



circles
EQUINE

HORSES FOR COURSES

person centred learning experience for secondary school students

Horses For Courses

Horses for Courses is totally person centred. A course can be designed around each individual and their own personal development needs. Learning is offered through practical hands-on experiences with our equine team and can be delivered on a 1:1 basis or in a small group.

Our project facilitators are highly experienced and specialise in working with children, young people and adults from all backgrounds and with a range of abilities.

Horses for Courses will work on three main areas:

- Stable Management
- Self-Confidence and Self-Improvement
- Educational Development in numeracy, literacy, arts and music



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Do you support a young person looking to develop their skills and personal development through the world of horses?

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What is Stable Management?

Stable Management covers all areas of horse care except riding. It includes all aspects of owning and looking after a horse. It can include, but is not limited to: tack and saddlery, paddock maintenance, basic veterinary skills, show preparation, foot care and shoeing, welfare and emotional wellbeing, anatomy of the horse, conformation, conditioning, observation and treatment of injury and illness, feeding and lots more. Some stable management knowledge can be a good foundation for going on to an equine college course or achieving a job within the equine industry.

Throughout this course there is also the opportunity to learn about and explore different methods of training. With each section that is covered there is the opportunity to build in academic learning. For example: weighing out feed and recording the horse's body weight, creating tables and graphs, using arts and crafts to create a journal, using literacy skills to record new discoveries, researching, recording, evaluating and fact finding.

How does it work?

- Much of this programme can be delivered outdoors or in ordinary rooms rather than in classrooms. Each participant will be supported to work through a range of modules, which will be broken down into achievable tasks. As each task is completed the facilitator will sign this off until the whole module is complete. Throughout the course the individual will have the opportunity to create their own portfolio; this can be done through a range of media such as photos, creative journaling and artistic expression as well as written work. As each module is completed and signed off, the individual will be awarded a certificate, to evidence specific achievement.
- We offer this course at a number of different levels to suit a diverse range of people's abilities. From NVQ to entry level, we aim to complement any curriculum a young person may be studying. As each module is accomplished the participant can progress to higher levels. This course will also be of benefit to young people wishing to gain work experience.
- The relevant costs are determined on a person to person level and are often paid through education or self-directed support budgets.

Who will benefit from this?

There are many young people who will benefit from this programme. The following short descriptions give some examples of recent successes.

Horses for Courses has provided a young lady with Asperger's the opportunity to develop her skills and confidence around horses which has helped her to move onto NVQ courses in animal care at college.

A teenage boy with ADHD has found that this course has given him a focus into an area he didn't realise he had any interest in and he is now studying this.

A young adult with severe autism, who was unable to find a place at a local college, is now able to have a full time alternative educational place with us and to take on tasks such as feeding the horses independently.

A young person out of school due to intense anxiety was able to study with us and then sit her GCSEs with invigilators at our base.

Circles Network is prepared to work with any young person experiencing disability or disadvantage in a truly inclusive way. The young people do not need to have horse related experience to be accepted and we have already seen many positive benefits in people who wish to:

- Learn more about horse care
- Study equine or animal related courses at college
- Seek an alternative education programme
- Follow a career working with horses
- Build self-confidence and self-improvement
- Try something new, in a different environment
- Develop numeracy and literacy, art or music skills through a more hands on approach

Circles Network is a not for profit based charity with over 23 years' experience of working with individuals and families in a truly inclusive and person centred way.

We have become well known for creating successful equine centred programmes, such as our Taking The Reins project, funded by BBC Children in Need delivering support to disabled and disadvantaged children and young people. Equine facilitated learning offers a fusion of education, therapy, personal development and fun.

To find out more please contact our Horses For Courses team on 01788 816671 or email info@circlesnetwork.org.uk

