

Fettercairn Youth Horse Project

Chairperson's Report 2017

Welcome to Everyone

The Chairperson's Report is the appropriate place to reflect on our origins and aims and how we are keeping faith with them. Our origins and aims are still core to the project irrespective of the fact that it is now in 2018, 23 years since the inception of FYHP and 18 years since we opened the doors of the facility.

The FYHP is a community - owned equine facility in a disadvantaged urban area with a high youth population.

Its purpose is to develop the , social, equine and vocational skills of these young people and it provides recreational, educational, training and employment opportunities in order to do this.

Services are delivered to a number of groups including local schools and youth groups: children with physical/learning disabilities; young people from socially excluded groups including Travellers.

I believe we have kept faith with these origins and aims. I will highlight key examples of successes in our reports at this AGM.

Following on from the AGM on the 24th Nov 2016 certain Board members took on particular roles/positions and responsibilities.

Chairperson:	Sheilann Monaghan
Secretary :	Tracey McGibbon
Treasurer/Chair of Finance Sub-committee:	Margaret O'Keeffe
Chair of CMIG Sub-committee :	Dara Larkin
Chair of Education & Training Sub-committee :	Noel McCullagh
Chair of Staffing Sub-committee :	Niamh Carton

Record Year at FYHP:

FYHP continues to meet our objectives in terms of service provision. The Project uses the interest in horses in the Tallaght area as a means of engaging young people in a constructive community activity and provides opportunities for training, education, recreation, community leadership as well as employment.

2017 has been our busiest year yet since FYHP opened in Dec 2000. By the end of the year we have had over 9000 visitors through the gates of the Project. This is an increase of more than 10% over 2016.

Longer Opening Hours:

In recent months we have been trialling the use of longer opening hours. We now open Wednesday and Thursday until 7pm for lessons. This action has been a big success so we are making it a permanent feature in 2018.

Governance:

The FYHP Board, facilitated by Tanya Lalor, made changes to the Articles & Memorandum which were submitted to the Revenue Commission - Charities section. Additional explanation from FYHP for the reason for the proposed changes is required by the Revenue Commission as is the inclusion of material from the 2014 Companies Act template for the new constitution.

FYHP continued to work on achieving full compliance with the Code of Good Governance. We have completed our staff handbook. We have revised several of our policies and have adopted new procedures around a Complaints Policy, a Volunteering Policy, a Child Protection Policy and a Data Protection Policy. We have also had a safety audit by an independent inspector and have made the majority of changes that were required. The Projects Health and Safety statement was also updated.

Equine Assisted Learning Programmes:

Specialised equipment was purchased for our EAL/therapeutic riding lessons last year, this has improved the quality of the riding session for children with special needs. We purchased bending poles and rubber rings which allow the person to use their hand and eye co-ordination while improving their posture and strength on horseback. We also applied for funding for a sensory trail in our grazing field alongside the arena but we were unsuccessful this time. We did however receive a €2200 donation towards the development of the sensory garden from a parent who took part in the women's mini marathon on behalf of her son who takes lessons here. We will continue to work on securing future funding for this project.

Maintaining and upgrading the facility:

Due to a grant from SDCC we were able to purchase new equipment for both kitchens. As part of the safety audit our muck heap wall had to be replaced. The cost of this project was €9,780 which was paid for by FYHP. We also developed the loft area, renewed the damaged stable walls as well as repairing and painting the interior.

Strategic Planning -Business Plan and Equine Skills and Animal Welfare Programme:

Two of our greatest achievements in 2016/ 2017 was the development, presentation and ratification of the FYHP Business Plan 2018-2020 and the FYHP Equine Skills & Animal Welfare Programme.

The members of the Board contributed huge amounts of time and effort into the development of these Plans which were presented to and adopted by the Board. We had a series of away days/ planning sessions during 2017 where we spent time analysing and reviewing every aspect of the Project. Together we developed a number of more formal, coherent, engaging, user-friendly programmes for our target groups.

A service users survey was administered to FYHP customers, parents and other recipients as part of the consultation process entered into by the Project.

In April 2017 we began exploring with the Department of Agriculture the possibility of them providing funding for the Project Manager position and other programme initiatives.

A follow up meeting was held in Aug 2017 with Department officials and a further site visit was arranged in December 2017.

Their commitment to support any animal welfare or training programmes was already indicated at the previous meeting, so the Board members concentrated on making a case for grant support for the Project Manager - two year funding which FYHP would match-and the Outreach Post that we could envisage also including the Clondalkin area. However on that day their response was not as positive as we hoped.

Recently further more positive contact has been made with the Head of the Department and FYHP are to arrange a further meeting with the Department.

Acknowledments and Thank you

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge and thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this Project .You all by your hard work, shared vision, respect,dilligence, enthusasam, is enabling the Project to achieve its aims and objectives, to fullfil its reason for Beginning and now for Being

- the staff-Ann, Kathy Collette, Shane, Eleneor, Eddie

The students and volunteers-

The Board of Directors present and past (2016/2017)-Tracy McGibbon, Brian Gormley, Dara Larkin, Noel McCullagh, Ger Neill, Byran Sullivan, Jean Lowry, Fran Keyes, Margaret O' Keefe, Patrick Nevin, Niamh Carton and Alison Silke.