



# Longmead Community Farm

*Strengthening and Supporting Families*

## Introduction

Longmead Community Farm (LCF) is here to help families in crisis. Whether that's you, someone you know or someone you work with, Longmead is a safe, supportive rural environment for learning new skills, re-kindling relationships and building the self-confidence needed to cope with the challenges of modern urban life.

LCF aims to embody the Christian values that led to its emergence, that of showing love to others as God has loved us.

The Board of Trustees oversee Longmead, and consist of a group of local people from a variety of backgrounds. Some have been on the board since Longmead Community Farm was established in 2006.

Due to changes within the team we are now seeking a Family Programme Manager to deliver and manage our family programme, working alongside our resident team and volunteers to support families and individuals.

## What LCF does

What we do could be described as *family respite therapy*. But our values are about “doing **with**” rather than “doing **to**”. The team and visitors work alongside; befriending, helping and supporting families who visit for a day, weekend or several weekends. Part our ethos is for everyone who visits to share in helping Longmead. This involves working with families through work in the kitchen garden, helping to prepare meals, looking after the house and farm and helping to care for the animals. This role **will not** have responsibility for the running of the small holding.

We want the people we work with to be respected, to be listened to and to feel valued as they help to take care of Longmead with us. This is the basis for healing family relationships, restoring self-esteem, re-kindling positive goals, and building the confidence and capability to face and overcome difficulties.

Time spent at Longmead offers a peaceful and safe space where people are able to tell their stories and feel valued and accepted as they are. It may include guided support on things like parenting, healthy living, budgeting and communications skills provided by experienced family volunteers. It is hoped that families will be able to reflect on how they operate and see potential and hope for the future and changes they can instigate themselves that will help their individual family.



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## **The Role of the Family Programme Manager**

This role will assume the lead for all family work undertaken at LCF. Families and individuals either are referred through local authorities, partnership arrangements or are known to the community.

The Family Programme Manager will work in partnership with any referring agent to assess needs, create a programme of activities whilst they are at the farm, then either directly deliver this support or guide other team members and volunteers to deliver the programme.

Initially this role will for 20 hrs a week over a flexible working week. It's hoped that through working with the board of trustees to grow the number of families and individuals accessing LCF, through networking with and/or attending local community groups, that additional hours will be required in the future.

Please visit our website to get even further information about this role.