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### **The Challenge – Finance and Sustainability 2012 and beyond.....**

This year so far has been, and continues to be, quite a challenge. Traded Income is budgeted to make up approximately 25 – 30% of our annual income. The impact of the current economic climate is reflected in our figures which show that we are about 800 lessons (€8000) behind for the first 9 months of 2012 compared with the same period in 2011. The main reason for this is that funding has been discontinued or seriously curtailed for many of our service users, Youth Groups, Schools etc as well as a lack of disposable income being available for our Saturday customers who are the general public, single and group, lessons.

Our team meetings and monthly management systems identified and alerted us to this early in the year and a cost savings initiative was put in place. This has resulted in almost neutralizing the effect of the loss of Traded Income for the period to the end of September 2012 and this initiative will remain in place for the rest of 2012 on into 2013.

The real challenge will be to hold on to our existing revenue streams, traded income, corporate support, grants etc while seeking out new opportunities to boost our income. This process is ongoing and will continue along with the continued implementation of the cost savings initiative.

### **CSP Contract - Pobal**

The FYHP - Community Services Programme Contract continues for the employment aspects of the Traveller Equine Initiative. This will cover the majority of our employment costs for a manager and 4 full time equivalents until the end of December 2013. **Shane Kehoe pictured here**, one of the Stable Hands, is progressing well with his training and the plan is for Shane to go for the BHS Stage 2 examinations early in 2013.



Supported by the Department of Social Protection  
under the Community Services Programme



The Community Services Programme  
is a Pobal managed programme

## **Gary Phillips – RACE Trainee from FYHP rides more winners, 9 and rising..**

Gary Phillips, who is from Springfield, which is beside Fettercairn in Tallaght, was one of three members from the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project who graduated from the Trainee Jockey course at the Racing Academy and Centre of Education (R.A.C.E) in the Curragh in 2007.

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### ***Ger Lyons and Gary after another recent win***

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Gary has now ridden 9 winners which is an excellent achievement for a young apprentice. He has done so at racetracks all over Ireland and hopefully he is on the way to a very successful career in Racing.

He has represented Ireland for the last two years at the European Association of Racing Schools Apprentice Handicap. This annual event, which rotates between the member countries, is used to promote the important work being done by the various racing schools to attract young people into the industry and improve skill levels. As the opportunities for 'Better Rides' become more frequent Gary can be expected to add to his winners total, we wish him the best of luck for the future.



## **Dyspraxia Research Project and Equine Assisted Learning Programme development**

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### ***Psychologist Christine Lehane seen here working with children doing the Cognitive Test***

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The Fettercairn Youth Horse Project continues to work on advancing our involvement in Equine Assisted Learning and Equine Therapy. Quite a number of groups with Physical, Sensory and / or Intellectual Disabilities attend at Fettercairn; these include Cheeverstown House and the National Learning Network. Individuals also attend for private one to one sessions and typically these are children on the Autism Spectrum.

The FYHP has also been working with Dyspraxia Ireland for some considerable time in an effort to produce a Therapeutic Programme to present to the HSE Primary Health Care Unit in Tallaght as well as other potential stakeholders. The development of this Equine Assisted Learning programme took a significant step forward in January 2012 when a Research Project commenced in Fettercairn.

The aim of the Research Project was,

***'To test the effects of the physical motion of a horse (riding therapy) on a group of children with Dyspraxia and to determine whether any further effects can be achieved by auditory and visual perception of that motion'.***

A positive outcome will be a major advance in the effort to have Health Professionals accept Equine Assisted Learning / Equine Therapy as a referral option in Tallaght. The eight week project was headed by Caren Hession who is pursuing her MA through Limerick Institute of Technology. UCD School of Agriculture (Equine Science) was involved as were a number of health professionals including a Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist and Psychologist with Fettercairn providing the facilities, suitable horses, support staff, tack etc.

Now at the end of October 2012 the Research Programme results and findings are almost ready for publication. When available there will be a number of presentations to interested parties and potential service users. A DVD will also be available.



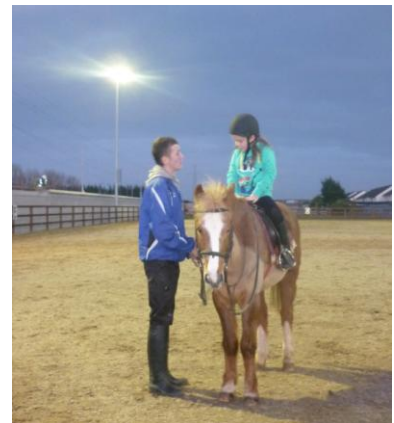
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*Caren Hession with FYHP Volunteers and Support Staff with the horses*

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### **Traveller Equine Initiative**

The Traveller Equine Initiative funded by the Activation Programme now part of the Department of Social Protection, continues to be very successful. The numbers involved in the Traveller Equine Initiative weekly sessions taking part in Horse Riding, Stable Management and Animal Welfare tuition as well as Personal Development is now 22. The Tallaght Traveller Community Development Project (TTCDP) and the Tallaght Youth Service are involved in ensuring the success of the programme which continues until the end of 2012. Shane Kehoe pictured here adjusting the girth for one of the Traveller children attending the TEI.



### **AIRE, BHS and now FAS approved as a Training Centre – the Trainees**

The Fettercairn Youth Horse Project has been approved by A.I.R.E and the B.H.S for many years as an Equestrian Centre. The facilities are inspected annually to make sure that everything is to the required standard, arena, tack room, canteen, stables, equipment, health and safety compliance etc.



In 2012 FYHP also applied for recognition as a FAS approved Equine Training Centre. FYHP was awarded recognition and the plan is for two Trainees to commence their programme in November 2012.

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*Pictured are Rose Feeney and Ciara Fitzpatrick who are currently on FAS placement at FYHP*

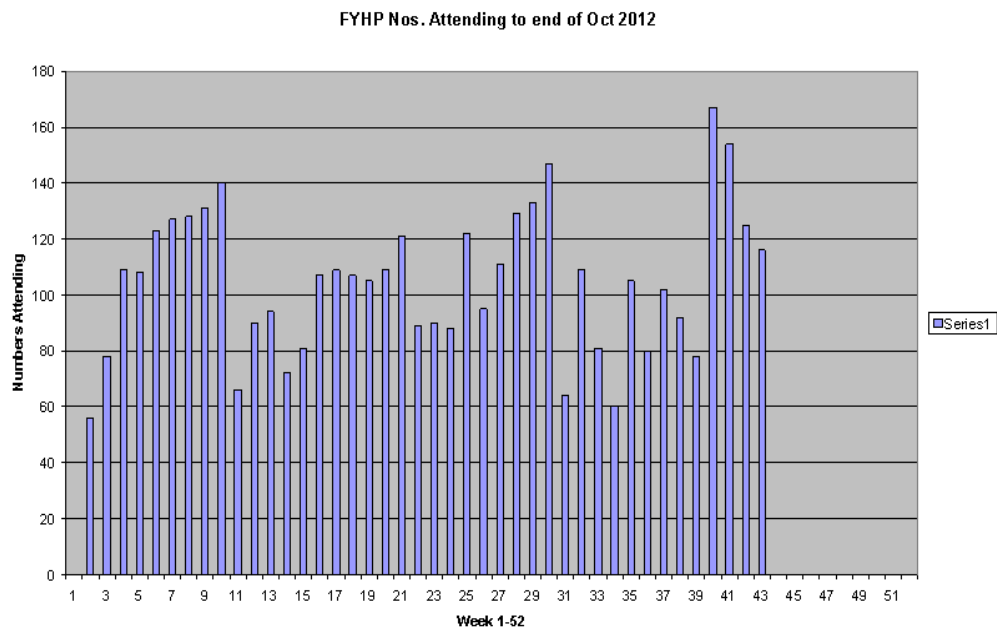
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## Numbers and Groups for 2012

FYHP continues to attract significant numbers to engage in Horse Riding and Stable Management. The figures for the first 43 weeks of 2012 are 4398.

Listed below is a sample of the Groups who attend the Project during weekdays with Saturdays being reserved for the general public (some of the public lessons are now being catered for during the evenings as the numbers build and with the availability of the floodlights).

- St Thomas's School
- APT Tallaght Youth Service
- St Anne's School Group
- Cheeverstown
- National Learning Network
- Tallaght Traveller Equine Initiative
- Dyspraxia
- Enable Ireland
- Tallaght Youth Service
- Jobstown Against Drugs Dependency JADD
- Dominic's Community Centre
- Stoneybatter Youth Group
- Killinarden Community Centre
- Mulhuddart Youth Group
- Tallaght Summer Project
- Clay Project
- Ballybough Youth Group
- St John of Gods Group



## The FYHP Showjumping Team members

Towards the end of 2010 a programme was put in place to identify the progressive riders and to stream them towards taking part in Showjumping Competitions. By the middle of 2011 a group of riders aged 14 – 17 years emerged and from this the first FYHP Team was established. This team was made of young people who have attended the FYHP for a number of years. The team started competing in the Calliaghstown Summer Showjumping League and were very successful given that this was their first venture into an outside competitive environment. Each of the team members was placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in the competitions they entered, quite an achievement.








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***Pictured are a number of the FYHP Showjumping Team members with some of their trophies and prizes***

With this team established the focus moved to a younger group of riders 9 – 13 years and during 2012 they too have proved to be a very successful FYHP Team. They also have competed in the Calliaghstown League of 2012 alongside their peers in the older group. There are now 13 riders competing for their place on the Showjumping Teams and all 13 have recently passed their AIRE Stage1 Examinations in Riding and Stable Management

### **OPW and Fabian**

During the early part of 2012 a series of meetings between the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project and the Office of Public Works took place. An agreement was reached whereby a full Irish Draught horse called **Fabian**, the property of the OPW, would be placed with the FYHP to continue his schooling and training.

**Fabian** is pictured here with FYHP Instructor Ann Keogan out on a hack near Saggart. This type of exercise is very good for discipline, temperament and fitness.

The horse arrived in May 2012 and is a great addition to the FYHP both as an attraction for the general public as well as in the training of our Stable Hands and other Trainees. The horse as it progresses will also be used in competitions as part of the FYHP Team.



The FYHP Manager stated,

***"The placing of such a horse with the FYHP is a wonderful endorsement of the ethos and the work carried out here in Fettercairn".***

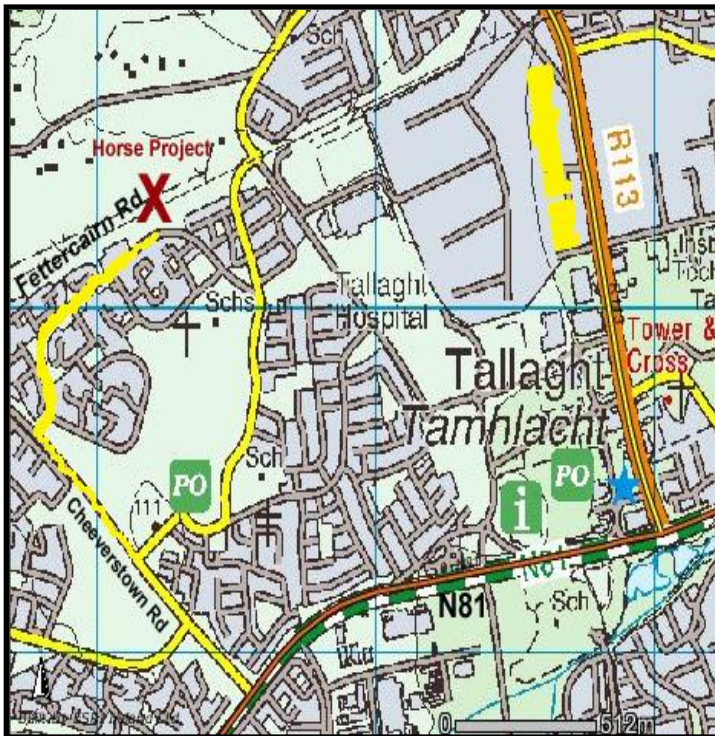
Brian Hayes TD, Minister of State for Public Sector Reform and the Office of Public Works formally handed over the horse to FYHP.

## Fettercairn...the Future

Given the current economic climate and the challenges faced by all sectors predicting the future is difficult, indeed it may foolhardy to even try. Fettercairn as a business model is now sound and fit for purpose. Expenditure is under strict control, work methodologies are efficient and all the staff are focused on playing their part in the continued success of the project.

Our main Pobal CSP funding programme, as stated earlier, is in place until the end of 2013. This provides a solid platform for our Traded Income, Corporate Support and other funding opportunities to be vigorously pursued. It must be recognised however that all of these revenue streams are under pressure and this has the potential to affect Fettercairn either directly or collaterally.

Given the continued support of our business partners, corporate friends and others, Fettercairn can both survive and prosper into 2013 and beyond.



### Contact

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### *Directions to the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project*

*From the M50, on the Tallaght By-pass (N81), continue west and turn right onto Cheeverstown Rd for approx. 1 km. Turn right onto Fettercairn Rd and continue until you reach the Horse Project on your left.*

*Car-parking is also available in the Fettercairn Community Centre.*

*For general queries, booking lessons or enquiring about training programmes, contact Kathy, Colette or Ann*

*(Phone: 01 462 7214 or email: [fyhp@eircom.net](mailto:fyhp@eircom.net))*