



**EAST LIVERPOOL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**  
**UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

# **EAST LIVERPOOL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

## **CHARITY INFORMATION**

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<b>Trustees</b>	Lynn Robinson Pauline Edge Carole Burns Freddy Carpen-Jukes Mary Angela Heatherington Natalie Burns Jane Alison Owens
<b>Chair</b>	Natalie Burns
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carole Burns
<b>Charity number</b>	1175033
<b>Registered address</b>	7 Montgomery Road Whiston Prescot L35 3RD
<b>Activity Address</b>	Woodhouse Stables School Lane Rainhill L35 6NW

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# EAST LIVERPOOL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

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# EAST LIVERPOOL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

## TRUSTEES REPORT

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the period ending 31 March 2021.

### Chairpersons' introduction

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the annual report which sets out, for all our volunteers, supporters, and members of the general public our achievements and growth in the past 12 months.

With an insight into our future and development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairperson, Angela Hetherington, for her continued effort, support and guidance throughout the early years of the charity's growth. Angela has agreed to remain as a Trustee and has been invaluable in her guidance and support of the Charity's founder Natalie and will remain an asset and advisor on the board in her role as Trustee.

### Introduction

East Liverpool RDA was founded in 2017 by Natalie Burns a keen horse rider and competitor in the industry who earlier this year became Chairperson. Natalie has developed this Charity with significant personal investment and that of her mother, Carole. Natalie set up Charity at 27 years old wanting to have equine assisted therapy in Liverpool, the City where she grew up and to meet a personal goal, to open a registered charity.

The Charity has been built up initially with use of the family's own equines, thus enabling the ride sessions to get underway and for the Charity to reach its participants.

The Charity was initially set up as part of a wider commercial stables within the area, however the Charity needed to relocate. The move meant that the Charity had to build stables and further purchase equines that now belong to the Charity to enhance the income to maintain and run the Charity in a purposeful facility.

The achievements of this Charity have been phenomenal; in the past 5 years the obstacles and pressures we have overcome have made us a resilient and dedicated group of volunteers and a community asset.

East Liverpool RDA continues to grow and reach individuals in the community that would not ordinarily have access to this sport or may think it is out of reach. **IT'S WHAT YOU CAN DO THAT COUNTS.**

East Liverpool Riding for the Disabled is a Merseyside based Charity that works within the local community to provide horse riding and therapy sessions for children and adults with disabilities across our area. This Charity is a truly voluntary organisation. We are led by volunteers and funded by kind-hearted people who make donations, provide funding and grants.

East Liverpool RDA brings together individuals, carers and families from all different backgrounds and allows them escape the struggles and hardships they have to face in daily life. Our sessions give our riders and participants social and interactive skills but most importantly it brings enjoyment and fulfilment to their lives. Sessions give carers and families the chance to take respite of the demands their role of caring for a person living with disability can bring.

We are self-contained within a sole use property adapted to our needs.

### Aims and Purpose

To provide the opportunity for disabled children and adults to benefit from the positive experience of horse riding, contact, care and stable management. Our priority is to improve the lives, promote wellbeing and enhance the health of those in our area who would most benefit from what we are able to offer.

# EAST LIVERPOOL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED TRUSTEES REPORT

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## **Objectives and Activities**

Sessions are provided for participants from across Merseyside. The therapeutic benefits of being around horses, to not only ride but also to be in contact with horses is tremendous. The benefits of horse riding are immense enjoyment, mental fitness, and stimulation in the open outside fresh air.

There are significantly more physical benefits in terms of enhancing balance, developing core strength, co-ordination, reflex acceleration, etc., the emotional experience of bonding with the horse or pony and often immeasurable improvements in terms of patience, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-esteem and self-worth.

We are set up in an area of significant deprivation within Merseyside and reach participants with a huge range of disabilities; physical, mental, emotional, and learning. We engage those of all ages and abilities from a variety of backgrounds. We utilise an inclusivity programme that we established to ensure that participants can access our service without prejudice. As such this programme enables sessions to be subsidised, should they face a barrier. This ensures the community benefit derived from our service.

Adults and children (who may spend a lot of their time struggling) can learn to ride and for those with problems with mobility the horse or pony enables them to be an equal in speed, grace and agility in the arena.

Whatever the activity our participants engage in, that be riding, care tasks, quiet corner, or contact sessions, the feedback is captured by questionnaires and by engaging in conversation with carers and parents. The feed back to date reflects our efforts to expand and is showing that we are a valued and welcomed asset to the community.

We aim to enhance self-belief, self-worth and confidence. Being around horses provides a multi-sensory experience, simply stroking horses, hearing and using motor skills to partake in activity or care tasks is hugely beneficial and rewarding to our participants.

Due to the global pandemic, rides and associated activities had all stopped on 16 March; thus having an impact on all our income streams.



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## TRUSTEES REPORT

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### **Volunteers**

We would like to thank our group of extremely dedicated volunteers, without who, we would not be able to operate as we do.

Our volunteers have stood by the beliefs and upheld the Charity through very difficult times showing dedication through the Covid-19 pandemic and helping us to remain resilient. It is fair to say, we are in a very strong position for all their work.

Your dedication and commitment to the Charity is admirable and the Board wishes to thank you all for your effort and commitment when the Charity really needed the support.

The Board are committed to ensuring the recruitment of volunteers from a diverse area within our community and a group of volunteers on the Board that reflects the needs of the participants.

The Board are focused on ensuring that the volunteers and trustees are adequately trained and constantly reviewing the practise and need to adapt as required to current changes.

The training programme for volunteers is established and updated regularly in conjunction with volunteer feedback and participant views. Volunteers have access to all procedures and policies and access to dedicated trustees for Safeguarding.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

East Liverpool RDA was established in 2017 registered with the Charities Commission of England and Wales and we adopted the Articles of Management recommended by RDA National Office at our inaugural meeting on 1st July.

We immediately took the necessary steps to register at Charities Commission our Registered Charity no. is: 1175033.

Accounts are submitted annually to the Charities Commission.

East Liverpool RDA Group is a Member Group of the Riding for the Disabled Association. The RDA National is registered as a Charitable Company Limited (no:5010395) by Guarantee governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and registered charity number 244108.

The Charity is constituted and run by the Trustees, although matters will generally be settled by consensus, they are the only members to have voting rights. Additional Full Members (with voting rights) need to be proposed and seconded by existing members and approved by the Committee at a scheduled meeting. In pursuing a desirable expansion of voting membership it must be borne in mind that a quorum at a General Meeting requires 35% of members to attend.

Although various responsibilities are delegated to individual members of the Committee, every effort will be made to keep the Committee informed of any significant developments. The Secretary will maintain a list of voting members and details of the allocation of specific responsibilities.

Meetings will be held at least four times a year with a minimum of four weeks' notice and an agenda circulated no fewer than ten days beforehand. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer should feel empowered (in consultation with each other) to take any necessary decisions between scheduled meetings.

The Group operates independently of any single Equestrian Centre or Riding School.

The Charity's board of trustees is developed in a way that allows a clear line of communication depending on role and concern. Each trustee is appointed to ensure that each role within the Charity was fairly represented. As such we appointed trustees into the following roles: we have 2 safeguarding officers. These roles are given in addition to each board member's role. The aim of this allocated role is set out in a role specification given to each member, this is to ensure clear communication, order, and best practise. All trustees have access to policies, procedures and legal advice as required.

The legal responsibility for the direction and administration of the Charity rests with the elected Trustees. The Trustees are required to submit themselves for re-election at the Annual General Meeting which is held in September in accordance with the Charity's Constitution.

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### **Achievements and Performance**

We presently cater for participants with a wide range of physical and mental disabilities such as autism and cerebral palsy, participants with deafness, heart-hand syndromes, learning disabilities, developmental delay, Down's syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, hydrocephalus, Microcephaly, Kawasaki disease, spina bifida, as well as several others. This year we have seen a significant increase in participants with Mental Health problems and those struggling the long-term effects of the pandemic C19. The demand for sessions has increased significantly for us this year, we can foresee an increase in demand due to changes globally and pressures of the current pandemic. As a result we have added a further 2 therapy days to enable us to cater for more participants.

With the exception of East Liverpool RDA, there are very few opportunities in the areas we serve for adults and children with disabilities to learn to ride within a supportive, RDA-approved environment, taught by RDA qualified coaches.

Previously volunteers have provided our riders with the opportunity for unique success in Regional and National competitions in previous years but unfortunately this year C19 meant this was unable to happen; usually an amazing experience that will only be more amazing when we are able to attend again when restrictions allow.

This year has seen a huge development for our Charity in the purchase of stables and ponies to provide sessions. We have taken on new programmes to adapt in the change needed in our geographical area.

Quiet Corner is a new endeavour for the Charity to enable participants to spend time with our equines and enjoy the company that it brings in a safe and outdoor space. This became an activity enjoyed by participants that due to restrictions could not actually ride the horses but could have on the ground contact. This programme has been tweaked and is remaining as part of the timetable.

### **Policy on Reserves**

The Charity's policy on reserves is to generate and maintain a balance which is sufficient: a) to preserve the financial viability of the Charity in the event that unforeseen and/or unavoidable circumstance precipitate a short-term fall in its income; b) to enable the Charity, in the interests of meeting its objectives, to undertake from time to time the setting up of new and innovative projects on a pilot basis to demonstrate the viability and potential benefits of such activities as a precursor to securing the external funding necessary to maintain such projects on an on-going basis. For these purposes the Charity will endeavour to generate and maintain reserves which are at least 50% of its annual turnover.

The results for the year and the Charity's financial position at the end of the year are shown in the attached financial statements. The Trustees are satisfied with the overall position and can confirm the Charity has the resources to fully discharge its obligations.

### **Financial Review**

The total income was £56,862 and the main source of income continues to be from fundraising and grants. Throughout lockdown during the pandemic we saw an increase in sponsorship of our equines.

A total of £22,000 was restricted towards running costs through C19 and the upkeep of the equines.

A further significant source of income was from ride sessions provided to individuals this has significantly increased due to establishing our premises and purchasing a further 2 equines.

We note a difference in respect of the amount forecast in relation to rider contributions this being due to C19 and the Government closure of the facility. £5,742 which reflects approximately 7 months closure.

The remainder of income came from sponsorship of ponies and individual donations.

Expenditure this year is a reflection of costs incurred in a full 12 months at our new facility. However, we note that several of the months we were subject to the Government closure. Throughout lockdown every effort was made to minimise expense and maximise income in order to ensure the longevity of the Charity.

The Trustees wish to thank our participants first for their financial support through sponsorship and donations at a time we recognise was hard for many. Secondly, the Trustees wish to thank RDA UK and their donors for the financial support with the Insurance Premium for the year.

# EAST LIVERPOOL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	7,220	4,139
Fundraising	42,375	12,366
Riding Sessions	5,742	10,312
Sponsorship of horses	<u>1,525</u>	<u>610</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>56,862</b>	<b>27,427</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Insurance	0	975
Rent	12,225	6,595
Sundries	820	726
Competitions	0	0
Clothing/uniform/hats	123	0
Charity Expansion	7,028	7,707
Equipment	2,245	1,237
Feed/Bedding	10,167	4,543
Health:farrier/vets/dentist/physio/wormers	4,103	1,158
Tack	12	1,415
Computer/Technology/Website	114	0
Vehicle Maintenance	4,706	0
Volunteer expenses	254	0
Yard maintenance	5,284	1,721
Training	90	241
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>47,170</b>	<b>26,317</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>9,691</b>	<b>1,110</b>

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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act")
- the account do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed   
 Name: Peter McDonald  
 FCA

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022



# EAST LIVERPOOL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

## ASSET LISTING

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### Assets

2 Wooden Stables	£3,140
2 Ponies	£4,100
2 Saddles	£2,400
Overhead Hoist	£800
Horsebox	£4,700
Stable Mats	£554
Horse Shower	£200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15.894</b>