

**Gardening Volunteer Role Profile**

We’re Simon Community NI - the leading homelessness charity in Northern Ireland. Established in 1971, we now support over 3000 people every year across 22 projects throughout Northern Ireland. Committed to preventing and ending homelessness, we provide the right support at the right time for individuals.

**Are you ready to help us end homelessness?**

Every day, our volunteers end homelessness for someone. Could you join our team and help us create a society where everyone has a home?

We are searching for green-fingered enthusiasts with a passion for all things gardening! This is an ideal opportunity for someone training to be a professional gardener and would like to develop their experience or for an experienced gardener who would love to have the opportunity to share their enthusiasm and skills.

**How you will make an impact**

As one of our Gardening Volunteers you will have the opportunity to:

* Motivate clients to participate in gardening activities and in doing so promote positive mental wellbeing and reduce social isolation.
* Support clients to develop confidence and increase their self-esteem in a welcoming and supportive environment.
* Assist clients to learn and develop gardening skills including how to grow fresh produce.
* Plan and grow flower beds and vegetable planters.
* Assist clients in the development and maintenance of a green space which everyone in the project can enjoy.

**We’re with you every step of the way**

As a Simon Community NI volunteer, you’ll receive excellent ongoing support from a supervisor, our Volunteer Coordinator and existing volunteers. Before beginning your volunteering, you will receive a full induction and any necessary training, ensuring you feel a valuable member of the team from the start.

In addition to this you will also have the opportunity to:

* Be part of a team dedicated to ending homelessness.
* Enhance your CV by using and developing your interpersonal and communication skills
* Receive out of pocket expenses as outlined in our Volunteer Expenses Policy.

**The skills and personality we are looking for**

* Enthusiasm and passion for gardening
* Some experience of gardening is essential
* Motivation to support individuals who are experiencing homelessness
* An empathetic and non-judgemental outlook
* The ability to work in a team but also able to think on your feet
* Good communication and timekeeping skills
* Able to work with people who may present with complex needs
* Open to learning

**Your commitment**

We are looking for someone who would be available for one session per week (2 – 3-hours), ideally for one year. There is flexibility for this role and we can discuss this further with you.

We would also ask that you commit to the following:

* Demonstrate Simon Community NI values of being non-judgmental and client-led.
* Willingness to attend supervision and training to develop you further in your volunteer role.
* Operate within all relevant Simon Community NI policies and guidelines, including safeguarding, health and safety, equal opportunities and confidentiality.

**Essential checks we will need to complete with you**

When you apply to volunteer with us, we will need to process some routine pre-volunteering checks. These will include an Enhanced Access NI check (free for all volunteers). For us to complete the check we will ask you to provide relevant documentation at your interview.

You will also be asked to provide two satisfactory references. Please note that unfortunately we cannot accept references from family members, or partners.

**Ready to apply?**

You can apply for this role online following the link below. Please make sure you complete all sections of your application form, giving as much detail as you can.

After you submit your application, we will be in touch with you with information on the next steps. If you experience any problems with your application, please get in touch with us via email or phone.

We look forward to receiving your application.

**Apply online**

Please apply online at <https://simoncommunity.erecruit.co.uk/erecruit/company/jobs.do> or contact our Volunteer Coordinator via rebekahmcdonald@simoncommunity.org

**Our Volunteer Application Process**

There are several steps in applying to volunteer with us, so we have put together a helpful guide with all the information you need to know. However, if you have a question that isn’t covered, please get in touch with us.



**The Application Form**

Your online application is your opportunity to tell us about your experience, skills and personality.



**Your interview**

Interviews can be daunting for many of us. Don’t worry though, we make it as relaxed as possible. The interview gives you a valuable opportunity to explore volunteering with us further and make sure it’s the right fit for you. We usually complete interviews within two weeks of you applying for a role.



**Training and induction**

Our pre-volunteering training is designed to help you feel confident in your role. We cover everything from Safeguarding, to Professional Boundaries to how to get the most out of your volunteering experience. We also offer training at weekends to be more flexible and accessible.

Your training will also provide the perfect opportunity to meet other volunteers and staff.

You will also receive a site-specific orientation session following your training.

**Pre-volunteering checks**

Before volunteering with us, all volunteers undertake routine safeguarding checks with including an Enhanced Access NI check and two references. We will ask you to provide proof of identity at interview and will supply you with information on documentation that can be used.

**Your volunteering with Simon Community NI begins!**

Once all your training and checks are completed, you’ll be ready to start your volunteering with us. An experience that will stay with you for a lifetime.