**PRESS RELEASE**

**Celebrating Community Growth Through Horticulture – Family Action’s ESCAPE Project Marks Student Success**

Swaffham, 9th July 2025 – The ESCAPE Project, run by Family Action, proudly celebrated the achievements of students from the College of West Anglia who completed their City & Guilds Level II Diploma in Practical Horticulture Skills. The event took place at the vibrant ESCAPE Community Allotment on Tumbler Hill, Swaffham, and was marked by a special presentation led by Madam Mayor, Councillor Lindsay Beech.

The celebration brought together students, volunteers, staff, and community members for a day of recognition, learning, and connection. Highlights included exploring the ESCAPE site, featuring polytunnels, a cob oven, student-designed garden displays and much more.

ESCAPE has been a cornerstone of inclusive, nature-based learning since 2010, offering everything from accredited horticulture courses to willow weaving and outdoor cooking. The project continues to foster wellbeing and community through hands-on experiences.

Tess Cureton, Family Action’s Teacher of Horticulture and Support Worker, shared her reflections: “There is something very special about ESCAPE. Everyone who comes here feels it—the calm, the beauty, the enthusiasm for all things natural, the love. I don’t ‘teach’; I share knowledge I’ve gained over the years, and it fills me with pride when we have these days. Days when past students come back to share in the celebration of achievement. Days to remember. I am blessed to be part of ESCAPE, and I know many others share this sentiment.”

A standout story from the day was that of Peter Forrest, a former Royal Air Force serviceman who transitioned into horticulture after 23 years of service. Following his resettlement training in construction project management, Peter completed his Level 2 Diploma at ESCAPE. This month, Peter launched his own business—Peter Forrest Garden Design—which is already gaining attention locally and beyond.

The event also saw the awarding of five Diplomas and eight Certificates—a proud moment for all involved.

The next course begins enrolment on 10th September, covering topics such as soil assessment, pruning, planting plans, and more. Courses are fully funded for eligible UK residents aged 19 and over and interested individuals can contact tess.cureton@family-action.org.uk for details.

For more information, visit the ESCAPE Community Allotment on Tumbler Hill and experience the joy of growing together. Alternatively visit [ESCAPE Community Allotment Project - Family Action](https://family-action.org.uk/services/escape-community-allotment-project/) for further details.

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**About Family Action**

Family Action is a national charity supporting people through change, challenge and crisis, in local communities and through its UK-wide helpline, FamilyLine.

Founded in 1869, when societal norms about family were fixed and rigid, the charity that established the founding principles of social work has reinvented itself multiple times throughout its more than 150-year history. With its message that there are many ways to be a family, it’s relationships that matter, Family Action ensures it represents the changing needs of families and communities in the UK today.

Driven by the belief that family can shape the future, that early experience stays with us for better and worse and that everyone deserves dignity, respect and an equal chance at life, the charity runs specialist services that protect children and support young people and adults.

It provides direct, practical help to families and communities in need through a wide variety of programmes including help for new families, parenting, family and post-adoption support, counselling, youth mentoring, FOOD clubs and the National School Breakfast Programme.

For further information, please visit our website at [www.family-action.org.uk](https://www.family-action.org.uk/)

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