



Press Release

Immediate Release

24 July 2026

New Sensory Garden Unveiled at Kirkside House and Lodge

A Leeds care service which supports individuals with learning disabilities has transformed its garden into a sensory area, giving its residents a space to enjoy and relax.

Located on Spen Lane in Kirkstall, [Kirkside House and Lodge](#) is a specialist residential service for adults with learning disabilities and associated complex needs.

The Cygnet Social Care service recently unveiled its redesigned garden, which will provide a fun and relaxing space for residents to unwind in. The garden includes sensory features with the aim of enhancing residents' wellbeing.

Gardening Team Lead Roxanne Mace, who came up with the idea for the sensory garden, explained its importance to the residents.

She said: "Our aim was to create a space where the individuals we support can come to relax and self-regulate using sensory features. It's also a space for them to have fun.

"Spending time outdoors is good for people's mental health and their general wellbeing. Our lovely sensory garden offers the chance to do that and has lots of interactive things to do."

Over the past few months, Roxanne and Garden Assistant Craig Crosby McKenna have worked to create the garden, ensuring residents are involved at every step.

Individuals supported at the Cygnet Social Care service played a vital role throughout the project, from painting and decorating to assembling key elements with Craig.

Equipment in the garden includes brightly coloured objects, a sensory spinner wall, a variety of musical instruments, and a solar-powered water feature, which is a particular favourite of the residents.

The sensory haven was created as part of [Kirkside House and Lodge's Gardening Project](#), which offers residents an insight into working in the community as well as providing the opportunity to learn teamwork skills.

“At the Gardening Project, we try and create spaces that our residents can enjoy as an activity. It's important to have an outdoor space that they can spend time in away from other distractions,” explained Roxanne.

“As the garden is in a wooded area, our residents can enjoy their time with nature, listen to the wildlife and use the sensory items.”