

# WSSSEN

## Social Enterprise of the Month

### Outreach 3 Way

Sussex-based charity dedicated to supporting adults with learning disabilities. Through our two social enterprises – Work Matters and our Plant Nursery – we support people to develop the skills and confidence to take part in the world of work.

#### **Work Matters**

A team of more than 20 clients carry out work for local organisations including recycling company MNH, Advanced Fastener Solutions, Fastfix and the RSPCA. The sorting, packing and recycling work takes place in our light, airy workshop in West Green, Crawley. In this calm, supportive environment, clients learn new skills, build on their existing strengths and experience a sense of purpose. The team provides a reliable and efficient service – something which has helped us develop long and rewarding working relationships with local businesses. Our longest partnership is with MNH, who have been staunch supporters of our work for more than 20 years. In the future, we aim to position Work Matters more strongly as a commercial business offering mailing fulfilment services. We also hope to provide two distinct but complementary pathways: one with a skills development focus, and the other looking to support people into employment.

#### **Our plant nursery**

Over at our Ifield site, our thriving Plant Nursery offers a very different but equally beneficial environment for people with learning disabilities. Run as a commercial business, the nursery provides a caring, therapeutic place where clients can improve their social skills and build their confidence. From sowing seeds to taking cuttings, clients enjoy both variety and routine. We welcome regular and new customers to come and buy planters, pots and our very popular hanging baskets. Our nursery is situated in an old walled garden, with poly tunnels, a propagation area and a display area. We make our own compost from chicken manure.

We also offer a garden maintenance service. A small team of clients, along with an instructor, go out to maintain customers' gardens. Clients learn how to use garden machinery and equipment and our "no job too small" approach has ensured many enquiries! A major benefit to clients is that they spend more time out in the community. Looking ahead, we want to relocate the nursery to encourage customers and give us more room to grow plants under cover. A retail outlet, as part of this plan, would help our clients learn valuable new skills such as working with customers and handling money.

#### **Find out more**

We welcome enquiries and visitors – please contact us if you'd like to know more about our work.

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