

# Incredible Aquagarden



Supporting health and wellbeing through growing fruit and vegetables





power to  
change

business in  
community  
hands

---

Organisation type:	<b>Food and farming</b>
Grant amount:	<b>£139,000</b>
Award date:	<b>July 2015</b>
Location:	<b>Todmorden, West Yorkshire</b>
Ownership:	<b>Company Limited by Guarantee</b>

---

### Grant purpose

Revenue and capital funding has been provided to help the business move away from grant dependency. The grant will fund four temporary posts and a refurbishment that includes the installation of solar panelling

### Locally rooted

The Aquagarden was set up by grassroots movement Incredible Edible, a widely lauded community movement that campaigns for local food that has operated in Todmorden since 2007

### Community control

Most of the board, staff and volunteers are from the Todmorden area. A number of local community groups sit on the board and local people have regular opportunities to contribute to the direction of the organisation

### Improving physical and mental health

The AquaGarden provides workshops on cooking and healthy eating for community groups, including adults with learning disabilities and local school pupils. They also deliver activities that help individuals build confidence and make social connections

Learning and growing centre Incredible AquaGarden opened in 2013. The business teaches and promotes the benefits of sustainable local food to school children, families and the local community. It's a recognised centre of research and learning and has strong links with universities and local schools.

The centre provides apprenticeships, training and support for the local community, including adults with learning difficulties and social housing tenants. These activities contribute to local health in a number of ways, for example by reducing isolation, building confidence and improving eating habits. The centre also encourages people to take greater pride in the areas where they live and work by creating planting areas in unused spaces.

The centre generates income by working with organisations such as social housing landlords, schools and clinical commissioning groups, however needed to generate more income to reduce its reliance on grant income. Power to Change funding will help to business to explore new income streams by contributing to staff salaries and funding building improvements that will allow the centre to broaden the services it offers.

Working with community, family and schools to  
deliver growing and cooking workshops, both on-  
site and as outreach projects, tailored to achieve  
outcomes in education, wellbeing and social  
impact

**Áine Douglas**  
Centre manager