

## Green Power team

partnershipcouncil

Set up by the Partnership Council charity in 2010, the Green Power team is an innovative environmental project, designed to help unemployed Nottingham City residents return to work.

The initial aim of the project was holistic, helping residents return to work whilst positively contributing to the environment, combining the benefit of working with the therapeutic effects of nature, exercise, healthy eating, growing food locally, and the power of team working and making a difference.

Lead by an experienced leader and horticulturist, teams of around 15 environmental volunteers complete two to three month placements, working two days a week to start, maintain or develop green projects throughout Nottingham, leading to an increase in local food growing and a greener city overall.

Volunteers on the project gain a variety of skills, including sowing, planting, organic

pest control, composting, soil preparation, harvesting, pruning and weeding. In addition, they receive individual coaching sessions, career advice and confidence building workshops, and have the opportunity to gain qualifications, including a Level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture and Level 2 Award in Food Safety through the project's involvement with local colleges.

Volunteers, who must be over 18 and not retired, also receive a healthy lunch, public transport travel tickets and often a bag of freshly grown produce as a small thank you from the projects they have worked on. They do not need any previous experience or qualifications to take part in the project and their benefits are not affected.

On finishing the project, volunteers leave with increased confidence, new friends, skills and experience. Many also gain qualifications and move onto employment, as a result of gaining additional job search skills from the project, including CV writing, interview techniques and service signposting,



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The initial funding of the project by Nottingham City Council ended in March 2011, thereafter the People's Postcode Trust funded the project for three months to June 2011 and it has kept running since. From March to August 2012 One Nottingham are funding the project. It is now looking for sponsorship to continue its work beyond Summer 2012.

For further information on the project telephone Dori Kirchmair at the Partnership Council on 0115 970 8200, email [dori@partnershipcouncil.co.uk](mailto:dori@partnershipcouncil.co.uk) or visit [www.partnershipcouncil.co.uk/index.php?/projects/green\\_power\\_team](http://www.partnershipcouncil.co.uk/index.php?/projects/green_power_team).

*“The Green Power team has helped me regain confidence, reminding me of how much I enjoy working within a team environment... The friendly and supportive atmosphere is empowering, promoting an overwhelming sense of achievement and self worth”*  
Chris Curtis, Volunteer