

Fettercairn Youth Horse Project – Activity Report 2016 for the Charity Regulator

FYHP had a positive year in 2016 in terms of training, maintaining financial sustainability and in organizational capacity building and governance. The footfall through FYHP and the traded income for 2016 have increased by 21% and 17% respectively.

The Board carried out a Capacity Study in 2016 of the stables and their operation and has established that it will be possible to meet our stated social and traded income goals without the need for any significant capital expenditure in the facility apart from the standard replacement of horses and the expenditure required to upgrade our arena.

In 2016, FYHP worked closely with South Dublin County Council and the Clondalkin Equine Club to offer advice and deliver an accredited BHS training program for its first 20 members.

We have held a number of exploratory meetings with the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to the opportunity for FYHP to develop Animal Welfare programs for local Urban Horse Owners in the community and horse owners within the Traveller Community. FYHP is at present putting forward proposals to the Department in this regard.

The activities in FYHP in 2016 are outlined below using the headings from the Objectives of the Business Plan 2015 – 2017:

1) Organisational capacity building and Governance: FYHP created a profile on both Boardmatch and on the South Dublin Volunteer site and were successful in gaining 2 new Board members, one with a financial/enterprise background and one with business/marketing background. The Board is continuing to work on achieving full compliance with the Code of Good Governance. We have reviewed and updated our Memorandum and Articles of Association of FYHP to develop and clarify our objectives and to reflect changes to the Companies Act 2014. This has been submitted to the CRO.

2) Develop and Mainstream Equine Assisted Learning Programmes (EAL): FYHP Staff have attended EAL training in Festina Lente with one of the trainers completing her QQI Therapeutic Riding Coaching Programme. FYHP have continued with the provision of EAL in 2016 with Downs Syndrome Dublin, Social Circle, St John of Gods, Cheverstown House and one of the local schools. Specialised equipment was also purchased. Planning of the provision of a sensory trail has commenced.

3) Continuing BHS training for Stable Hands and Trainees and AIRE accredited training for user groups: In the first six months of 2016, one of the Stable Hand's passed his BHS PTT exam. In addition, we had one Tús placement who passed her BHS Stage One care section, one ETB student and one transition year student passing their complete Stage One BHS exam. In the second half of 2016, FYHP had nine students/young people training for their BHS exams. Four of these students/young people passed their BHS Riding and Road safety exam in December.

Nineteen primary school students passed their Foundation AIRE levels A. Funding for the AIRE training for School groups was sourced from the Ireland Funds. The programme was a follow-on from one hundred and thirty five pupils from four schools doing "Taster" sessions in 2015 and then twenty pupils progressing to an intensive ten week programme leading up to the AIRE evaluation.

The overall number of individual training sessions (accredited and non accredited) for 2016 was 8295 (a 21% increase from 2015).

4) **Staff Training:** During 2016, the Equine and Training Manager completed QQI Level 6 'Managing People' course. One Stable Hand and one Tús worker completed refresher courses in Occupational First Aid. Our Sunday instructor, who started at FYHP as an ETB student, completing her QQI Therapeutic Riding Coaching Programme in Festina Lente.

FYHP Board members have had training in Community Finance (2), in Strategic Management (1) and Volunteer Management (1).

5) **Maintaining and Upgrading the facility:** Funding was received from South Dublin County Council to upgrade and install hot water, new Kitchen and Staff room. The Probation Service painted the stable block and surrounding areas in June. A stairs was fitted to the loft storage area in July. Fifty Deloitte staff members volunteered their time on two days during the year as part of their corporate social responsibility programme. The work carried out included painting of arena fence, de-weeding the grazing fields, painting stable doors and show jumping poles.

6) **Traded income and Reserves:** The traded income in 2016 was €100,191, a 17% increase on 2015. The Board Credit Union account for the Reserves is now €41,925; the reserve target is €75,000.

FYHP are continuing the communications and marketing strategy with the aim of increasing our visibility in the market. There are a number of different elements to this, the principal one being the FYHP website www.fyhp.ie and the [Facebook page](#) .