



## Ethos

Our shed provides a safe, supportive and friendly setting where you can socialise, learn new skills and hone existing skills by working alongside each other on our own projects, community projects and projects that raise funds for the Shed.

## Values

- Our Shed promotes well being
- We aim to reduce the feeling of members loneliness or isolation
- We aim to create a safe and non-threatening place
- We recognise everyone has a voice and will be listened to
- Our environment is where everyone feels free to give advice and be open to hearing advice
- Many hands make light work
- Suggestions and comments are always welcome
- The Shed is open to all and everyone is equal
- Championing 'community ethics'
- Working in partnership with the local authority is a good thing
- Forming relationships with other voluntary groups
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults.

## Aims

Our main aim is "to address the social, health and wellbeing needs of members, of all ages and backgrounds, through the creation, upkeep and development of facilities in which people can meet and jointly or individually undertake creative, physical and recreational activities of their choice."

Our purpose is to set up and operate a collective "shed" where the users will be able to:

- Share skills and interests, swap ideas and pass on knowledge, actively pursue hobbies, crafts and other creative activities
- Work on projects that will aid the community and help develop a positive sense of achievement
- Have opportunities for friendship and socialising in a supportive, safe environment
- Have a place to go and relax, drink a cuppa, discuss issues, share concerns, talk and have a laugh, knowing they are among friends
- Participate in group and individual projects.

To achieve this we will:

- Build an inclusive community to enhance the quality of life for residents
- Maintain an open door policy and will not reject any person on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, disability, religion or age.
- Certain restrictions may be placed on participation for physical safety reasons or if a participant needs the assistance of a carer (which must be provided by the participant)
- Provide a safe physical environment and a safe and supportive social environment
- Provide space, guidance and workshop facilities
- Welcome referrals from other services or agencies when appropriate or requested

## Forest Community Shed



- Respect the rights and decisions of participants
- Recognise everyone has a voice and will be listened to; suggestions are always welcome
- Provide an environment where everyone feels free to give advice and be open to hearing advice
- Form relationships with other voluntary and community groups
- Encourage others and promote general physical and mental well-being
- Safeguard vulnerable adults.

The Shed has formed an operating agreement with The Orchard trust. The businesses will engage in their own lawful activities but for the purpose of this agreement the project is:

- To provide a safe and suitable place for the Forest Community Shed to undertake their sessions.
- To bring the community together and support the maintenance of the [Orchard Trust] site and any other opportunities and projects that arise.
- To incorporate the Forest Community Shed sessions into the Orchard Trust programme to include clients to take part in or watch sessions.

The participants in the Community Shed will benefit:

- By improved self-esteem from using their skills for constructive purposes
- By the opportunity to learn new skills and practice old ones
- By having a place to go to spend time outside the home with people of similar interests
- By overcoming isolation through getting out of the house and improved social interaction.

The Shed builds an inclusive community to enhance the quality of life for residents:

- It helps develop a successful, achieving community with the confidence and capability to tackle the things that matter to them
- It is an example of Community Engagement where the members can live, work and play all within the local area
- It is a community group that provides learning and development while managing a community based asset.