

# GROWING THE COMMUNITY



Located in a deprived area of Rochdale, Petrus' incredible medical allotment started in August 2015. It was set up with the aim of improving life chances and health and social integration among homeless people in the surrounding area.

Through the project, an area of long-neglected wasteland was lovingly transformed into a garden for everyone to visit and enjoy. The hard work of everyone involved has created a valuable community resource.

The garden's main benefit is to encourage social cohesion among a variety of people in the community. Homeless people, ethnic minorities, refugees, schools, nurseries, disability and mental health groups all interact to enjoy the garden together. Over 1,000 people have now used the garden to shape their local environment for the better. It features several raised beds, used for growing fruit and veg.

There are a range of other feature areas including seating, floral displays, sculptures, a cooking area and a new wildlife observation deck beside the riverbank. Local schools and nurseries have their own areas which are constantly being developed. The volunteers have plans to add a picnic, an outdoor library and an irrigation system using water from the river. To find out more visit [petrus.org.uk](http://petrus.org.uk)

Sponsored by Calliope, Cultivation Street's annual competition gives away free plants and £20k cash to schools and community gardens that make a difference. For more information, please visit [cultivationstreet.com](http://cultivationstreet.com)

