Equine Partners CIO

Horses and humans journeying together

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1/01/2025 t0 31/12/2025

Charity name: Equine Partners CIO Charity registration number: 2105130

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document (SORP 1.17)

Equine Partners CIO exists to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society by enhancing life skills of such people. To relieve adults and children/young people, living in West Sussex and the surrounding area, with a charitable need, in particular but not limited to, those with physical, mental and emotional disabilities
(a) through interaction with horses and dogs or through the provision of horse or dog related therapy programmes and in such ways as the trustees see fit, including and not limited to providing equine or canine assisted therapy sessions to individuals and groups through structured workshops to promote their health, wellbeing and rehabilitation
(b) by advancing the education of such people and those supporting such people to advance in life and help young people by providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one of more of the following factors,: youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

Summary of Main Activities (SORP ref 1.17 &1.19)

Equine Partners CIO are commited to providing Equine Assisted Learning and Therapeutic Horsemanship sessions for children, teenagers, and their families. Our aim is to relieve the physical, mental, and emotional challenges faced by individuals living in West Sussex and the surrounding areas, particularly those with disabilities.
Our services are designed to achieve the following:

- **Relieve charitable needs** through interaction with horses and dogs or via horse and dog-related therapy programs. These structured sessions, which include equine or canine assisted therapy, promote health, wellbeing, and rehabilitation, and are offered to both individuals and groups.
- **Advance education** by supporting individuals and families in developing skills, capacities, and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals. We also work with families and those who support them, empowering them to better help the children and young people we serve.

During this reporting period, we have provided:

- 634 therapeutic sessions to 76 families, benefiting a total of 370 individuals. These sessions have played a critical role in supporting the mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing of those involved.
- An additional 180 hours of telephone support, offering ongoing guidance and assistance to families and individuals in need.

In addition, a total of 900 hours have been dedicated to preparation, documentation, and report writing to ensure the smooth operation of our programs and compliance with our charitable objectives.
As highlighted in the section below, our work has also greatly benefited from the support of our dedicated team of volunteers, whose contributions have been invaluable to our success.

Statement on Public Benefit (SORP 1.18)

In accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the guidance provided by the Charity Commission, the trustees of Equine Partners CIO confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.
The trustees ensure that all of our activities and services are aligned with the principles of public benefit, as set out in the guidance. This includes making sure that our charity's purposes are for the public benefit and that they are accessible to the intended beneficiaries. The trustees regularly review our operations and activities to ensure they continue to meet these requirements, taking appropriate action where necessary to maintain compliance.
Furthermore, we are committed to providing public benefit through our programs, which are designed to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society by enhancing life skills of such people. The trustees also ensure that our resources are used effectively to achieve our objectives, and we continually strive to improve our outreach and impact in the community.

Volunteers Contribution (SORP 1.38)

We have been fortunate to receive significant support from our volunteers throughout the reporting period. A total of 2010 hours of volunteer time has been dedicated to supporting sessions and providing care for the horses. This vital contribution has enabled us to deliver high-quality care and ensure the well-being of the horses in our programs.
In addition to the hands-on care, 1,500 hours of volunteer time have been devoted to administration support, including tasks such as sourcing funding, managing communications, and other essential operational duties. These efforts have been instrumental in helping us maintain the smooth running of the charity and expand our reach.
We have also benefited greatly from the expertise and guidance of our 7 trustees, who generously give their time and wisdom to oversee the charity's governance and strategic direction. Their commitment has played a key role in ensuring that we remain aligned with our mission and goals.
We deeply appreciate the dedication and hard work of all our volunteers, whose contributions are essential to the ongoing success of Equine Partners CIO

Notes: We do not grant make (SORP 1.38)
We do not use social investment (SORP 1.38)

Achievements and Performance

Summary of Main Achievements (SORP 1.20)

Equine Partners CIO has made significant strides in enhancing the well-being of individuals facing physical, mental, and emotional challenges, particularly in West Sussex and the surrounding areas. Through its innovative Equine Assisted Learning and Therapeutic Horsemanship programs, the charity has provided vital support to those experiencing social exclusion, helping them build confidence, develop essential life skills, and integrate more fully into society. The charity's tailored sessions have empowered participants to overcome personal barriers, fostering resilience and personal growth. Further details on specific sessions delivered can be found above.

Impact on Beneficiaries and Society

The charity's work has had a profound impact on both its direct beneficiaries and the wider community:

- Supporting Social Inclusion: By preventing social exclusion and aiding the integration of individuals back into society, Equine Partners CIO has directly supported the rehabilitation of individuals from various backgrounds, including those affected by illness, disability, substance abuse, and family breakdown.
- Enhancing Life Skills: Through structured therapy sessions and educational workshops, the charity has empowered individuals and families, developing their skills and increasing their capacity to participate in society as mature, responsible individuals.

- Wider Societal Benefits: The services provided by Equine Partners CIO help reduce the strain on public services by addressing mental health and wellbeing challenges early. Additionally, by fostering stronger communities through volunteering and education, the charity contributes to a more inclusive society.

Achievements against objectives set (SORP 1.41)

1. Objective: Promote Social Inclusion and Prevent Social Exclusion
Charitable Purpose: To prevent people from becoming socially excluded, relieve the needs of those who are socially excluded, and assist them to integrate into society by enhancing life skills.
Achievements:

- 634 Therapeutic Sessions were provided to 76 families, benefiting a total of 370 individuals. These sessions are specifically designed to support individuals with disabilities (physical, mental, and emotional) and promote their wellbeing through interaction with horses and dogs.
- 200 Hours of Telephone Support were given to families and individuals, providing continuous assistance and guidance, helping them overcome challenges associated with social exclusion.

Outcome: These activities have directly supported individuals and families in overcoming social exclusion by promoting their integration into society. By providing essential therapy, education, and support, the charity has helped participants develop skills, build confidence, and reduce isolation. 3 young people have returned to education after being out of school for a substantial period of time in addition we are still supporting 2 who returned last year to be able to maintain their time in education

2. Objective: Relieve the Needs of Those with Charitable Needs, Particularly Those with Disabilities

Charitable Purpose: To relieve adults and children/young people, living in West Sussex and the surrounding areas, with a charitable need, especially those with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities, through horse and dog-related therapy programs.
Achievements:

- Equine and Canine Assisted Therapy Sessions: 634 therapeutic sessions provided to individuals with various physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. These sessions have helped participants improve their mental health, physical health, and emotional resilience.
- The therapy program offers both individual and group sessions, ensuring a broad range of people benefit from the services provided.
- Impact on Mental Health: Feedback from clients highlights improvements in mood, confidence, and overall well-being, demonstrating the effectiveness of therapy in addressing mental health needs.

Outcome: The charity has been able to effectively relieve the needs of individuals with disabilities, promoting their health, wellbeing, and rehabilitation through tailored horse and dog therapy programs.

Our feedback indicates that many families have found our service helpful, and we are seeing more children able to access the right environment for education. This impacts their mental well-being and giving them the possibility of a positive future and functioning members of society able to engage in work and community.

Families have said:

“Learning through horses has really had a huge impact.”

“We learnt about personal space, I used to get in everyone’s space before I was taught it. “

That you gain a lot of understanding and you will take a lot home to put in place. Very surprised at how it works

“We have become closer as a family”

“My son was in a sad dark place when he started Equine Therapy. It gave him a focus for the week and something to look forward to. He enjoyed working with the horses and the talking helped change his mind set. He is now a young man with a future and is working hard to achieve his dream”

“a family drove for 2 hours to our open day so that they could tell us how much difference their time with us had made. They said it had changed their lives. When we met them last year their daughter was refusing school and they were extremely worried about her. She has just completed a year at school and is thriving again “

3. Objective: Advance the Education of Individuals and Families
Charitable Purpose: To advance the education of individuals, including those supporting them, by providing support and activities that develop their skills, capacities, and capabilities to enable them to participate in society.
Achievements:

The charity also offered individual support to parents and families, empowering them to better assist their children and foster their development in a way that prepares them to be responsible, mature individuals in society. We have liaised with schools and contributed to Child protection meetings and Education Health and Education Plans (EHCP) providing reports and attending meetings to support children and young people to be safe and gain an education to meet their needs.

Outcome: The charity has successfully advanced education by equipping families, caregivers, and educators with practical tools and knowledge to better support children and young people. This has enhanced their capacity to guide individuals in their growth and integration into society.

We have supported 76 families offering new solutions and strategies to assist in making family life and more positive and education more accessible for the young people we serve.

4. Objective: Enable Participants to Become Mature and Responsible Individuals in Society
Charitable Purpose: To help young people and adults, especially those facing challenges, to develop the skills, capacities, and capabilities needed to become mature and responsible individuals in society.
Achievements:

- Therapeutic Workshops and Sessions: By participating in structured therapeutic activities with horses and dogs, individuals develop life skills such as confidence, patience, responsibility, and communication.
- Family Empowerment: Through ongoing support and workshops, the charity has helped families strengthen their ability to support young people in becoming responsible individuals who can engage with and contribute to society.

Outcome: Equine Partners CIO's activities have directly contributed to the development of life skills in individuals, empowering them to participate more fully in society as responsible and confident individuals. We have a group of 5 young people who are volunteering with us and in return receiving support and mentoring. They are thriving as they gain confidence 3 who were situationally mute are now able to speak at the yard and enjoy being part of a group for the first time.

Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set (SORP 1.41)

In November 2025 we received a legacy of £100,000. This has put the charity on a great footing going forward. Some has been used to buy a tractor to make the day-to-day maintenance of the site and care of the ponies easier for our volunteer team. Some is being used to support wages for our session facilitators so we are not losing staff because we cannot pay them a reasonable wage

Notes: At present, the charity does not invest funds outside its operations (SORP 1.41)

Financial review

Review of the Charity's Financial Position (Sorp 1.21)

The legacy has been a great help in developing the charity and supporting our services. Having so much money in the bank however has meant that we have not been able to access funding bids so those will have to increase next year as our bank balance reduces

Income and Funding
In total, the charity raised £121,000 from a major legacy, gift aid and some smaller donations who were willing to support us during this transitional period.
Expenditure and Cost Increases
Like many other charities, we have faced increased operational costs due to inflation and the rising cost of living. These higher costs have impacted many of our day-to-day expenses, from therapy materials to staffing. However, despite these pressures, we have been able to manage our finances effectively, thanks to the support of our funders and prudent financial planning.
Staff Expansion and Service Delivery

With the funds raised, we have been able to employ additional staff, which has allowed us to expand our therapeutic services, directly enhancing the impact of our programs. To this end we have opened an extra day each week This is a significant achievement, as it enables us to meet the growing demand for our services and continue to deliver high-quality support to those in need.

Financial Stability and Outlook

Despite the challenges presented by the cost-of-living crisis, the charity has ended the year in a strong financial position. The funds raised have ensured that we remain financially stable, allowing us to continue delivering our mission to support vulnerable individuals through equine and canine therapy programs. The growth in staff capacity has been a key achievement, and we are optimistic about our ability to secure further funding in the future now that we have a full set of accounts as a CIO.

Looking ahead, we aim to continue building on the positive relationships with existing funders and explore new opportunities to secure funding for the coming year. The transition to a CIO has set a strong foundation for our long-term financial stability and growth.

Reserves Policy (SORP 1.22)

Equine Partners CIO holds reserves to ensure the charity can meet its financial obligations and continue delivering its vital services in the event of unforeseen costs or financial fluctuations. The policy for holding reserves is guided by the need to provide financial security and stability, enabling the charity to manage unexpected expenses and maintain continuity in its operations.

Purpose of Reserves:

1. Covering Larger Bills: Reserves are set aside to ensure that the charity can cover larger, irregular expenses that may arise throughout the year. This includes costs such as veterinary bills for the horses and dogs involved in therapy programs. These expenses can vary significantly and may not be predictable, so having reserves ensures that we can continue our services without disruption.
2. Major Purchases: The charity may also need to make major purchases from time to time, such as replacing equipment, maintaining facilities, or acquiring new resources to support our therapeutic programs. Reserves help provide the financial flexibility needed to make these purchases when necessary, ensuring that the charity remains operational and effective.
3. Developing Long-Term Facilities: In line with our long-term goals, reserves are also held to develop and maintain long-term facilities that will support the charity's ongoing growth. This includes improvements to our premises or investments in infrastructure that will enhance our ability to deliver high-quality services to beneficiaries.

Amount of Reserves:

We aim to hold reserves that are sufficient to cover these potential costs and to safeguard the charity's future, particularly in periods of financial uncertainty or in the event of a shortfall in regular income. The amount of reserves will be reviewed regularly by the trustees to ensure they remain adequate to meet the charity's needs. Currently a large part of our reserves is ring fenced as wages so that we can continue to employ staff and provide the increased number of sessions.

In summary, our reserves are held to ensure the charity can continue its operations smoothly, respond to unexpected costs, and invest in the future development of our services. Holding reserves provides financial security and supports the charity's mission in the long term.

Reasons for Holding Zero Reserves (SORP 1.22)

Equine Partners CIO currently holds reserves to ensure continued service for our beneficiaries

Details of fund materially in deficit (SORP 1.24)

There are no funds in deficit

Going Concern Statement (1.23)

The trustees are confident that Equine Partners CIO will continue to operate as a going concern for the foreseeable future. Despite challenges faced over the years, including the transition from a CIC to a CIO and external financial pressures, the charity has consistently demonstrated resilience and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

Key Factors Supporting Going Concern:

1. Resilience in Adverse Conditions: Over the years, the charity has successfully weathered several challenges, including economic downturns and fluctuating funding conditions. Our ability to adapt, innovate, and remain committed to our mission has been a key strength. This resilience gives us confidence in our ongoing viability.
2. Solid Base of Commissioned Work: We have built a strong and reliable base of commissioned work, which provides a steady stream of income. This commissioned work helps secure funding and ensures that we have predictable revenue streams, placing the charity in a strong position to meet its financial obligations and continue delivering services to our beneficiaries.
3. Proven Track Record: The charity's track record of successfully securing funding and delivering high-quality services further strengthens our position. AS a CIC and then a CIO we have been running since 2011. Our dedicated team, supportive community, and the trust we have built with funders and stakeholders contribute to our confidence in continuing operations.

In conclusion, while uncertainties are a natural part of any charity's operations, we are confident that Equine Partners CIO is in a strong position to continue as a going concern. Our resilience, combined with a solid financial base and ongoing support, provides a strong foundation for the charity's future growth and sustainability.

Principal Sources of Funds (1.47)

Equine Partners CIO relies on a variety of funding sources to support its operations and deliver its services. These principal sources of funds include:

1. Commissioned Work: The charity has established a solid base of commissioned work with local authorities, schools, and other organizations. This provides a steady and predictable stream of income, enabling the charity to fund its therapeutic programs and other services. Commissioned work includes contracts for providing therapeutic horsemanship and equine-assisted learning sessions, as well as educational workshops for parents and educators.
2. Grant Funding: Equine Partners CIO actively seeks grant funding from charitable foundations, trusts, and other organizations that support initiatives related to social inclusion, disability, and mental health. These grants are typically project-specific or intended to support the charity's ongoing operational needs.
3. Fundraising Activities: The charity conducts a variety of fundraising activities, including events and online campaigns. These efforts help raise essential funds and raise awareness of the charity's work within the local community. Fundraising events may include sponsored activities, auctions, donation drives and an annual open day.
4. Donations: Individual donations from supporters, both one-off and regular, form an important part of the charity's funding. These donations come from community members, private individuals, and supporters who believe in the charity's mission and want to contribute to its work. We use a fundraising platform to enable us to benefit from gift aid.
5. In-Kind Contributions: Our Volunteers are our biggest resource and contribute hugely to the running of the project. As well as supporting sessions they provide site maintenance, both on a daily basis and specific tasks that require more skills such as carpentry and plumbing

These diverse funding sources allow Equine Partners CIO to maintain financial sustainability while providing high-quality therapeutic services to individuals facing physical, mental, and emotional challenges. The charity's ability to secure funds through a mix of commissioned work, grants,

fundraising, and donations ensures that it can continue delivering its programs and expanding its reach in the community.

Investment Policy and Objectives (SORP 1.46)

Equine Partners CIO's investment policy is designed to ensure that any funds not immediately required for the charity's day-to-day operations are managed responsibly and in a way that aligns with the charity's values and mission. The policy prioritizes financial security and stability while maintaining the flexibility needed to support the charity's charitable activities. The charity does not seek to generate profits from investments, but rather aims to preserve capital and ensure the availability of funds when needed.
Key Objectives of the Investment Policy:

1. Capital Preservation: The primary objective is to preserve the value of any reserves or surplus funds held by the charity. This ensures that funds are available to meet future liabilities or to address unexpected financial needs, without risking significant losses. We use a reserve bank account which pays interest for any designated funds and any monies that are not immediately required for day to day running costs
2. Liquidity: The charity's investments are chosen with liquidity in mind, ensuring that funds can be accessed easily when needed for operational expenses or to fund programs. Investments are made in low-risk, highly liquid vehicles to provide the charity with flexibility.
3. Ethical and Responsible Investment: All investments must be aligned with the charity's mission and values. Equine Partners CIO has a strict policy to only invest in assets that do not conflict with the charity's ethical standards or charitable purposes. The charity will avoid investments that may support industries or activities contrary to its focus on social inclusion, animal welfare, and human health and well-being.
4. Minimal Risk: Given the charity's reliance on fundraising and the uncertainty of some income streams, investments will be made in low-risk, secure vehicles such as savings accounts, or other safe financial instruments that minimize exposure to market volatility.
5. Compliance with Charity Law: The charity will ensure that all investment activities comply with relevant charity law and regulations, particularly those outlined by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.
6. We do not invest in other organisations. All funds are used directly to provide services for our beneficiaries

Principal Risks Facing the Charity (SORP 1.46)

Equine Partners CIO, like all charitable organizations, faces a number of risks that could impact its ability to deliver services and achieve its mission. Below is a description of the principal risks identified by the charity, along with the strategies in place to mitigate them:
1. Funding and Financial Stability

- Risk: A significant portion of the charity's income is dependent on external funding sources, including grants, commissioned work, and fundraising activities. There is a risk that these income streams could fluctuate or decrease, especially given economic pressures or the transition from a CIC to a CIO.
- Mitigation: The charity works to diversify its income sources, including seeking new funding opportunities and establishing strong relationships with funders. Regular monitoring of cash flow and ongoing fundraising efforts help ensure financial stability. Additionally, the charity maintains a contingency plan to respond to unexpected financial shortfalls.

2. Economic Impact of the Cost of Living Crisis

- Risk: The ongoing cost of living crisis may affect the charity's ability to attract donations, secure funding, or maintain affordable services for beneficiaries. Increased operational costs,

such as for veterinary care, staff wages, and horse feed, could place a strain on the charity's finances.
- Mitigation: The charity continues to focus on efficient financial management and cost-effective delivery of services. Efforts are made to maintain strong relationships with existing funders, and new sources of funding, including grants and partnerships, are regularly explored.

3. Reliance on Volunteers
   - Risk: The charity relies heavily on volunteers to support its programs and day-to-day operations. A reduction in the number of active volunteers or a shortage of skilled volunteers could impact the delivery of services.
   - Mitigation: The charity recruits and trains volunteers to ensure a steady and capable workforce. Regular communication with volunteers and the creation of a supportive environment help retain volunteers. We have two social events a year a summer picnic and a Christmas celebration. We also have a WhatApp group for the volunteers to stay in touch with each other and us. This has developed into a nice social group sharing pictures of the ponies and other interesting things spotted at the yard. The charity also seeks to expand its pool of volunteers and ensure succession planning. We are privileged to have a great team of committed and supportive volunteers
4. Regulatory and Legal Compliance
   - Risk: Changes in regulatory requirements or non-compliance with charity law could pose risks to the charity's operations. The charity must ensure that it meets all relevant legal and regulatory obligations, including those outlined by the Charity Commission.
   - Mitigation: The trustees and staff are committed to staying up-to-date with changes in charity law and regulations. Regular audits and reviews are conducted to ensure compliance, and the charity works closely with legal advisors to maintain best practices in governance and operations.

5. Operational Risk and Service Delivery
   - Risk: Disruptions to service delivery, such as illness, injury to animals, or unforeseen events (e.g., extreme weather or accidents), could affect the charity's ability to meet the needs of its beneficiaries.
   - Mitigation: The charity has contingency plans in place to address operational disruptions. This includes having backup staff, maintaining animal health and safety protocols, and ensuring that equipment and facilities are regularly maintained. The charity also ensures that there are sufficient safeguards in place for health and safety at all times including during therapeutic sessions.
6. Staffing and Retention
   - Risk: The charity faces risks related to staff recruitment and retention, especially in times of financial strain or competition for skilled workers in the nonprofit sector.
   - Mitigation: The charity prioritizes employee well-being and professional development to retain skilled staff. A supportive work environment with a commitment to support our staff develop their areas of interest, help to attract and retain high-quality staff members. The charity also works to create a positive organizational culture that supports both staff and volunteers. We have also received a large legacy which is enabling us to pay a wage at a level to recognise the staff level of skill and will provide the additional income needed for a number of years as it is ring fenced and used sparingly.
7. Reputation and Public Perception
   - Risk: The charity's reputation could be at risk due to poor service delivery, negative publicity, or failure to meet expectations from beneficiaries, funders, or the wider community.
   - Mitigation: The charity actively works to maintain a positive reputation through transparency, clear communication, and high standards of service delivery. Regular feedback from beneficiaries and stakeholders is sought to ensure that the charity's services meet their needs

and expectations. The charity also invests in public relations and community engagement efforts to enhance its visibility and reputation.

8. Animal Welfare and Health
    - Risk: As the charity uses horses and dogs in its therapeutic programs, there are inherent risks related to the health and welfare of the animals. Any illness or injury to the animals could disrupt service delivery.
    - Mitigation: The charity follows strict animal welfare protocols and ensures that all animals receive regular veterinary care. Staff and volunteers are trained to care for the animals appropriately.
9. External Factors (e.g., Pandemics, Natural Disasters)
    - Risk: External events such as pandemics, natural disasters, or political instability could disrupt operations and limit the charity's ability to deliver services.
    - Mitigation: The charity has contingency plans to manage disruptions caused by external factors, including transitioning to remote service delivery when necessary and adapting programs to meet changing circumstances. The charity also maintains a flexible approach to adjusting programs and fundraising efforts in response to unforeseen events. Having survived one pandemic we have a clear plan of how to proceed in these circumstances

Conclusion
Equine Partners CIO has identified and assessed several principal risks that could impact its operations and service delivery. By implementing robust risk management strategies, including diversifying funding sources, maintaining strong compliance and governance frameworks, and ensuring the welfare of both beneficiaries and animals, the charity is well-positioned to mitigate these risks and continue to fulfil its mission of supporting individuals facing physical, mental, and emotional challenges. Regular reviews of the charity's risk management plan are conducted to ensure ongoing resilience and adaptability.

Structure, Governance and Management (SORP 1.25)

Equine Partners CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), formally established by a constitution dated 10th October 2023.

Trustee Selection (SORP 1.25)

Trustees are selected in line with the constitution which is taken from the charities commission template
"(2)Eligibility for trusteeship
(a) Every charity trustee must be a natural person.
(b) No individual may be appointed as a charity trustee of the CIO:
- if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or
- if he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause 12(1)(e)

(c) No one is entitled to act as a charity trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the charity trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of charity trustee.

(d) At least one of the trustees of the CIO must be 18 years of age or over. If there is no trustee aged at least 18 years, the remaining trustees may only act to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee. “

Appointment of charity trustees

“(1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.
(2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.
(3) Trustees can re-stand for election 5 times and must then step down for a year before standing for re- election”

Trustee Training and induction (SORP 1.51)

The charity trustees will make available to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:
(a) a copy of the current version of this constitution; and
(b) a copy of the CIO’s latest Trustees’ Annual Report and statement of accounts

All trustees are required to undertake a DBS check and to read the charity commission guidance on

- The essential trustee, what you need to know , what you need to do
- Safe guarding and protecting people for charities and trustees
- Decision making for trustees

Charity’s Organisational Structure and wider network (SORP 1.51)

Equine Partners CIO is governed by a board of trustees responsible for overseeing the charity’s strategic direction, governance, and financial sustainability. The trustees ensure that the charity operates in line with its constitution and regulatory requirements.
Day-to-day operations are managed by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who deliver Equine Assisted Learning and Therapeutic Horsemanship programs. The charity works collaboratively with local organisations, referral agencies, and community partners to expand its reach and maximise its impact.
Equine Partners CIO is also part of a wider network of equine-assisted service providers, sharing best practices and benefiting from industry developments to enhance the quality of support provided to participants. As members of the European Mentoring and Coaching Council (EMCC UK), we adhere to their professional code of conduct, ensuring high standards in delivery of our services.

Relationship with related parties (SORP 1.51)

Equine Partners CIO maintains strong relationships with various related parties to support its mission and maximise its impact. The charity works closely with local authorities, referral agencies, and funding bodies to provide Equine Assisted Learning and Therapeutic Horsemanship programs to individuals in need. These partnerships help ensure that services are accessible to those facing social exclusion, mental health challenges, or other difficulties.
Safeguarding is a core priority, and Equine Partners CIO adheres to strict safeguarding policies in line with local authority guidelines and national best practices. The charity works collaboratively with safeguarding teams to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, particularly vulnerable children and adults.
Where applicable, trustees, staff, and volunteers disclose any potential conflicts of interest, ensuring transparency and compliance with regulatory requirements. The charity operates independently, with no financial ties to external organisations beyond standard funding agreements and grants.
Additionally, as members of the European Mentoring and Coaching Council (EMCC UK), we align with their professional standards, benefiting from industry best practices and ethical guidelines.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Equine Partners CIO
Other name the charity uses	none
Registered charity number	1205130
Charity's principal address	11 Hillview, High Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9ER

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Frances Hibberd	Cheque signatory Secretary		
2	Joanne Marshall	Chair and Cheque signatory		
3	Elisabeth Hibberd			
4	Gillian Langridge			
5	Lynne Watson			
6	Susan Hollywell	Cheque Signatory		

7	Sophie Joy			
8				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	n/a
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	n/a

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

n/a

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	J M Marshall	F A Hibberd
Full name(s)	Joanne Marshall	Frances Hibberd

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary
Date	30th April 2026	30th April 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Equine Partners CIC	1205130

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/01/2025	To	31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Equine assisted learning	13,693	-	-	13,693	-
Alternative learning provision	-	-	-	-	-
Other services	20,136	-	-	20,136	-
Donations and gift aid	121,618	-	-	121,618	-
Bank interest	53	-	-	53	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	155,499	-	-	155,499	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	155,499	-	-	155,499	-
A3 Payments					
Direct costs	549	-	-	549	-
Animal care	11,574	-	-	11,574	-
Rent	10,200	-	-	10,200	-
Premises costs	1,137	-	-	1,137	-
Staff costs	41,645	-	-	41,645	-
Advertising	66	-	-	66	-
Office expenses	710	-	-	710	-
Professional fees	2,209	-	-	2,209	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	68,090	-	-	68,090	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Equipment purchases	24,250	-	-	24,250	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	24,250	-	-	24,250	-
Total payments	92,340	-	-	92,340	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	63,159	-	-	63,159	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	63,159	-	-	63,159	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank and in hand	65,801	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	65,801	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Equipment	Unrestricted	33,010	22,566
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Joanne MARSHALL	30th 4/26
		FRANCES HIBBERD	30/4/26

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name: Equine Partners CIO

On accounts for the year ended 31/12/25

Charity no (if any) 2105130

Set out on pages 1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Noon **Date:** 22/4/26

Name: Teresa Noon

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Chartered Accountant

Address:	The Barn Brighton Road, Lower Beeding, West Sussex, RH13 6PT

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	None