

CASE STUDY

NHS staff help transform local allotments

Highgate Allotments Goldthorpe – Autumn 2014

During September NHS Yorkshire and Humber Commissioning Support (YHCS) commercial team joined forces with Barnsley Council, the Probation Service and the local community to get behind the older people's community project at Highgate Allotments in Goldthorpe.

Before



After



Goldthorpe is one of Barnsley's most deprived areas, an ex-mining village with high levels of unemployment. The challenge involved working with a group of people who have had seven allotments donated to them from the local authority for the benefit of the local community.



The ultimate aim of the project is to produce fresh fruit and vegetables (and possibly eggs in the near future from ducks and chickens) for their local residents and food bank. They also intend to donate items to a community shop in the local village which supports local people through demonstrations on how to cook fresh food at a reasonable cost. The group currently works with adults with learning difficulties and mental health problems.

The challenge for this year is to help install a very large poly tunnel and bark chipping pathways through their orchard, which is where YHCS, Barnsley Council, the Probation Service and the local community got involved, working together to erect the fence around the orchard, weed around the container and raised beds, hoe and take out the bricks and rubble.

In true CSU style, the team rose to the challenge and worked tirelessly to achieve the community's ambitions. A spokesperson said:

“ I didn't think that they were going to complete the challenge, but it's amazing and on behalf of the community I can't thank everyone enough. ”

Pete Thomas, Commercial Director for YHCS, agreed that the project was one well worth supporting and said:

“ The community intend to grow their own produce and donate it to community initiatives such as food clubs and the local food bank. I also like the fact that local people, such as mental health and learning disability organisations will get the chance to get out in the open and grow their own.

This is very much a community project and we are extremely proud to have played our part, working alongside our partners and communities to help make the day a success. ”

