

RECORD OF ADVISORY BOARD (“BOARD”) MEETING

8th August 2024 at 19:00 (MS Teams)

1. Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on 30th April 2024 were agreed.

2. Update on actions from previous meeting

Follow-ups from National Equine Show have been pursued and related outreach efforts are ongoing.

HETI presentation was prepared and delivered successfully, with positive response.

Inaugural meeting of the new PCRC has been diaried.

3. Updates from the Professional Standards Authority

Confirmation and sign-off has been received from the PSA regarding the 3 completed Conditions of Accreditation. Actions have been undertaken in respect of the remaining 4, though the PSA will not be reviewing these until the year-end review (November/December 2024). Formal responses on these will be drafted in preparation and the board notified.

The Register has received, completed and returned the PSA's new Standard 9 assessment on Equality Diversity and Inclusion.

There has been no response from the PSA in respect of the Notification of Change submitted.

4. Update from the Professional Conduct Review Committee

There have been no complaints handled since the previous meeting and no further activity to report. The induction session for new members is to be scheduled for the autumn.

5. New Education and Learning Committee

In line with the conditions of accreditation a new Education and Learning Committee is to be established. This will oversee the future definition of applicable standards that support membership. This will also cover the Certificate of Proficiency option that is available to existing practitioners with appropriate complementary professional qualifications, e.g. Psychotherapists. This will have its first meeting scheduled before the year end.

We have received an application for that committee. Two Board members also be part of this committee. Both will be appropriately covered by the terms of the Conflict of Interest policy and appropriately recorded on that register.

6. Register membership

Since the previous meeting there have been 2 new memberships confirmed. The Register has received its first applications from outside the Athena trained network, 1 is IFEEL trained and 2 have been sent Certificate of Proficiency details.

Board members have done a site visit to TheHorseCourse in Weymouth to talk about membership for the qualified practitioners in her team and considering acknowledge of her extensive, university backed, inhouse training programme.

An extensive review of the organisation's policies and procedures will be undertaken as well as the training programme. Findings with regard to the training programme when complete will be presented to the Education and Training Committee.

7. Networking and Promotional activity

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07.06.24: The Register was introduced to the Equine Assisted and Facilitated Practitioners Network (EAFPN), with a presentation highlighting its purpose and benefits. There were one or two difficult comments during the presentations, principally from members of Sirona Therapeutic Horsemanship, however generally feedback was very positive with practitioners expressing an interest in accreditation and collaboration, as well as acknowledging the importance of such a register. EASP (or the HEIR) register were also present at the meeting.

18.06.24: HETI Conference, Budapest – Board members presented on behalf of the Register

The presentation at the HETI conference was well-received, with interest from international practitioners and organizations. Interestingly we were scheduled a different slot to those who were talking about other national bodies. A HEIR representative was present and there was some negative feedback about comments they had raised to delegates, though there was nothing directly received by any Board representative. HEIR did not present.

It was an important networking opportunity, and it helped to develop relationships with other equine bodies, particularly Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF). It is intended to submit an abstract to HHRF in the autumn for their 2025 conference.

Whether or not membership of HETI is of value to the Register is under consideration. There have subsequently been some discussions with HETI about how the Register is referred in public statements, there are ongoing.

The Register’s abstracts for the IAHAIO conference in September has been approved. The topic is self-care and why this is important from a regulatory perspective. Materials are in production.

8. Any other business

The meeting was advised about future fixed additions to the Advisory Board agenda.

The Register’s Risk Matrix and Conflicts of Interest register will both be presented at the next meeting and at all meetings hereafter.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 23rd October but has been arranged to 12th December at 7pm because of members’ travel and diary commitments.