

Higher Green Farm

Supported living for young adults with special needs



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About Us

Our names are Gavin and Eve Curnow and we have three children, twins Rosie and Grace and their brother Tristan.

Rosie was born profoundly disabled and is a wheelchair user with multiple complex needs. At the beginning of 2008 Rosie became eighteen years of age and we all made the transition from Children's Services to Adult Services.

After a range of experiences, some good and some less so we decided to use the cottages we have in the courtyard to the rear of our farmhouse to provide a supported living scheme for young adults with learning disabilities.

As experienced parents of a young adult with highly complex special needs we feel we can provide an environment in which each young person will be encouraged and supported to achieve their potential.

We are passionate about choice and quality of life and believe everyone deserves to be treated as an individual.

Location

Higher Green Farm, a Seventeenth Century farmhouse, is in the village of Poulshot, a couple of miles from the attractive market town of Devizes in Wiltshire.

We are fortunate enough to live in a beautiful part of the country and the farmhouse and cottages sit adjacent to the green in a couple of acres of one of the prettiest villages in the county.

Having moved to the village in 2007 we renovated the farmhouse and went onto develop the barn and stables in the courtyard into four self-contained two bedroomed cottages.

Given our experiences with our daughter we were keen for the accommodation to be as suitable for as many people as possible and as such we have provided level access throughout. All doorways are wide enough to accommodate wheelchair users and there is a bathroom and a wet room in each of the cottages.

We are located in the heart of Wiltshire and a bus service runs from outside our gate to take you to neighbouring towns and villages.



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Supported Living

Supported living means that you are able to live as independently as possible with your housing and support built around you to help live the way that YOU choose to.

If you choose supported living, we will work with you on a person centred plan which sets out your hopes and goals for your life, and the choices you would like to make. We will then agree a tailored Individual Support Plan (ISP) which will give consideration to what you specifically want to achieve, what support you need and what action we need to take to help you achieve it. You will then be supported to decide how you are going to make those things happen.

The ISP, overseen by a key worker and incorporating your views and the views of people that know you well, will identify your strengths and needs. Based on this assessment you will receive a schedule of input that is designed to strike a balance between your independence, your need for support and your right to make lifestyle choices. The ISP will be a living document and will be subject to regular review to ensure that the support remains relevant.

Using the ISP you are helped to achieve and build competence in the essential areas of independent living. This could mean that you are supported for a few hours everyday, overnight or even 24 hours a day.



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Supporting You

Our experienced staff will support you in the day to day running of your home. The aim will be to develop key areas - exploring your choices, building competence and increasing your confidence and independence.

You will be supported and encouraged in important areas such as;

- Help in maintaining a home
- Developing domestic and life skills
- Developing social skills and the use of appropriate behaviour
- Advice, advocacy and liaison
- Help in managing finances and benefit claims, Direct Payments and Individualised Budgets
- Emotional support and advice
- Help in gaining access to other services
- Help in establishing social contacts and activities
- Help in establishing personal safety and security
- Promoting and monitoring of health and well-being
- Supporting and monitoring medication
- Help finding other accommodation if required
- Help maintaining the safety and security of your home
- Help with shopping, food preparation and cooking
- Support to access the local community, college, work placements, leisure facilities and organisations of your choice



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Opportunities

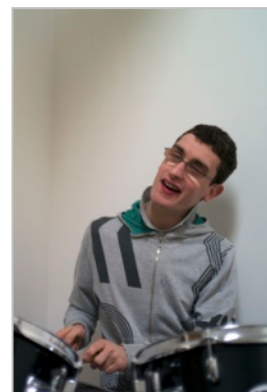
We live in a beautiful, peaceful village with an air of calmness which naturally leads to a relaxed feeling of wellbeing and supports a pleasant environment in which to learn new experiences.

Everyone that chooses to live at Higher Green Farm will have their own unique skills and development needs and we will seek to address these through a range of varied activities. Working in a culture based on flexibility and encouragement and using a framework of diverse activities, whichever path you decide to follow it will be your choice.

Whilst we no longer live on a working farm there are opportunities to live closer to the land and experience the good life. You will be able to participate in gardening, growing your own fruit and vegetables, feeding and caring for the ducks and chickens as well as the daily egg collection. We aim to increase the number of animals we have here and you may play an important part in looking after and caring for them if you choose to.

We are forging links with other providers and are actively involved in coordinating workshops including drama and music therapy, sensory art, pottery, cookery, sports and even line dancing. Experience has taught us variety is the key and are always keen to seek out new projects to experience and we will be delighted to investigate, research and plan ideas generated by you.

Having a close relationship with the local community is very important to us and amongst other activities we will hold a regular coffee morning at our village hall. You will be offered the chance to help plan the menu, shop for ingredients, bake the cakes and will be supported in preparing and running the coffee morning. We feel this will be invaluable in encouraging responsibility and will help you to develop numerous skills and to experience work in a gentle and non-pressured environment.



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Objectives

It is our aim to provide a comfortable home in which young adults will receive the support they require to achieve their individual goals. We will focus on developing life skills that foster independence ensuring each person is offered the support required to achieve their potential. Each person will be encouraged and supported to enjoy a full and varied life.

- Provide a positive environment based on continued development and fulfillment for all.
- Embrace a supported living model
- Follow a person centered planning approach
- Always show respect for tenants' individual wishes
- Always put health and safety first
- Encourage a healthy lifestyle
- Foster strong links with our community
- Develop a broad programme of activities
- Employ qualified and experienced staff



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Staff

Higher Green Farm recruit staff on the basis of their knowledge, skills and abilities within the social care field and in accordance with strict recruitment and selection guidelines. Each staff member brings with them their own personality and life experiences that can help to enrich the lives of all our clients.

As a minimum we expect NVQ Level 2 qualification in Health and Social Care or an equivalent professional qualification.

Established staff take on the responsibility of being key worker to a particular client. They will be someone the client communicates well with and who has an appreciation of their background, hopes and goals. These key workers will ensure the service offered is monitored and reviewed regularly and can discuss any issues with the client and management.

Overall, our staff are trained to provide opportunities for clients to explore choices, build competence and increase confidence and independence. We provide high standards of professional support respecting privacy, dignity and choice.

We appoint the best staff to ensure well-being, and to provide continuity of support enabling clients to feel supported and confident within their own home.



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Contact Us

Higher Green Farm
Poulshot
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1RW

Tel. 01380 828239

Mob. 07790 365049

Email. info@hgfsupportedliving.co.uk

Referrals

We have a thorough referrals and assessment process and work with individuals and their advocates to develop a person centered planning approach for those that choose Higher Green Farm for their support package.

Any referral made can be guaranteed to receive a prompt and professional response from a member of our management team.

