



Feed Leeds 2021

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 4:00pm (zoom meeting)

**Attending:**

**Adam Ogilvie** (FL Chair, Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF)), **Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **Rosie Atkins** (FL, Leeds Rotters, LESSN), **Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), **Tom Bliss** (Minutes), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (FL, RHS), **Dorota Hajdukiewicz** (Growing Better), **Rob Moores** (Growing Better and Passion for Plants), **Dan Robinson** (Incredible Edible Garforth).

**Attending but unable to join due to zoom problems:**

**Joe Foster** (Leeds Allotment Federation), **Lizzi Pel** (Incredible Edible Moortown and RX Leeds)

**Apologies:**

**Emma Andrews** (Growing Friendship/ Season Well). **Rachael Fox** (who would have been taking the minutes but is unwell. We wish her a very speedy recovery).

**Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes were approved with no amendments.

**Project Updates and discussion**

**1 Leeds Food Commitments Launch (Low Carbon Lunch).**



On the 29th of Sept, Adam and Tom joined Sonja to host a combined Feed Leeds and FoodWise Leeds stall at the Low Carbon Lunch in Kirkgate Market, as part of the SFP day of action for commitments to the Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration, to which Leeds was an early signatory. The event was filmed by SFP to help the launch of the new food and climate campaign. Sonja, Gareth Batty and Kevin Mackay from FW gave rousing speeches and our new

Food Champion Cllr Abigail Marshall Katung announced Leeds' new food commitments - Leeds being first city in the UK to do this:

**1 Buy local, serve local.** We'll increasingly source more of the food we serve from producers based in Yorkshire and surrounding counties, to support local businesses and cut food miles.

**2 Ban air-freighted imports.** Where we use ingredients that can't be produced locally, we'll reduce the impact of transporting it by using boat, road or rail

**3 Halve the carbon footprint of meals served by 2030.** We'll review and update all of the meals we serve to cut their environmental impact, without sacrificing flavour, variety or nutrients.

<https://youtu.be/YOQUc2-eVyo>



This is a major achievement which Adam and Sonja in particular have worked hard to achieve. It begs many questions around emissions from boats (ships) and lorries, the availability of local land for growing and the mechanisms of developing and supporting a localised food shed, and who the 'we' is in the last commitment - ideally this should be all food served by everyone in the city - not easy to police or manage, but this is a fantastic start which Feeds Leeds can fully get behind.

## **2 Climate Action Leeds (formerly the 'Lottery-funded Project')**

This project is finally coming of age and out into the public eye, and various other climate events are gathering pace in Leeds in the run up to COP 26 in November.

CAL's official launch runs from the 11th to the 16th of Oct, 1 year into the funding of the project. There are various events run by the various themes which can be found here: <https://www.climateactionleeds.org.uk/launch>

The Food and Environment Theme event is being run by FoodWise, Leeds Hyde Park Source and TCV Hollybush on the 11th at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm. The good news is that this is already sold out, but here are the details in case:

***Nature, Food and the Climate Emergency in Leeds. Mon, 11 Oct. 1-4pm Meanwood Valley Urban Farm. As part of the Climate Action Leeds Launch: Think global, act local, start now' You are invited to come and find out more about what is happening around Nature & Food in Leeds. There will be a range of organisations who run Nature & Food based projects around Leeds as well as people who want to start new projects or just find out more about what is happening. Join our first public event to find out how you can help build our community response to the climate emergency. There will be time afterwards for further networking if people wish to stay on. Covid Safety: The event will be held in a large covered outdoor space to help mitigate any Covid risks.***

<https://www.climateactionleeds.org.uk/event-details/nature-food-and-the-climate-emergency-in-leeds>

**Lizzi Pel** also sent notice: *"I am helping to plan a morning of stalls and activities on Saturday 16th October in Chapelton to raise awareness about COP26 and to celebrate the group of Spanish people who are walking through Leeds on their way from Spain to Glasgow! We were wondering if Feed Leeds would like to be involved? It is set up at 10am, stalls/activities for a couple of hours and then a communal meal for everyone at the Sikh temple at 12pm."*  
Contact [mailto:lizzi\\_pell@hotmail.com](mailto:lizzi_pell@hotmail.com)

### 3 Climate Focus / Events

These items precipitated a discussion about whether FL should have a standing item on the Agenda for climate issues, and whether we could become a conduit for climate information relating to food (almost all climate issues are relevant to growers, of course). This was generally agreed.

**Actions:** Chair and Secs to set up standing item on the agenda, and all to keep a weather eye out for climate events and developments to share in the minutes.

### 4 Passion4plants



We were delighted to welcome Rob back after a couple of years with the excellent news that he's signed a lease with the Lupton family for the acre of land off Elmete Lane in Roundhay (see previous minutes) for a new regenerative CSA project, with education, carbon capture and other co-benefits. Feed Leeds were originally approached by the family about this land a number of years ago, and various groups have visited to scope the prospects without result, so it's fantastic that Rob has finally secured an excellent use for what's been good but unused pasture with obvious potential. Rob's post on the Potting Shed sums it up: *"A huge day for us as, after a year of searching for a suitable site, passion4plants today signed a farm business tenancy agreement on an initial 1 acre of farmland just behind Roundhay Park. Our neighbouring farmer topped the field for us so we can get on with the infrastructure work before the weather turns. Our intention is to establish a market garden and hyper-local CSA share scheme, growing chemical-free vegetables, fruit and flowers and supplying local residents and businesses. It's really great to be back in the business of growing after a couple of years out!"*

Rob and Sarah will be working through the winter to install poly tunnels and prep the land, and to build up a local (approx 5 mile radius) membership for their box scheme - though all agree there is ample market for any number of good CSA schemes in Leeds - ready to begin growing in spring. The intention is to take a monthly stall at Oakwood Farmers Market and work with various local community groups, including the primary school at the bottom of the road. Dorota offered some advice around power supply.

**Actions:** Rob has two specific requests:

- 1) **Help** (ideally with experience) is needed to erect polytunnels by mid October.
- 2) A **power scythe** is urgently required! <mailto:rob@passion4plants.co.uk>

## 5 Growing Friendship / Season Well

Becky reported that Growing Friendship funding is coming to an end at the end of the season. We will need to decide whether to run SowX and GF again next year. She noted that of the three core activities, the relationship with LASSN was the most successful. The workshops were well attended reaching a decent number of the targeted audience. The WhatsApp group, hosted and supported admirably by Rosie, is being well used, and the harvest celebration on 30th Sept at CATCH was well attended. Participants went home with recipes and a kale plant to grow over the winter - many thanks to Rosie who was there to help out.

Seedling distribution from the MVUF was successful. Izzi from Lemon Balm conducted a survey of people taking seedlings and had 29 responses. There were plans to close out this part of the project with a harvest event, but there was little take-up from the growers so it was cancelled. The third element was working with Healthy Holidays providers. This went well with decent numbers of seedlings being distributed, but it is proving hard to obtain data on how people are doing with the growing at home. Celebration for families reached through Guiseley Community Foundation Healthy Holidays activities and the food bank will take place at Yeadon Junior school the week beginning 25th October. Becky hopes to have more data soon, possibly in time for the next FL meeting but certainly in time for her report to the funders in December.

We are also aware that there was seedling-sharing activity at all of the drop-off and Xchange sites across Leeds, but no data collection has taken place outside of the above.

Season Well have also got some funding and land from Full Circle Funerals for a new project, with a launch on the 19th Oct - as part of the Leeds Kindness Festival. **They need a shed.** (SJ remarked that shipping containers with normal doors are now available).

**Season Well**

FULL CIRCLE  
FUNERALS. YOUR WAY

**Come to the launch of our  
Grow-Your-Own Garden at  
Full Circle Funerals**

114 Otley Rd, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 8LZ

**Monday 18th  
October  
3.30 - 5.30pm**

**Gardening  
& food  
activities**

**Share our  
seasonal food  
and drink**

**Find out our plans and give us your  
thoughts on how the garden could be used**

Leeds Community Foundation  
Ideas Change Lives

For more information contact  
Becky@seasonwell.co.uk

KINDER LEEDS

## 6 Growing Better

Dorota reported that there major changes afoot at Growing Better. The food supply and delivery business, started by Rob and carried on very successfully by Dorota though rising challenges, has finally proved non-viable following lockdown disruption. After major and long terms commitment of pro bono time and effort to various parties through the emergency, it is now become necessary to put the project back onto a firm financial footing. Dorota is refocusing the CIC towards participatory activities around education about food and hydroponics; offering three key services for schools and other partners; teacher-led packages, led by GB though school site visits, and ticketed events. SJ noted that this is greatly needed, Adam offered full support from FL, and Tom noted that given GBs exemplary track record, these are sure to prove successful, becoming another valuable pit prop in the Leeds food mine.

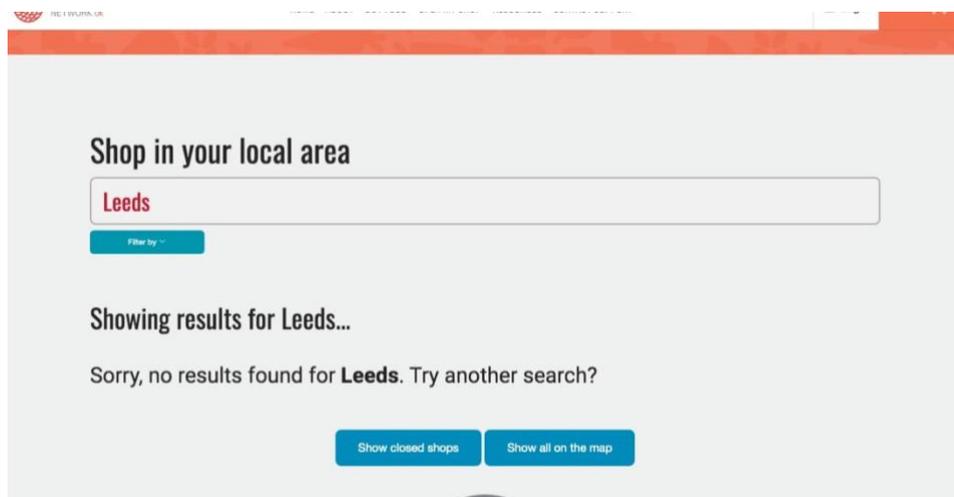
## 7 Quality Mark and Shared Marketing tools

The LCC food commitments, the arrival of a third CSA project with the first two going strong and producing more food next year, the on-going desire of smaller projects to sell or share their harvest, and the possible development of larger projects though the FarmStart project being actioned in Leeds by Sonja / FoodWise Leeds and the [Urban Agriculture Consortium](#) who regularly attend FL meetings, and Sustainable Food Places who are also looking for 2 pilot projects with £7.5k available for start-up, (the deadline is tight being the 14th of Oct) - all these bring the issue of a possible **local quality mark** back to the table, and also put a level of urgency behind the need for critical mass wholesale / web platforms etc. as was being investigated by the **Patchwork Farm** team.

The meeting discussed how best to reach out to local farmers in the hinterland looking for new routes to market and better ways to produce low carbon food etc (Tom having tried and largely failed to develop a farm network via the NFU last year), and identified an increasing need to track, qualify and quantify local supply chains - something LCC will need to do in light of the new food commitments.

Given that FoodWise Leeds has also been discussing a quality mark for outlets, there may need to be a discussion on whether this should be led by FL or FW or both (the distinction between the two organisations seems to be blurring around who is leading on food growing, which is not necessarily a problem) - and the extent to which LCC can or should lead or contribute.

Discussion around local food marketing included possibly revisiting the Food Assembly idea (though not using the prescribed formula which failed locally in the past), approaching local farmers to attend markets at our urban farms - bringing produce that can't easily be grown via the CSA model, new maps and links on the FL website to identify places where locally-grown food can be sourced, to the creation of a new dedicated website. It's possible that the Open Food Network site could already supply this - but there are currently no outlets listed for Leeds.

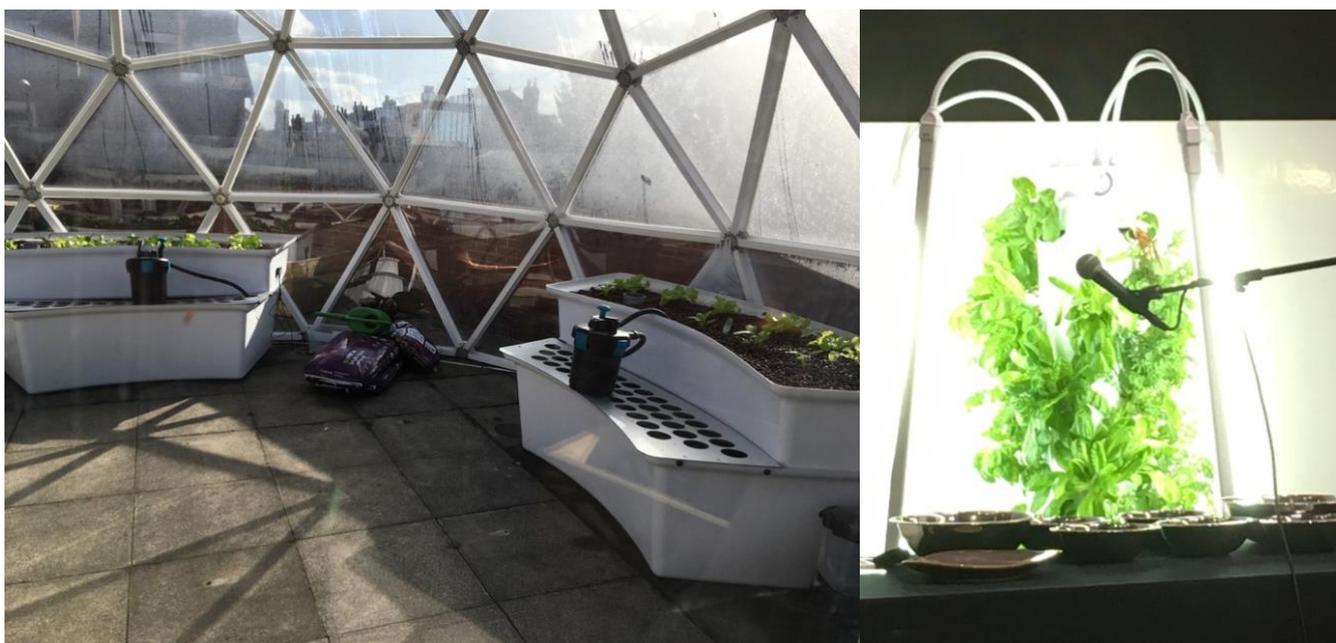


**Actions:** Adam to contact Polly Cook and Abigail Marshall Ketung to scope possibilities. Sonja and Dorota to connect re the SFP funding. Dorota to consider ways to contact local farmers. Becky to share contact for Food Circle York, Joe Fennerty, who have made progress re local farm contacts. Rosie to contribute in a month or so when she has time - (via Askham Bryan, Young Farmers etc)?

## 8 Orchards and Schools

Tom's granddaughter has now enrolled in Chapel Allerton Primary, where Sonja's daughters were until recently and where Sarah (Priestley) is also a parent. Tom's daughter Ellie has volunteered to help action the PSA's tree planting initiative on the playing fields - which are remote from the school (up next to the police station) and shared with St Matthews. This seems like a good opportunity to pilot the draft Leeds City Council Schools and Communities Orchards Project being developed with LCC Woodland Creation team FL and Fruitworks Co-op. Alan has had encouraging support from St Matthews via a contact there, so a working group is forming to scope the possibilities and report to the PSA and senior team at CA. The two advantages of this site is that first it has both big opportunities and big challenges, so will be a useful learning curve, and second that it can serve as a proxy for schools with no growing space wanting to connect with parks nearby.

A separate but related project is the recent construction of a salad dome at Chapel Allerton Primary, for which Rethink Food have offered to add a salad tower - like the one seen at the Low Carbon Lunch (but which never did make its speech).



## 9 Zero Carbon Yorkshire

ZCY have obtained funding to create a network and map all groups involved in Carbon reduction in any/every way in the Yorkshire Region. ( <https://www.zerocarbyorkshire.org/> )

There was a suggestion that FL should formally join this. Tom has been liaising with them re the Yorkshire Foods Group, and the Yorkshire Farmers Group, neither of which has been very active of late. Rosie usually attend ZCY meetings so agreed to act as contact, and the meeting agreed that FL should join. **Adam and Rosie to action.**

## 10 TCV

And talking of memberships, Simon from TCV has written to say that he has renewed our membership is delighted

to say it's free thanks to the fantastic support they receive from players of Peoples Postcode Lottery.

## **11 RHS**

Sarah-Jane submitted these useful resources for community groups and friends of on engaging young people as volunteers:

[https://www.fieldsintrust.org/future-proof-parks?utm\\_source=Green+Infrastructure+Partnership&utm\\_campaign=42f22c0e0a-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_08\\_31\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f4eb0dc7a3-42f22c0e0a-103374277](https://www.fieldsintrust.org/future-proof-parks?utm_source=Green+Infrastructure+Partnership&utm_campaign=42f22c0e0a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_31_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f4eb0dc7a3-42f22c0e0a-103374277)

## **12 Grow to School**

Are hiring! See appendix

## **13 KVDT**

Are also hiring!! See, also, appendix.

## **14 Fruit Juicing**

A few people have asked about kit - we understand that this is still available via Leeds Urban Harvest.

## **15 Agroecology Research Collaboration (ARC)**

Rosie reports: This is an initiative developed by the Landworkers' Alliance, the Community Supported Agriculture Network UK, the Ecological Land Cooperative, the Organic Growers Alliance and the Pasture Fed Livestock Association. As organisations committed to shifting the paradigm around how we produce food and use land, we recognise the important position that research has to play in doing so. ARC is a collective endeavour to support and inform research that is led by and meeting the needs of agroecological farmers, growers, foresters and other land-based workers. We aim to build a strong evidence base that demonstrates agroecology as a viable alternative to the current industrial food and land-use system, and ensure those within this sector are actively involved in developing and steering research agendas. **To find out more please visit the ARC pages on <https://landworkersalliance.org.uk/> or sign up to the ARC mailing list.**

## **16 Kiss the Ground**

We discussed organising a showing of this excellent Netflix film about regenerative agriculture - possibly as a way of engaging with young farmers locally.

## **17 Cropped - Carbon Brief's new email focused on food systems, land use and nature.**

Almost six decades have now passed since Rachel Carson's seminal book, *Silent Spring*, triggered the modern era of environmental concern. Her poignant warnings about the impact of pesticides made many people around the world question the "wisdom" of intensive farming techniques. Today, the same fundamental question still hangs in the air: how should we feed the billions of mouths around the planet without denuding the natural "assets" – the soil, the water, the forests – that sustain us? But climate change now complicates matters considerably. It is sobering to consider recent research which found that one third of human-caused emissions are due to our "food systems". The decisions we make – from the individual consumer in the supermarket through to governments at international conferences – risk further exacerbating the crisis. Or they could help. But where we need evidence-based clarity to guide our choices and policymaking, we are typically presented with a thick soup of competing claims, misinformation, emotion and vested interests. Should we eat organic food? Is it best to be vegan? Could genetically modified crops better withstand climate change? What exactly are "nature-based" climate solutions? From this

Wednesday, Carbon Brief will start sending out a new free fortnightly email newsletter called “Cropped”. You can see options to subscribe here. It will provide a digest of all the key developments from the fraught, yet fascinating intersection between food systems, land use, nature and climate change. Yes, it’s a huge, complex topic to cover. But Carbon Brief has a team of world-leading journalists – including our food-systems specialist Dr Giuliana Viglione in Washington DC and land, food and nature specialist Aruna Chandrasekhar in Mumbai – who spend each day closely tracking mainstream media, academic journals and policy documents looking for anything that is of significance or interest. “Cropped” will provide the context behind the headlines, recommended reads and interesting new studies you will have missed. And it will land in your inbox once a fortnight on Wednesday afternoons (UK time). It will be an essential read. And it’s free. [Please click here for options to subscribe](#). Leo Hickman. Editor, Carbon Brief.

## **Webchanges**

In advance of Tom handing responsibility for the various Feed Leeds websites over to whoever volunteers to take over his role (and we do need someone for this, please), he has been consolidating our on-line presence.

The LESSN and Leeds Edible Campus (which is largely defunct) websites have been merged into a more accessible Wordpress Feed Leeds website - which is in fact the embedded WP blog that we've been using for our news feeds and document cloud, but just without Tom's framing pages. It includes almost all the original text, but not all the pictures, because Wordpress is a bit Jackson Pollock with images (or, rather, Tom has very limited skills).

'lessn.info' will be retired soon as redundant, with users encouraged to access LESSN via the FL website. This is partly because LESSN has focused on food since its inception, with the other planned sustainability issues never coming on stream, but also to create better linkage between the two organisations. All future school events and workshops will be promoted on the main Feed Leeds blog, as well as the [LESSN Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) channels and the [School Growers Chatroom](#) - all of which are being retained.

'leedsediblecampus.co.uk' died due to an error at our web providers some time last spring without anyone noticing - so that's gone already. Leeds Rotters has its own website maintained by Paul Magnall, so that's being retained.

The next step will be for Tom to transfer 'feedleeds.org' into WordPress (as he did with foodwiseleeds.org) so that it becomes the actual web address, rather than merely pointing at his old website. Once this is done, ownership of the WP site will be transferred to Feed Leeds. **This requires one person to be the legal owner** (we just need an email address) and for FL to **commit to £36 per year** for the advert-free Wordpress account, starting from January the 14th 2022, and a **further £15 per year** for the feedleeds.org name, which currently renews on the 22nd of June (though this may reset to the transfer date when transferred to WP).

## **Actions:**

- 1) Core team to secure reliable funds.
- 2) A volunteer is needed to take over web responsibility from Tom. (Expertise, obviously, is not necessary).
- 3) Also, a WP expert is needed to improve on Tom's modest efforts - on a one-off basis.

## **Date of next meeting**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 4pm zoom. We will be discussing options for the AGM at this meeting.**



## Outdoor learning & food growing practitioner

Do you have a love of being outdoors and have the skills to deliver a wide-ranging and varied outdoor learning and food growing programme? Do you share our passion for helping children and families learn about and care for the natural environment? Do you want to be part of an exciting team within a growing organisation? If yes read on...

**Location:** West Yorkshire

**Salary:** £21,937.50 pro rata

**Hours:** Part time, 15 - 22 hours per week

**Contract:** 12 month fixed term, term time only contract (potential to extend subject to funding)

Grow to School CIC is a small but growing Community Interest Company based in Huddersfield. The organisation delivers curriculum based outdoor learning and food growing sessions in primary schools and with communities across West Yorkshire.

As a creative communicator you will be able to enthuse and inspire children & staff whilst building good relationships with schools and communities. You will be capable of working independently as part of a small busy team and demonstrate a committed, mature, and flexible approach to your work.

If you believe that you have the passion, commitment, and skills to take this unique opportunity forward then we'd love to hear from you.

To apply for this part-time post, please email [ama@growtoschool.co.uk](mailto:ama@growtoschool.co.uk) sending your current CV and a supporting statement explaining how you believe your skills and experience match the job, directly addressing the job description and person specification. We'd also love you to send us a 2-minute video to give us an idea of who you are and why you'd love this job.

Please use the email title Outdoor learning & food growing practitioner

The closing date for applications is Midnight 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Interviews will be informal and will include working with our team to deliver a practical session in school. Dates to be arranged if you are short listed.



## **We are recruiting a part-time Food Pantry Coordinator...**

10 hours per week - 4 Month Contract

£6.240 PA

4 Weeks Holiday per year + Bank Holidays

Butcher Hill Food Pantry is a joint initiative between Horsforth Community Aid Project and Kirkstall Valley Development Trust. This is a membership scheme which aims to help those on low income make their money go further. On average members can save up to £500 per year whilst also being able to access advice and support.

We are looking to recruit a Coordinator to: manage the Food Pantry and ensure that all food hygiene regulations are adhered to; manage food collections and deliveries; coordinate volunteers; and record keeping whilst meeting all GDPR requirements.

It is essential that you:

- Have experience working within a food pantry or food bank setting,
- Hold a current Food Hygiene Certificate,
- Have an understanding of GDPR and how it relates to record keeping and safe storage of personal data,
- Are empathetic,
- Have experience working in a voluntary setting with volunteers,
- Have previous experience of supporting volunteers,
- Demonstrate a commitment and enthusiasm for supporting people on low incomes,
- Have good verbal, written and numeracy skills to be able to make accurate written records,.
- Have good technical literacy of Microsoft Applications e.g. Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and CRM systems,
- Have good interpersonal skills including listening and displaying empathy,
- Have access to a car for work purposes and hold a full current UK driving licence,
- Demonstrate the ability to undertake work with a high degree of accuracy and strong attention to detail,
- Have excellent organisation and time management skills.

You will also need good organisational skills and the ability to work autonomously whilst also being able to work as part of a wider team.

It is desirable that you live within the Kirkstall community and have a strong record of volunteering in the Kirkstall area.

### **More Information and how to apply**

For an informal discussion about the role contact Adele Rae on email [adele.rae@kvdt.org.uk](mailto:adele.rae@kvdt.org.uk) or telephone 07900 986570.

To apply, please send one side of A4 outlining why you are suitable for the role to Adele on [adele.rae@kvdt.org.uk](mailto:adele.rae@kvdt.org.uk).

Closing Date: Friday 15th October at 12 midday.

Interviews will be held in Kirkstall on Tuesday 19th October.