

<u>Cultivating Community and Well-being at</u> West London NHS Trust

1 year ago



OCS is proud to introduce its innovative "Grow Gardens" project, a unique initiative focused on establishing a network of thriving community gardens within the premises of our Trust sites. This project is part of OCS' ongoing commitment to our NHS Healthcare customers.

Katherine Murray, Assistant Director of Operations, West London NHS Trust, said: "The "Grow Gardens" project is not merely about creating green spaces; it is about delivering dedicated practices that elevate the well-being of our colleagues and patients. We believe that by nurturing these gardens, we also foster a healthier and more positive environment for everyone involved.

"Thank you to facilities and our OCS colleagues for the wonderful kitchen garden at Clayponds. The building has only been under Trust management for three and a bit months, and already we are seeing a difference! This is a great initiative.

"The gardens have been brought to life thanks to the active involvement of OCS colleagues, patients, and volunteers. Their hard work and dedication have made this initiative a success, positively influencing our catering practices. They are now able to offer a variety of fresh vegetables and herbs including strawberries, runner beans, rhubarb, and lemon thyme picked straight from their gardens. Each ingredient that we serve from our garden is a testament to our unwavering commitment to sustainability and care."

The benefits of these gardens extend beyond just providing fresh produce for meals. They also serve as therapeutic spaces for occupational therapy and social engagement. Their service users now find joy and fulfilment in tending to the gardens. This shared experience has helped create a positive working community where everyone feels engaged and valued.



To learn more about our initiative and how OCS is transforming catering from farm to fork, <u>click here</u>.