

Equine Operations Manager

Job Purpose

This role will work closely with the Business and Development Manager and the Board of Trustees to deliver the Centre's Aims and Objectives.

It will encourage a collaborative and open team culture.

The new manager will work with the existing yard team to ensure that the Equine Team is able to meet the needs of the Centre's activities and together with the rest of the yard team will lead on the delivery of coaching and other activities to participants.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. To lead all matters relating to the Equine team.

This will include the health and welfare of the equine team, liaison with veterinary, physiotherapists, farriers and other support services, management of grazing and field infrastructure, and the maintaining of records required for registration purposes and in line with animal welfare regulations.

2. To monitor the composition of the Equine Team.

This will include monitoring the composition of the equine team and ensuring its capacity to deliver the Centre's needs and sourcing, assessing and training new horses and ponies.

3. To lead in the management and the operation of the Yard.

This will include management of Yard staff, procedures for Yard operation and staff planning and rotas and identifying the potential support that Volunteers can offer.

4. To lead on the delivery of coaching.

This will include the delivery of coaching including the identification of required staffing, lesson organisation, content, evaluation and recording, the

establishment of coaching standards and training to maintain RDA and BHS recommended practices, identifying potential new coaches and supporting them in their training, the delivery of coaching using the Racewood Dressage Simulator.

- 5. To lead on special events involving the Equine Team.**
This will include collaborative work with others to deliver events and competitions and the organisation of Pony Club and other Pony Care activities.

 - 6. To lead on the provision of Equine Therapies.**
This will include delivery of the hippotherapy programme and the identification of other suitable horse based therapies and the client groups that may benefit from them.

 - 7. To support participants in the Centre's programmes.**
This will include implementing a framework for participant engagement, identifying participant needs for support and development and identifying the development needs of volunteers.

 - 8. To ensuring the health and safety of staff, participants and volunteers engaging in equine related activities**

 - 9. To be the designated lead on Safeguarding.**

 - 10. To prepare reports for and attend Board of Trustees meetings.**

 - 11. To adhere to and implement the Centre's Values and Code of Conduct Framework.**

 - 12. To liaise with RDA National Office, RDA region, and other RDA groups to ensure the Centre follows all RDA procedures and guidance. To liaise with BHS and British Dressage.**

 - 13. Any other reasonable duties that may be allocated from time to time commensurate with the grading of the post.**
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NOTES

The Unicorn Centre, a registered charity, is a purpose built riding for the disabled facility which offers riding therapy and learning and training opportunities for disabled adults and children from the Tees Valley area each week. Opening in 1998, the Centre is an established part of the local community, with a strong contingent of local volunteers who assist with riding lessons each week.

The Unicorn Centre's mission is to improve the lives of disabled people through the medium of horses.

The Centre works across the spectrum of disabilities, age range, social status and environments. Our focus is to ensure that each individual is given the chance to derive a direct therapeutic benefit and the opportunity to achieve their full potential, whether that be sitting with support astride a pony and riding down one side of the arena or competing at Paralympic dressage level.

The Unicorn Centre is a member group of the national Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), (although is autonomous in its own right as a separate, independent, registered charity) and as such shares three principal objectives;

- Developing and supporting opportunities for therapy
- Developing and supporting opportunities for achievement
- Enabling physical activity and enjoyment

The Unicorn Centre gives all its riders the opportunity to reach therapeutic goals and personal ambitions, to develop life skills and often to combat social isolation. Riders are also encouraged to develop a caring attitude and to connect with our wonderful and specially trained horses and ponies, without whom the Centre could not deliver its valuable service.

The Unicorn Centre has six core values, which underpin all our activities:

- To provide a high quality service in all it does
- To value the input of people at all levels and to be positive about their achievements – whether as a rider, volunteer or staff member
- To emphasise the importance of training and achievement for all riders, volunteers and staff members
- To value the input of participants in deciding its future
- To be accessible to all – whether as a rider or as a volunteer
- To be professionally run, communicating openly at all levels and to be financially transparent

The Centre receives no core funding, and relies entirely on lessons, hiring and training fees, fundraising, donations and grants to cover all costs. Approximately £300,000 per year is required to maintain the existing levels of operation.

Unicorn Centre

The Unicorn Centre has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and has been closed for on-site activities for the majority of the time since March 2020. This has had a profound effect on finances, and the support of fundraising, donations and grants has been vital to help pay staff wages, horse care costs and overheads.
