there is no budget to cover the places. Examples of this are social prescribing, GPs, community groups, churches, food banks & recovery charities. This is unsustainable for small charities/businesses. This is sometimes presented as referral organisations asking care farms to take on 'volunteers' with complex needs rather than as paid-for service users. Key comments are listed overleaf.

Funding for places	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of referrals coming through where no funding is provided, i.e. from Churches, food banks, mental health charities and even GP's.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulties securing funded places</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location on border of 2 LAs - different rates for each area which can be up to 30-40% less per session</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenge to maintain consistency &amp; ensure longevity with uncertain nature of funding</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant applications complex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupil Premium – could provide opportunity but schools often absorb to cover their costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities through LA's working with those in supported living – often have resources, but need to link better</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short term nature of the funding (sometimes only a term at a time) makes planning and staffing difficult</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many care farms reported having to run other enterprises to help them support the costs of running the care farm, such as cafes, farm shops, Christmas tree sales, CSR events, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential care farms constantly finding LA's going to tribunal to fight parents who want their family member to have a funded place at the care farm. These battles are often lost.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The length of time taken for funding to be allocated can mean that a place is reserved, but then lost as funding has not come through in time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers with complex needs requiring close supervision.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having to manage with very short-term funding, sometimes academic term only, can cause huge headaches for allocating staff and resources effectively.</li> </ul>	

#### 4.4 Capacity

Capacity is a key concern, and this relates closely to staffing. Due to the transient nature of funding for care farm places there is often a high reliance on volunteers. Uncertain income leads to challenges in planning and ensuring care farms have the required staff resources. Key comments are listed below.

Capacity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Length of contracts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linking supply and demand is key – more strategic approach through GCF needed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting complex needs on same income.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion – challenging, time consuming and costly to promote and market to the right people.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keen to ensure no duplication in same geographic areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The push for accredited qualifications for service users can have a huge impact on the resources and skills required (needing to employ staff with teaching qualifications), often for no more money than non-accredited provision.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't have the cash behind them to make the required alterations to their sites to enable a greater number of service users, i.e. capital investments.</li> </ul>	

#### 4.5 Transport

Transporting service users to the farm is often costly. Several have had to arrange and co-ordinate minibus transport from local cities/towns. Sometimes this additional cost can be charged to the Local Authority, but for others, where the Local Authority is unwilling to cover the cost, the care farm has had to absorb the transport costs or risk losing the contract altogether. Key comments are listed below.

Transport	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly in semi-rural or rural areas – no suitable public transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ceiling cost that local Authorities are willing to pay.</li> </ul>



## 4.6 Other

For some, dealing with the pace of political change, resulting in changing departments, budgets and priorities is extremely difficult. Alterations in expectations from referrers can often cause extra work, worry and additional costs to care farmers but the payment remains the same.

The majority of care farmers we have spoken to had constant concerns about earning enough to cover their costs. Many have other ventures which they use to help subsidise the care farming work they do, i.e. farm shops, cafés, selling Christmas trees, running Corporate Social Responsibility workdays for companies, etc. Without these enterprises they could not sustain the organisation. Key comments are listed below.

Other challenges	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pressure of risk assessing and ensuring safeguarding</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promotion to commissioner, SP link workers and PB holders</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promotion is costly and time consuming</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pace of political change can have an adverse and quick effect on locally delivered services</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Red tape – regulations, DBS and safety; people feeling out of their depth writing policies, etc</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Difficult to demonstrate quality provision. Even though we have the Code of Practice the sector is not regulated by an overarching body, although some farms are regulated by Care Quality Commission or Ofsted.</li></ul>

## 5. Opportunities and next steps

### 5.1 Overview

There are several areas where it was felt that clear opportunities exist which would contribute towards the growth of the sector that participants could help influence or action. Key themes for opportunities and next steps that emerged included:

- New referral pathways
- New funding streams
- Partnership working
- Other

### 5.2 New referral pathways

At the Going Live event and during conversations with care farms, social prescribing was mentioned. Care farmers are keen to connect more with social prescribing local link workers. Growing Care Farming can help with this by connecting them into the care farming regional networks and mailing lists. It seems social prescribing could be a great opportunity for service users and care farmers, but only if further progress can be made to identify how these new socially prescribed places can be funded. Key comments are listed below.

New referral pathways	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Occupational Therapists – need to make more connections.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seek information on how to become an approved provider.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Links with social prescribing teams.</li><li>• Sourcing help from local CVS with writing bids</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Systemic change required; by working together with health and social care teams to change the system.</li></ul>

### 5.3 New funding streams

The growth of people in receipt of personalised budgets (both in social care and health) is a great opportunity for both service users and care farms, if the farms can successfully market their services directly to the budget holders. Mental health aftercare budgets were also mentioned, and care farmers are keen to find out more about and access. Key comments are listed below.

New funding streams	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Section 117 mental health after care budgets – like social care personalised budgets, so could present an opportunity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Encourage care farms to share resources with each other or other local community organisations to reduce costs, i.e. minibuses.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GCF Website – could it provide up to date funding sources?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>New Agri environment scheme (ELMS) – could costs or visits and transport be more widely covered?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>National Lottery Community Fund – heavy social isolation focus.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Need support to know where and how to get grant funding.</li></ul>

### 5.4 Partnership working

There are opportunities to link experienced farmers and landowners (with an interest in care farming), with health, social care or education professionals (wanting to develop a care farm, but who need support around the practical aspects). If aspirations can be aligned, then partnerships could work well. Both the GCF project and the regional network could help with linking parties together.

One theme which emerged was how smaller care farms are often unaware or uncomfortable searching out and tendering for larger opportunities. If care farmers could be supported in tendering for opportunities either individually or forming consortia, this could help care farms and other green care providers work as teams to provide locally based services for Local Authorities. Key comments are listed below.

Partnership working	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information sharing – buddy system between existing and prospective care farmers.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Development of consortia to bid for larger contracts – not just groups of care farms, but also wider charities and VCSE organisations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Corporate Social Responsibility – developing relationships with companies for ongoing support.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reduce isolation for care farmers by working together more.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Referrals to other farms (where appropriate).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Shadowing days for skill sharing.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Need for more networking events.</li></ul>	

### 5.5 Other

There were also a number of other opportunities which did not fall into any of the above themes and these have been grouped in the table below.

Other opportunities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Outreach - take the farm to the care home, school, etc</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Targeted promotion of care farming to health, education, social care and social prescribing contacts – make sure they know the offer.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GCF website – enhance to be able to drill down and select specific services; different symbols for different service user groups particular services, i.e. equine therapy, etc.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collaborate with Linking Education and Farming (LEAF) to get all care farms onto their countryside classroom website.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Climate change agenda and how it links into care farming.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advice on legal set up and COP</li></ul>

## 5.6 Prioritisation of opportunities

As part of the participatory workshop, the groups were each asked to highlight one or two key opportunities which they felt should be a priority. Every guest was then provided with ten sticky coloured dots and given the opportunity to 'vote' to indicate which opportunities they felt were most important. Below is a table showing the opportunities in order of preference.

Prioritisation of key opportunities	
Opportunity:	Score:
1. Sector system change – by working together with health and social care to change the system.	65
2. Encourage sharing of information – buddy system for start-up and existing care farms.	56
3. Linking supply & demand – develop offering on GCF website to search from provision details for each care farm as well as the location.	46
4. Resources – help on finding sources of funding via information on GCF website so everyone can see.	44
5. Develop more outreach services – take the care farm to the service users.	29
6. Mental Health after care budgets (Section 117) - develop a better understanding of this funding and communicate out to all CF's.	26
7. Help with writing grant applications.	24
8. Tapping into Corporate Social Responsibility opportunities – link to SEMBLE for CSR.	14
9. More networking events.	8

## 5.7 Pledges

In order to help ensure that participants continue to be involved with the growth and development of the sector in Yorkshire and Humberside, each guest at the Going Live event was asked to make one or two pledges.

We received a great variety of different pledges - some around increasing the guest's own knowledge or skills, some related to passing on knowledge or raising awareness with other colleagues, networks or groups, some were volunteering themselves to help provide further support or share learning, some were raising awareness with potential referral partners and others were around getting more deeply involved, setting up a new care farm or attending further events.

Pledges	
• To continue & develop my involvement in care farming	• Talking to staff/colleagues about the GCF project & event
• Join Social Farms and Gardens	• Investigating how to begin care farming
• Complete GCF training	• Sign up for the GCF mailing lists/newsletters
• Attend shadowing events	• Review resources on the GCF web page; access more information
• Visit local farms to gain further information on starting up	• Feedback to NYCC mental health services Harrogate
• Help to develop network	• ELMS – see what is being done in the North East in this area
• Support networking opportunities	• Make contact with a Care Farm Facilitator
• Take back learning and discuss within the LA commissioning team to help access care farming locally by promoting to potential service users	• Offer a national strategic perspective to the project
• Support the GCF team as much as possible	• Raise the profile of green/care farming options of support to practitioners and patients
• Inform all green/care farming options in my area about benefits of SDF&G membership and motivate to register	• Develop my own care farming offer with for4est schools/bush craft knowledge
• Organise a visit from one of the GCF team	• Share our journey in care farming
• Volunteer to 'buddy up' and facilitate shadowing	• Happy to pilot outreach opportunities
• Work in partnership with a farm in East Riding to set up a care farm	• Collate and FAQ document for new/potential care farmers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote SF&amp;G membership and GCF mailing lists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do more linked up working</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend future meetings and share good practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email other special schools in the Bradford area to inform them of care farms</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help link together SF&amp;G clients with other 3<sup>rd</sup> party organisations who may be able to help with grant writing, legal help, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer complimentary insurance and risk management advice for members</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact local GP social prescriber to raise awareness of the sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Join Yorkshire &amp; Humber Care Farming Network</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seriously consider how to embed care farming into our curriculum offer/enrichment programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share what I have learned with local schools and forums</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link with other similar organisations within South Yorkshire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit 2 care farms this spring with our support services manager</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss membership and time commitment to play an active part with our Trustees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share information received today with wider LA commissioning team</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find out about NYCC Future Agriculture Commission and if they are considering care farming as something for farmers in NY to take on.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share knowledge of care farming with any prospective care farmers</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support with GCF activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback to Grimethorpe Community Farm and Barnsley MBC</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support others to increase care farming knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Champion GCF project with the NFU</li> </ul>





## About Growing Care Farming

**The Growing Care Farming project is part of the Government's Children and Nature Programme.** The programme is funded by the Department of Education, supported by Defra and managed by Natural England. Social Farms & Gardens, in partnership with Thrive, are working together to support and expand care farming services across England.

### Find out more

**Website:** [www.farmgarden.org.uk/GCF](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/GCF)

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Social Farms & Gardens is a UK wide charity supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together. [www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk)

Thrive is a charity using gardening to bring about positive changes in the lives of people living with disabilities or ill health, or who are isolated, disadvantaged or vulnerable. [www.thrive.org.uk](http://www.thrive.org.uk)