



**Nineveh Trust
L'Arche Liverpool
Expansion & Improvements to Horticulture Activities
Progress Report**

This was part of a wider project to improve all day services, including horticulture and gardening, at L'Arche Liverpool. Beginning the project and starting work in the garden was delayed unfortunately until sufficient funds had been raised and contracts signed.

However, we are delighted now to report the following progress:

In the garden

- Cabin/workshop has been built
- Pathways have been marked for levelling and relaying
- A breaker to undertake the work on the paths has been purchased

The next step is to

- Install wheelchair friendly benches in the cabin/workshop
- Break up, level and relay the paths
- Replace the torn polytunnel skin which has been ordered

Since we have increased our outreach work and telling local schools, colleges and social workers about the improvements we will be making, we have seen a slow but steady increase in core members. 10 more people with learning disabilities now participate in gardening and horticulture session each week.

The tasks and activities they undertake include planting, taking care of animals, mowing the lawn, making jams and chutneys from the fruit and vegetables we grow.

Those we support have also helped build the new cabin/workshop. Children from local schools have visited the garden which is particularly beneficial to them as it is a rare area of greenspace in an otherwise built up neighbourhood. They enjoy seeing and learning about what we do.

Additionally, we have visited a local school which has an outside classroom called the 'Forest Classroom' which includes landscaping, planting, encouraging and looking at wildlife. This helps overcome prejudice towards people with learning disabilities and foster better relationships.

Further improvements to the garden area and completion of the workshop is scheduled before the end of the year. This will make movement around the garden, particularly for those in wheelchairs, much easier and it will allow us to welcome more groups to our garden.

October 2018