

PATHWAY COLLEAGUES WITH EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

People with lived experience of homelessness have been closely involved in every aspect of the garden's creation. These include:

Manzoor

Originally from Bangladesh, Manzoor has been through many challenges, including homelessness. He is passionate about improving health outcomes for others affected by homelessness. Part of the project team from the beginning, Manzoor believes in a garden's power to create a real sense of belonging.

Ross

Ross volunteers with Pathway to give back to those facing exclusion from healthcare while experiencing homelessness. Following his own turbulent journey, he is now a proud and active member of Pathway: delivering training, speaking at conferences, and helping to shape this RHS Chelsea garden!

Mandy, Pathway Lived Experience Programme Manager with personal experience of homelessness, said:

"After being on the streets, you have a burden of negative experiences associated with the outdoors. We want to create new positive encounters with nature.....through touch, smell, feeling.... awakening."

What Pathway's volunteers say about the charity's Lived Experience programme:

Gareth M, a Pathway Colleague with personal experience of homelessness, said:

"Becoming part of the Pathway lived experience group has changed my life. Being involved in work that may help other people escape a life of desperation has not only given me a sense of pride and purpose it has also provided me with a new lease of life and a brighter future."

Sahar, a Pathway Colleague with personal experience of homelessness, said:

"A huge impact in my life. I gained confidence, skills and felt useful and valued. I contribute as expert by experience, my experience is helping to add value which helps me to overcome my trauma."