



Introduction

Knights Care Farm is a care farm for people with learning difficulties and disabilities, social needs, and mental health problems. We provide meaningful occupation in a supported environment.

At Knights Care Farm, the service users have the opportunity to learn skills in animal husbandry, horticulture and agriculture in a supported environment. The activities on the farm build confidence and aids to develops social and practical skills. Outdoor physical activity improves both mental health and physical fitness.

Our long-term aim is to help people become the best they possibly be and, where appropriate, move from service user, back in to education or employment where feasible.

Hours

Knights Care Farm's hours are those hours when the organisation is actually in session on the days it operates.

Mondays - to align with schools. The day starts at 9.00am and ends at 3pm and includes lunchtime supervision.

Tuesdays to Thursdays: The day starts at 10:00am and ends at 4:00 pm

Fridays - 2.5 hr sessions

Knights Care Farm is based at Lower Cotley farm, Fluxton, Ottery St Mary EX11 1RJ. A 120 acre farm with market garden. Participants are supported to take part in all the activities required to support the safe, healthy and productive operation of the farm. Activities vary seasonally this may include:

- Animal husbandry: Helping to look after the animals (Cattle, pigs, sheep, chickens & 6 working dogs)
- Horticulture: Growing and maintaining crops for sale in the onsite Farm Shop
- Maintenance and development: this may include fencing, hedging, mending gates, laying paths, clearing ditches.
- Seasonal activities: Shearing, calving, lambing, etc

Charges

The Charges rate will be based on the level of support they require whilst working on the day's prescribed activities.

The following bands are a guide to the level of support an individual might need and therefore what charges may apply. The list is not exhaustive and farm helpers are assessed on an individual basis. The banding of farm helpers is at the discretion of farm management after appropriate consultation with other staff members, support workers and after meeting with the farm helper themselves. Farm helpers may change bands from time to time as circumstances dictate.

Band 1 - Those individuals who, whether or not accompanied by a support worker:

- Over the age of 18



- Are able to work confidently and safely in a group of up to 8 accompanied by 1 member of staff or volunteer overseeing their work.
- Are able to work on reasonably physically or intellectually demanding tasks for sustained amounts of time.
- Can be trusted to work safely and competently without supervision for short periods of time.
- Have the communication skills and group working skills to be part of a functional team.

Band 2- Those individuals who, whether or not accompanied by a support worker:

- Over the age of 18
- Are able to work confidently and safely in small groups of up to 3 people with 1 member of staff working alongside them.
- Need some support to be able to undertake physically or intellectually demanding tasks.
- Need some support to see tasks through to their completion.
- When working, are not able to be left unaccompanied for any length of time.
- Have less well-developed communication skills or who dislike working with others

Band 3- Those individuals who, whether or not accompanied by a support worker:

- Over the age of 18
- Are able to work safely only with continuous one to one support
- Need significant staff support to undertake tasks to conclusion
- May have behavioural disinhibition making social interaction and team working difficult
- May have one or more of a range of challenging behaviours which inhibit their learning or impact on the learning of others in the group. Such behaviours might include verbal aggression, physical aggression, socially inappropriate behaviour, sexual disinhibition, wandering, and repetitive behaviour.

Band 4

- Under the age of 18 – required to have a full 1: 1 support due to dangers on a commercial farm

Placement Fees

Fees are set by Knights Care Farm and are reviewed annually. From September 2020 the fees charged per band are:

Band 1 - £65. (full day)

Band 2 - £95.00 (full day)

Band 3 - £155 (full day)

Band 4 - £195 (full day)

Fees are chargeable if absent.

Refund

Fees are non refundable if absent on the day. Notice of 1 month must be given to arrange absence required if charges are to be suspended (eg for holidays or planned hospital appointments).



Cancellation of Placement

Placements are booked and paid for in advance. Cancellations must be made prior to payment of invoice or :

- School Placements/ block bookings: Placements must be cancelled with 6 weeks notice.
- Private placements- 1 month notice is required

Invoice to be paid within 14days or placement will be offered to someone else. 5% charge is added to late payments if request for placement to start before the 14 day invoice period.

Trial period

We offer a trial period of 4 sessions to all new service users, unless and longer term contract is requested. This is charged on a daily basis and payable in advance. Cancellation needs to be made 2 working days prior to placement day or you will still be charged.

What fee covers :

The fee covers the cost of formal and informal training both on the farm and at external/host sites, and the provision of appropriate support in all learning and work experience opportunities. When working with livestock or moving machinery close support is always provided.

Overalls or suitable outdoor clothing, work boots and wellingtons (steel toe capped) should be worn for all farm based work. These must be provided by the Service user.

Additional PPE, such as goggles, gloves and protective gear will be provided. Service users may prefer to bring their own gloves.

Damage to Knights Care Farm's or other's property and equipment

If a Farm Helper's behaviour results in damage to or loss of Knights Care Farms' or other's property or equipment, the management may ask the Service user or funder to pay for the cost of replacement.

General Information: After an initial visit to Knights Care Farm, the potential Service user and, if desired, carer/designated person are encouraged to join the team for one or two trial days. Once on a regular placement, a service user is committed to the contracted attendance. The Farm is committed to the development of the person as a whole and welcomes dialogue with main carers, social workers, teachers, support staff and other organisations providing opportunities