

RECORD OF ADVISORY BOARD (“BOARD”) DISCUSSION

30th April 2024 at 19:00 (MS Teams)

1. Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on 30th November 2023 were agreed.

2. Accreditation by the Professional Standards Authority

Further to the email circulated to the group in January it was confirmed that the Register was formally accredited by the PSA. The PSA issued a press release announcing the go-live status of the Accredited Practitioner Register for Equine Practitioners. This marked a significant milestone in establishing credibility for the sector. Board members noted the importance of promoting the APR to practitioners and clients to build awareness and engagement.

The accreditation was issued with a 7 conditions. Of these 3 had to be actioned within 3 months, these were all to do with the functioning and practice of the Professional Conduct Review Committee (PCRC). These involved removal of approval reporting line to this board, the creation of separate hearing and adjudication functions and the provision of additional information on the website.

Board members were advised that these had been completed and returned to the PSA in February. The Register is awaiting the outcome of this review.

The priority for this calendar year was agreed to be developing public and market awareness of the register.

3. Update from the Professional Conduct Review Committee

There have been no complaints handled since the previous meeting.

PCRC activity has been principally been structural, with its focus being on the actions arising from the conditions of accreditation.

There are now 8 on the PCRC. An induction session is to be scheduled for new members and will introduce the new procedures.

4. Additional roles to be covered by the Register

The board discussed the Register’s submission of a Notification of Change to the PSA.

These are to cover the roles of Equine Assisted/Facilitated Psychotherapist/Therapist and Equine Assisted/Facilitated Occupational Therapist. These requests reflect roles that were taken out of the final submission pre-final panel as they were not part of the original Standard One submission back in 2022.

The PSA have acknowledged there is a definite public interest in recognising these roles and as such the request will be progressed.

5. Register membership

The board were advised during Q1 there have been a steady receipt of renewals of previous membership. There have been 5 lapses in membership, and 5 new memberships confirmed. All are from within the Athena network.

6. Networking and Promotional activity

28.02.24: Board members attended PSA Workshop, London - New Register Introductions and Dealing with Complaints. There were sessions which included sessions on managing new

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registers and handling complaints effectively. There was a short discussion of the key takeaways included best practices for resolving disputes and maintaining register integrity.

02.03.24: National Equine Show, Birmingham - Stand at NEC. The Register had a stand at the National Equine Show to raise awareness of equine facilitated learning and therapy. The event was successful in generating interest, with over 50 visitors to the stand which generated important interest and discussion about the register. This was the first opportunity to properly engage with the wider equine market about the Register and its benefits.

Personal contact details received from the show have been followed up and discussions continue.

16.04.24: Neurodiversity in Business, London - ND in the Workplace Conference

Board members participated in discussions on supporting neurodiverse individuals in the workplace. There was a discussion about the opportunities for incorporating neurodiversity principles into equine therapy programs and what meant in terms of facilitator competencies.

The Register will seek partnerships with neurodiversity organizations to promote equine facilitated interactions as a supportive practice (All).

Board members are now scheduled to speak about the Register at the Equine Assisted and Facilitated Practitioners Register in June at the Unicorn Centre in Stow-on-the-Wold.

Abstracts have been submitted to speak at two forthcoming international conferences, HETI in Budapest and IAHAIO in Romania.

The Register is also booked for the Dublin Horse Show in August.

The admin team will be coordinating the preparation of materials for these conferences

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8th August at 7pm.