



Care Farming Conference



Developing services in the South West



Thursday
11 November 2010

Reed Hall,
University
of Exeter

Growing
people's
potential



Chair:
Dr Julia Verne, Deputy Regional Director of Public Health

Keynote speakers:
Sir Don Curry, Government Adviser on Food and Farming Policy
Dr Michael Dixon, GP and Chair of the NHS Alliance

This conference is organised by the National Care Farming Initiative and supported by the Department of Health

Care farming is the therapeutic use of farming practices. It is also becoming an increasingly popular and important way to provide health, social and educational care services to a wide range of vulnerable, disadvantaged or marginalised people.

Most care farms work with a range of client groups, such as:

- people with learning or physical difficulties
- disaffected young people
- people with mental health needs
- people recovering from addiction or other illness
- people on probation.

Referrals are made by organisations in education, health, social care, and criminal justice. Clients can also be self-referred as part of the personalisation of social care and individual budgets.

The growth of UK care farming mirrors a similar interest across Europe, created by recognition of the value of care farming. Increasingly, people understand that it offers:

- an opportunity to tackle care issues holistically
- a new way to meet care and therapeutic needs particularly in rural areas.

Care Farming South West

There are currently only a few care farms in the South West. Some are based on traditional farms with several hundred acres, others are smallholdings. Whatever their size, all have been successful in developing a relationship with a commissioning organisation.

Finding a commissioning organisation with people who have the vision and enthusiasm to work with care farms in developing a service is not easy, but the results can be extremely beneficial for the farm, the commissioner and most importantly, the client.

Agencies need to be aware of the benefits of care farming, and actively signpost service users to care farms.

“Farming can do more than just produce crops and animals ... it's about potential, and developing people's independence and life skills.”

*Ellie Goff,
Butterfly
Lodge, Essex*

Who is this conference for?

This conference offers policymakers, commissioners and referral agencies the opportunity to learn more about care farming and its potential impact in the South West.

It is aimed at professionals within social services, health care trusts, community mental health teams, education authorities and pupil referral units, police and probation services.

It will also be of interest to medical practitioners, and representatives of farming and voluntary sector agencies.

Conference programme

The conference opens at 10.30am and ends at 15.30pm.

- Keynote address by Sir Don Curry, Government Adviser on Food and Farming Policy
- Keynote address by Dr Michael Dixon, Chair of the NHS Alliance and GP with a medical practice in Cullompton
- Health needs - taking the holistic approach
- Care farming practitioners in the South West
- Developing services in the South West - discussion groups
- Plenary session

Booking notes

The fee for the conference is £60.00 (including VAT) which must be paid in advance. To book your place go to www.ncfi.org.uk or fill in the registration form overleaf.

Please note that the venue does not have disabled access. If you need to discuss your access needs, please contact us. When booking, priority will be given to commissioners from the South West.

For conference queries phone: 0117 923 1800 or email: admin@farmgarden.org.uk.



Photos: Butterfly Lodge, Carlshead Farm, FCFGC, Gamelea Countryside Training Trust, Tickwood Care Farm, Vision 21

Booking form

Care Farming Conference South West

Thursday 11 November 2010, Exeter

Booking

You can book a place at the conference and pay online with a credit card or Paypal account. Simply go to www.ncfi.org.uk and follow the instructions.

Or you can fill in and return this booking form to us.

Name: _____

Position: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

_____ post code: _____

Tel no: _____

e-mail: _____

**Please return
this form to:**

NCFI Conference

c/o Federation
of City Farms
and Community
Gardens

The GreenHouse
Hereford Street
Bristol BS3 4NA

Payment

Please tick one of the following boxes:

- I enclose a cheque for £60.00 made payable to 'FCFCG'.
 For statutory sector booking. Send me an invoice.

My purchase order number:

Any special dietary requirements: _____



NCFI exists to provide a voice and supportive services for care farmers, to inspire decision makers and to develop policies and actions that will support care farming in the UK.

NCFI is a partnership of four organisations:

Harper Adams University College, the Arthur Rank Centre, the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, and the University of Essex.

“We know from experience that such an opportunity for a young person can be life changing and ultimately can save the tax-payer a great deal of money. Unemployment benefits, crime, prisons, medication for depression, drug rehabilitation... are all costly alternatives.”

*John Stacy-Marks,
Amelia Trust, Vale of
Glamorgan*



National
Care Farming
Initiative

www.ncfi.org.uk