1. **Darley Road Gardening Project: Brief Description**

The project aims to establish a community of collaborative horticulture and food growing actors centred on utilising part of the Darley Road campus for Occupational Therapy , Green Exercise and Leisure Gardening purposes. Stakeholders consist of staff and students from SSM and Health Professions, local residents and clients from Sussex Oakleaf Trust. The project is fully supported by Eastbourne Facilities and Estate Management Department.

1. **Project Progress**

The plan is to focus the programme of work on a model of allotment gardening firstly by constructing and then cultivating an extended series of raised beds adjacent to the Aldro and Greynore buildings in Darley Road and then to integrate the day to day activities of this cross-section of stakeholders for mutual understanding and benefits. To date the project has successfully re-developed the Aldro Garden with the Greynore Garden due for completion by the 5th of March 2011. Due to adverse weather in 2010 the project was delayed slightly in 2010 but this did not affect the wide range of OT activities undertaken.

1. **Partnership Working**

The lead academics Tania Wiseman and Harvey Ells have recently liaised with Richard Halpin a community worker for Sussex Oakleaf to run a pilot from march to September 2011. The current partners involved are:

Oakleaf Trust service users n=5

Oakleaf Trust volunteers n=2

SSM staff n=2

SSM students n=8

OT staff n=2

OT students n=16

Local Residents n=2

Initially students are being involved in the design and build of project (including soil movement!). The project has also benefitted from a community volunteer (ex-teacher) demonstrating horticulture techniques e.g. cuttings, transplanting seedlings to novice student gardeners. As the project progresses over 2011 the participants horticultural skills will be developed. The academic tutors are currently in the process of transferring a number of horticultural texts from UCH to Queenwood Library to support the project. Oakleaf Trust service users are being supported by a volunteer with considerable horticultural experience on allotments. The growing shared knowledge base includes the processing of produce in the Culinary Arts Studio, students building raised beds and cultivating food. Learning though communal activities and shared goals. Plant identification, cultivation techniques, breaking down stereotypes, understanding life choices and health issues, social inclusion. The CUPP team have negotiated between internal and external stakeholders and offered advice on funding. This has further been supported by Nicola Whitnall and the Eastbourne Estates team and Tony Rodriguez who has developed a further area of raised beds and planning outside the Robert Dodd building with a food/herb based planting scheme. No other support is required at the moment.

1. **Neighbourliness**

One of the key potential benefits of the project is to facilitate a wider understanding of activities within a university and what students do as part of their degrees. Conversely Students will learn to appreciate the needs of individuals living in the local community and those with mental health issues requiring some form of therapeutic activity. The challenges remain in understanding what both external users and students looking for/ to gain from the project. The mutual sharing of local spaces and regular activities on Tuesday (OT) and Friday (SSM) afternoons should assist in understanding the meaning of neighbourliness at Darley Road.

1. **Outputs**

Planned outputs include a paper delivered at the AESOP 2010 conference with an abstract to be submitted for AESOP conference 2011. Three abstracts are to be submitted to the BAOT conference 2011 on the subject of gardening and inclusion. The development of a neighbourliness/volunteering module for the forthcoming SSM undergraduate programme review is under way and the recent establishing of a Wellbeing and Gardening OT research group n=4 M level students will assist to publish relevant outputs. Expression of interest on community gardening research with NIHR (Lead Academic, Neil Ravenscroft) and related areas of food policy is also under review. The activities will help to inform teaching on the New (SSM) MSc in Wellbeing Management

1. **Outcomes**
* Stronger links with the university particularly between participating schools and departments.
* The positive enhancement of the university’s profile locally and a wider awareness of our core activities.
* A number of OT practice placements now arranged with Oakleaf Trust.
* Links with the Eastbourne Environmental Network and wider University activities.
* Provision of an alternative ‘space’ on campus.
1. **Longer Term Knowledge Exchange**

A further evaluation will take place post September 2011 when the pilot study with Oakleaf Trust is completed. It is anticipated that there will be rolling cohorts of stakeholders, no further financial inputs will be required as the project will be self-sustaining. Subject to a successful evaluation there is potential to extend the principles of the project to embrace other pockets of land on the Darley Road Campus and other Eastbourne Locations. (subject to central approval.) This will increase number of community stakeholders and number of students involved in any subsequent projects including the activities of the local Borough Council Eastbourne Food Group Initiative.

1. **Statement of Income and Expenditure**

From an initial budget of £5,000 £4,500 is committed with the remaining £500 for contingency/ events. The project team have tried wherever possible to optimise resources by using recycled sustainable materials. Unfortunately approximately £200 (replacement cost) of scaffolding boards were stolen in December 2010, these cannot be claimed on university insurance. Most of the costs associated with the project are capital related. Once again Eastbourne estates have made available bark chippings and mulch to reduce costs. N.B. breakdown of costs will be available when SSM finance officer returns from sick leave (broken ankle).

1. **Quantitative Evaluation**

Number of users as follows**:** Oakleaf Trust service users n=5 , Oakleaf Trust volunteers n=2, SSM staff n=2, SSM students n=8, OT staff n=2, OT students n=16, Local Residents n=2.In terms of hours to date approximately 150 hours have been dedicated to the project over the past year by the academic team. The remaining hours for the 2011 academic year will be on a voluntary basis for SSM and a combined taught workload/ volunteering for OT.

HE/ TW February 2011