



Changing Lives Through Education and Recreation

Harwes Farm CIC is a not-for-profit company based at Harwes Farm, Colne, Pendle, Lancashire. It sits within 57 acres of upland moorland (36 acres being unspoilt woodland) Located close to the Yorkshire Dales with panoramic views across glorious countryside landscape.

Behind the Farm's remarkable natural beauty is a serious purpose: to ensure that everyone has access to nature for education, health and wellbeing.

Why does this matter?

Right now, one in six children are struggling with their mental health and 50% report high or very high levels of anxiety^[1]. 43.2% of children in our area are living in relative poverty^[2] and more than a fifth of children are persistently absent from school^[3].

Behind these shocking statistics are thousands of individual stories of wasted lives and lost opportunities, right here in Pendle.

We need to act now to help local young people and adults overcome multiple disadvantages and thrive. More than 6 in ten people in UK prisons today were excluded from school^[4], so early intervention is needed right now to give vulnerable people the tools they need to overcome life's challenges and succeed.

Our response:

At Harwes Farm CIC, we believe that nature can provide the perfect opportunity to learn new skills and develop relationships in a new and refreshing environment.



In 2023:



1457 children and adults participated in educational, wellbeing or environmental activities



3000 trees were planted



192 people volunteered

For children, we provide alternative learning methods, encourage creativity and build an enthusiasm for education so that young people leave calmer, happier and with new, confidence boosting skills. At the farm, children develop resilience, respect for others and return to school focussed and refreshed.

For adults, it's about connecting with nature, reducing social isolation and forging a sense of community through a range of outdoor activities that boost wellbeing as well as protect the environment.

It's a big mission. That's why we are seeking companies who share our vision to get involved and help even more people benefit from everything the Farm has to offer.



"It's lovely to see the young people behind the bad behaviour back in school. Their language changes, they remember manners and respect, they even talk more calmly – that's just after one visit!"

Teacher



Social and Environmental Impact:

We started providing these services at the farm ten years ago and, in the last 12 months alone, more than 1,400 vulnerable or disadvantaged children, young people and adults have benefitted from:

- ★ greater wellbeing and confidence
- ★ increased connection to nature and new social connections
- ★ reduced stress and anxiety
- ★ improved engagement in education
- ★ increased sense of community.

Protecting and enhancing our environment is deeply important to us. That's why we are working hard to reduce our carbon footprint and increase carbon absorption, decrease waste and promote new behaviours so that our visitors know what actions they can take to protect our environment.

Why we need your help:

To date, we have been able to offer our services free of charge to all users, made possible with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. But one single source of funding will not sustain our work or allow us to grow and meet the needs of more vulnerable or excluded people.

We must keep the Farm free of charge to ensure there is no access barrier to anyone who needs it, so that they can benefit from everything the Farm has to offer.

That's why we are asking businesses local to Harwes Farm to consider becoming Patrons.



"I loved the fire, and I loved it when I lit it, it made me so confident and next time challenging myself even more"

Aiden (12) a regular school visitor



How your business can get involved:

Harwes Farm CIC Patrons are community-minded local companies that donate annually to our organisation, allowing Harwes Farm CIC to continue providing life-enhancing services to young people and adults who need it the most.

Businesses of all sizes can play a part. And in return, we offer a unique rewards package that benefits your business and your employees, whilst meeting your ESG goals.

Depending on the level of contribution, your business could receive^[5]:

- ★ Opportunities for your employees to volunteer and contribute to the woodland's preservation through dry-stone walling, tree planting and path conservation
- ★ A team building day at our Forest School, where your colleagues will learn to build fires, cook outdoors and develop woodworking skills
- ★ Use of the inspiring woodland for your own meetings and events^[6]
- ★ Recognition of your support both at the farm buildings and through our social media



For more information on becoming a Patron or to discuss how your company can get involved, please contact Gillian Taylor, Founder & Project Director, at gillian@harwesfarm.co.uk or call Gillian on 0754 006 6009

[1] OnSide Generation Isolation Report 2023

[2] Figures from the Department for Work and Pensions show 8,836 Pendle children aged under 16 were living in relative poverty in the year to March 2023. It meant 43.2% of children in the area were in a family whose income was below 60% of average household income before housing costs.

[3] In 2021/22, 22.5% of pupils were recorded as "persistently absent" (defined by the Department for Education as missing 10% or more of possible school sessions). This equates to around 1.6 million pupils.

[4] The Institute of Public Policy in 2017 estimated that out of the 85,975 people in UK prisons, 54,164 were excluded when at school

[5] Some of these items are available to purchase. Contact us for details

[6] We can arrange a practitioner to facilitate your day - in topics such as meditation, creative writing, mindfulness or NLP at an extra cost