

Information for candidates for the position of Director for Commercial Development and Finance

Brunswick Organic Nursery creates opportunities for people with learning difficulties (known as 'workers') that enrich their lives through work, developing relationships and building communities. Our sheltered workplace centres around horticulture, garden services, crafts, cooking and office administration for community and social events.

Our organisation was founded in 1992 and we are at an exciting point in our twenty-five year history. Our founder has decided to step back from his role and in preparation for this, we have completed a major restructure. Our style and ethos has always been highly collaborative and our new management structure reflects this. The role of Director for Commercial Development and Finance will work as a peer with the Director for People Development and they will lead the organisation together.

Over the years, we have grown and diversified. We started as a horticulture-based project growing organic fruit and vegetables. This has continued and expanded but we now also have a small garden nursery that we grow plants for, garden services teams who undertake paid contracts in the local community, a crafts workshop that produces a range of creative products and cooking groups who prepare food for our seasonal weekend cafe. Our community and events team share information about community, social and leisure opportunities and complete all the administration needed to help workers attend events that they are interested in.

We now support around 70 people with learning difficulties every week. We have a skilled and friendly staff team of 40 people (many of whom are part-time) and approximately 70 volunteers who support our work in diverse ways donating their time, energy and skills. We work across three different sites: our main site in Bishopthorpe, a walled garden also in Bishopthorpe and an office in the centre of York where our Community and Events Team is based. We do need more space and are looking at extensions to existing buildings or new sites.

The Directors are supported by our thoughtful and committed Trustees who have a wide range of skills and experience. They meet approximately six-eight times a year in the evening and the Directors will both need to be able to attend these meetings.

The majority of our funding is through contracts with Social Services. Workers who attend Brunswick usually have involvement with Care Management who arrange funding on a spot purchase or direct payments basis. Another income stream is sale of produce and we also undertake significant fundraising either for specific developments or more general fundraising events through the year that raise money, raise our profile and are hopefully fun events for ourselves and our supporters. The shop and cafe operate as a Community Interest Company (CIC) with Brunswick as its beneficiary. Currently they only break-even but they are the primary outlet for the produce of the charity.

As we start to implement our new leadership and staffing structure for Brunswick, we are excited by what the future will hold for us. We have always been a creative organisation that is not bound by conventional thinking and this has enabled us to help break down barriers and create new opportunities for people. For this role, we are seeking someone who can help us innovate, keep diversifying what we offer and increase the income from our own products to fund development opportunities for people, our site and work.

If you would like to discuss any of this in more detail or require further information, please telephone Adam Myers on 01904 701869.