



Greenfingers Leeds - Gardening Services **June 2008**

- In 2007-08, 15 organisations were funded by Keeping House to provide gardening services for older and disabled people. They provided gardening services to an impressive total of 1631 households across Leeds.
- Following a successful application to Keeping House in March, Care and Repair have bought two vans to enable them to take on commercial contracts with Aire Valley Homes. They are busy cutting back overgrown shrubbed areas and delivering a subsidised gardening service to older or disabled tenants. Care and Repair are working in partnership with Richmond Hill Elderly Action to deliver this work and it's really positive to see how this is benefiting both organisations. It will be interesting to see whether the development of profitable commercial contracts will help to make the gardening services sustainable.
- Hawksworth Older People's Support and Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme also applied to Keeping House in March, and secured investment funding to develop their gardening services.

Gardening Health and Safety

Following requests from gardening schemes, Greenfingers Leeds commissioned and funded the production of a Gardening Supervisor's Health and Safety Guide, and a Gardener's Health and Safety Handbook. Written by professional health and safety consultants, these cover relevant legislation, risk assessments for gardening equipment and sites, and templates for forms. Along with a half day training course, these will support organisations in developing health and safety policies and procedures for their gardening schemes, which carry very different risks from the normal activities of the organisations.

Applications to the Keeping House Panel

There are new business plan and cash flow templates to help organisations applying for Keeping House funding for gardening schemes. They are pretty detailed and will help applicants to think through all the aspects of running a gardening service. Feedback so far has been that they are really useful and make it much clearer what the Keeping House Investment Panel is looking for in applications.