



Changing  
LIVES  
through horses

## **Our Vision**

***'To support people to develop the skills, and the desire, to return to education and/or employment'***

We passionately believe that horses have a remarkable role to play in the help available to young people when more traditional methods have failed them. The equestrian environment provides a powerful way of inspiring young people to connect, improve well-being and become productive members of society.

With our 531 British Horse Society Approved Riding Centres in the UK, supported by more than 20,000 BHS Instructors, we intend to bring this formidable infrastructure to the forefront of helping young people connect into society through education and employment.

Changing Lives through Horses is a new educational programme which will be shaped over time to provide a wholly sustainable intervention which will change the lives of those it reaches.

## **Our Mission**

The BHS will work in partnership to deliver a programme which meets the needs of disengaged young people, to change their lives through the development of key life skills, and engage them back into society. The success of the programme will be measured through the evidence of change within key skill areas. We will be led by the following core principles:

- To change lives through horses
- To be sustainable
- To build effective partnerships to create a world class education initiative
- To be knowledge based
- To nurture now for the future

## **Who are the target audience?**

The programme will be aimed at young people in secondary school education who would be more suited to an alternative provision to mainstream school. We envisage over time the programme will be expanded to support a wider disengaged community.

## **Changing Lives Through Horses**

Currently we are providing a 16-hour week which is broken down into 4 daily sessions of 4 hours. Each session is made up of a 2 hour training session towards BHS qualifications and then 2 hours work experience where each participant will gain relevant skills and experience from working in a farm type environment and riding school.

The course that we are working towards is designed for beginners so it is not important for the young person to have any experience working with horses or the outdoors, they simply have to show a desire to be in this environment.

It is also not necessary for the young person to learn to ride a horse although this is certainly an option and in our experience, a big attraction for being on this course.

This project can be made as flexible as possible to suit an individuals' needs, and can adapt the sessions accordingly. We would however recommend that weekly attendance is necessary to ensure good progression and continuity of learning.

We understand that schools are already under financial pressure so we intend to keep the costs to a minimum in the hope that it will be affordable.

The minimum cost per 4-hour session would be £35. This would include 4 hours of tuition, and hire of safety hat.

*The minimum cost per 4-hour for a One to Two session would be £50 + VAT. This would include 4 hours of tuition and hire of safety hat in a group of up to 2.*

*The minimum cost per 4-hour for a One to One session would be £100 + VAT. This would include 4 hours of tuition and hire of safety hat.*

We can be flexible on times and days between 10am-2pm, Monday –Friday.

Please note our 13-stone weight maximum. Riding is not compulsory

## **Changing Lives Through Dogs**

Currently we are providing daily sessions of 4 hours. Each session is made up of a 2-hour training session where each participant will gain relevant skills and experience from working in a farm type environment with dogs

The course that we are working towards is designed for beginners, so it is not important for the young person to have any experience working with dogs or the outdoors, they simply have to show a desire to be in this environment and of course, love dogs!

This project can be made as flexible as possible to suit an individuals' needs, and we can adapt the sessions accordingly. We would however recommend that weekly attendance is necessary to ensure good progression and continuity of learning.

We understand that schools are already under financial pressure, so we intend to keep the costs to a minimum in the hope that it will be affordable.

The minimum cost per 4-hour session would be £35. This would include 4 hours of tuition.

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*The minimum cost per 4-hour for a One to One session would be £100 + VAT. This would include 4 hours of tuition.*

We can be flexible on times and days between 10am-2pm, Monday –Friday.

The course will cover:

### **DOG WALKING**

The role and responsibilities of the dog walker

Assessing the exercise needs of dogs

Practical experience in the community of walking other people's dogs

Building an effective professional relationship with dogs and people

Providing effective varied exercise in all seasons

Safety and risk assessment skills including management of emergencies

Correct use of ethical dog training equipment for various dogs and situations

### **DOG GROOMING (Takes place in our Dog Grooming Parlour)**

Basic trim of a dog

Bathing and cleaning dogs

Cleaning and maintaining equipment used for grooming or removing hair from animals

Controlling and restraining animals

Drying dogs and preparing their coat for styling

Preparing and grooming dogs prior to bathing

### **DOG HEALTH**

Discover the importance of pet grooming, why it is needed, and the equipment needed.

Learn the history behind pet grooming.

Understand the basic health of dogs, along with their anatomy, parasites and maintaining health.

Learn the importance of pre-grooming health assessment.

Learn why pre-grooming checks are crucial and when a dog must be referred to a vet due to a possible skin or eye infections.

Identify and understand good bathing techniques, along with drying methods i.e. air flow, towelling, shaking, drying between the pads on their paws etc, and appropriate clothing.

### **DOG OBEDIENCE**

Attention to owner

Excite and Settle down

Walk on lead without pulling

Come when called (recall with distractions and distance control)

Manners greeting people without jumping

Sit and Lie down on first command

Wait at doorways, for meals and in a down stay

Fetch & Drop

Leave it (no stealing)

Socialisation with dogs and people

### **DOG AGILITY**

In these agility sessions, we teach the student and dog how to negotiate more pieces of agility equipment which include tunnels, jumps, dog walks, a-frames, weaves and more.

As the student and dog gain more experience, the sequences and courses that are designed, become more exciting, challenging and faster!

## **Changing Lives Through Small Animals**

Currently we are providing daily sessions of 4 hours. Each session is made up of a 2-hour training session where each participant will gain relevant skills and experience from working in a farm type environment with small animals.

The course that we are working towards is designed for beginners, so it is not important for the young person to have any experience working with animals or the outdoors, they simply have to show a desire to be in this environment and of course, love animals!

This project can be made as flexible as possible to suit an individuals' needs, and we can adapt the sessions accordingly. We would however recommend that weekly attendance is necessary to ensure good progression and continuity of learning.

We understand that schools are already under financial pressure, so we intend to keep the costs to a minimum in the hope that it will be affordable.

The minimum cost per 4-hour session would be £35. This would include 4 hours of tuition.

*The minimum cost per 4-hour for a One to Two session would be £50 + VAT. This would include 4 hours of tuition and hire of safety hat in a group of up to 2.*

*The minimum cost per 4-hour for a One to One session would be £100 + VAT. This would include 4 hours of tuition.*

*This course is ideal for young people who are very interested in working with animals.*

*On this course, we will teach the basic skills and knowledge you need to work in a safe environment around small animals*

*The units will include:*

*Assist with the care of animals and principles of the care of animals*

*Principles of dealing with feedstuffs for small animals and assist with feedstuffs for small animals*

*Assist with animal accommodation*

*Maintain the safety of self and others in the workplace*

*Assist with maintaining structures and surfaces and principles of maintaining structures and surfaces*

*Provide controlled exercise opportunities for animals.*

*Understand the rehoming process of rescued animals*

*For more information contact*

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