

Devon Healing Horsemanship

Charity Registration number 1203138



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2023 / 2024

For the Period from 18 May 2023 to 31 March 2024



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Charity information

DEVON HEALING HORSEMANSHIP
CHARITY INFORMATION FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees on 31 March 2024

Marie Whitaker: Chair of Trustees

Elle Bradley

Matthew Walker

Dianne Haines

The following persons also served as a Trustee during part of the year ending 31 March 2024

Hoagy Burton

Registered Address

Langarra, Dean Hill Road, Willand, Devon EX12 2PG

Constitution

Registered on the 18 May 2023 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales number 1203138

Independent Examiner

Allan Jennings

27 Lasswade Road

Chertsey

Surrey

KT16 9HZ

Bank

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Bank Limited

25 Kings Hill Avenue

Kings Hill

West Malling

Kent

ME18 4JQ

Letter from the CEO



Louise Broadway

FOUNDER & CEO
DEVON HEALING HORSEMANSHIP

Founding Devon Healing Horsemanship has been a deeply personal journey, driven by a desire to provide an effective alternative to talk-based therapy for those who find it challenging or ineffective.

As a Romany Gypsy with lived experience of bullying, anxiety, depression, and ASC. I understand the challenges many of our participants face, including what it means to feel excluded.

This perspective has shaped our mission to create a welcoming, supportive space that delivers real, measurable outcomes through equine-assisted interventions.

Our first year, from registration in May 2023 to delivering our first sessions in March 2024, focused on building strong foundations. We located an ideal arena—a quiet, welcoming environment perfect for individuals with severe anxiety, many of whom are stepping outside their comfort zones. We developed robust safeguarding, financial, and operational policies and established flexible agreements with the arena owner, accredited TheHorseCourse facilitators, and horse owners. These agreements allow us to pay on an hourly basis, ensuring financial flexibility and keeping our overheads low.

Our initial sessions exceeded expectations, delivering remarkable results and enabling participants to make meaningful improvements in their mental health. These successes affirm the value of the work we do and the impact we can have on those who need us most.

I am deeply grateful for the dedicated trustees, volunteers, and supporters who have made this possible. Together, we've built a stable foundation for a transformative charity, and I look forward to continuing to change lives in the years to come.

Thank you.

LOUISE BROADWAY

Introduction

Trustees' Report

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statement for the year 2023 / 2024. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out by the Charity Commission and comply with the charity's constitution.

Background

Devon Healing Horsemanship was registered as a charity on 18 May 2023 with a mission to transform lives through equine-assisted support. The period leading up to our first course in March 2024 was dedicated to careful preparation, including developing robust safeguarding policies, securing the ideal location for our sessions, and laying the groundwork for a safe, impactful, and sustainable program. This thoughtful planning ensured we could deliver the highest standard of care and support to our participants from the outset.

This annual report reflects on our impactful first year, highlighting the strides we've made to reduce social exclusion and improve mental health and well-being in our community. It showcases how our funds are making a real difference and celebrates the work we deliver with the help of our incredible network of participants, volunteers, donors, and supporters who make up the DHH family.

Structure, Governance and Management

The organisation is controlled by its constitution which was adopted on 18 May 2023 and registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) by the Charity Commission of England and Wales.

In appointing the first Trustees the objective was to recruit a group of people with skills, knowledge and experience for the effective administration of the Charity both to oversee the governance and management of the Charity. Trustees are recruited in line with a Trustee Role Description and our Safer Recruitment Policy (including DBS check).

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of 3 years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the trustees must have regards to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Objectives & Activities



Charity Objectives

The Objects of the CIO - Devon Healing Horsemanship, as set out in its governing document, are to relieve the needs of adults and children/young people aged 8 and over living in Devon and the surrounding areas with (either diagnosed or un-diagnosed) mental, emotional, or sensory disabilities/disorders/illnesses and/or problematic behaviours, who are not making progress with mainstream talking therapies, through: a) the provision of equine assisted therapy programmes designed to promote their health and wellbeing and rehabilitation and to support them to engage fully in education, training or work through the development of core skills; (b) advancing the education of those supporting such people.

Activities

We are dedicated to creating a welcoming and supportive environment where individuals facing mental, emotional, and sensory challenges, as well as problematic behaviours, can achieve measurable progress. In alignment with our charitable purposes, our primary activities focus on delivering transformative, evidence-based equine-assisted interventions. These interventions serve as effective alternatives to traditional talk-based therapies. Central to our work is the ReStart programme, complemented by our lighter-touch sessions, both of which are detailed on the following pages.

The Trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have regards to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Programmes Launched

We are proud to be one of the 11 organisations in the UK (and the only charity in Devon) accredited to deliver the well-evidenced TheHorseCourse equine-assisted programmes.

In March 2024 we launched our first equine assisted sessions offering the flagship TheHorseCourse ReStart programme and lighter touch sessions.

Services	Details
ReStart	Our flagship, evidence-based equine-assisted behaviour change programme. By referral only from professionals in mental health, social work or education. 1:1 for 2-2.5 hours a day, over 4-5 consecutive days. Participants learn the eight psycho-social skills shown on the next page, and take home our Skills Star, a video and photos. We provide a detailed handback to the professional referrer. Primary research shows these eight core skills generalise into real life outcomes long term.
Lighter Touch	Various session types of 1–2.5 hours, focusing on one or more Star Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tasters or Top ups for ReStart participants, 1-to-1 or family groups• Highlight sessions, usually at a 3:1 ratio, we can accommodate groups of up to 12 people. Suitable for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Groups to work on a single issue, eg assertiveness, or as a taster for the ReStart programme- Frontline workers with clients for relationship-building

The ReStart Programme

ReStart participants have serious difficulties (studies show they typically have more than four from the list below). And they are referred because talk-based support is not working for them. We specialise in helping people who are disengaged or stuck.

We teach, rehearse and repeat 8 key psycho-social skills (see THC Star) in an intensive and challenging, but fun, 4-5 day programme with feedback in-the-moment from specially trained horses and 1-to-1 facilitator support.

Anxiety diagnosis	disengaged	offending
ADHD	self harming	domestic violence
Autistic spectrum	suicidal	neglect / abuse
PTSD	bullying	difficult family dynamics
not attending school	anger management issues	family with mental health problems
not attending training or work	being bullied	living in care, leaving care /at risk of
relationship difficulties	risk taking behaviour	going into care
mood swings/impulsivity	drug & alcohol misuse	from area of high deprivation
		homeless

THE CHANGE JOURNEY

NON-VERBAL TECHNIQUES ARE USED TO
CALM AND ENGAGE
CHALLENGING PARTICIPANTS

HORSEMANSHIP TASKS TEACH
8 CORE SKILLS ON THE THC STAR

SPECIALLY TRAINED HORSES GIVE
FEEDBACK & REWARD IN THE MOMENT

REFLECTIVE SESSION

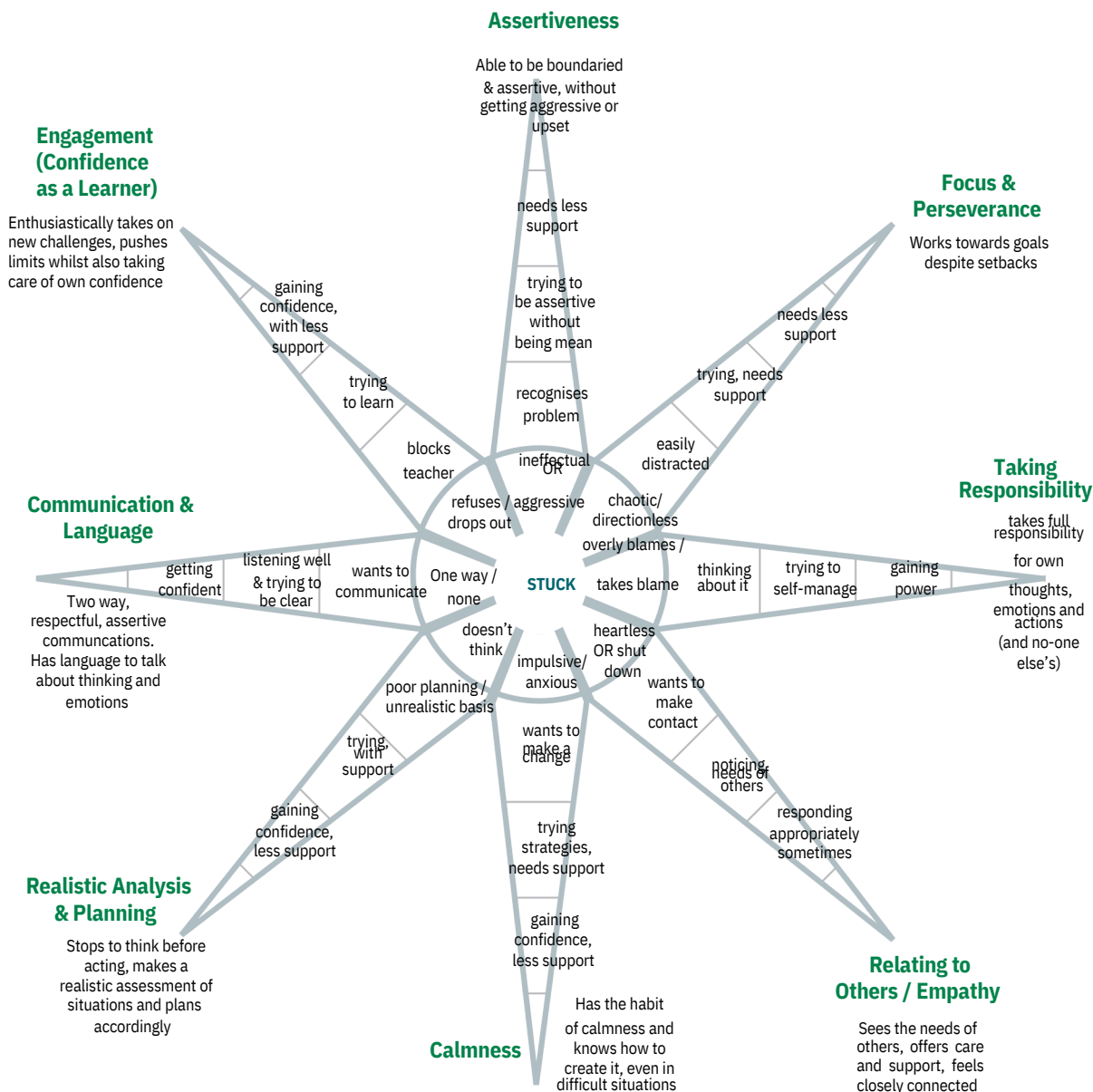
CERTIFICATE ASSESSMENT
(Horsemanship Level 1)
FAMILY / PEER INVOLVEMENT

HANDBACK TO PROFESSIONAL

EQUINE-ASSISTED SERVICES

We do very little talking - the ReStart course is action-based, designed to interrupt participants' usual thinking and emotional responses, whilst responsive to their pace and needs. It is effective because of the challenging programme of activities in which people succeed only by altering their presentation in response to coaching from expert facilitators. They learn and rehearse the eight skills shown on the THC Skills Star below and positive habits are rewarded with success in an urgent context with clear feedback from unbiased, sensitive and expressive horses. In the final session the facilitator and participant reflect on our Skills Star and talk through successful strategies that can be taken away into real life. Our lighter touch sessions also focus on one or several of these 8 skills. The ReStart was designed within a 3 year action-research project in partnership with two universities. Our success relies strongly on the style and quality of our horsemanship and our rigorous staff training. We test everything we do through robust external evaluation.

THC SKILLS STAR



Reporting and evaluation

We have rigorous evaluation process to ensure our programs are effective, impactful, and continually improving.

As providers of TheHorseCourse ReStart Programme, a highly structured and evidence-based intervention. We evaluate our courses inline with their detailed Theory of Change framework which was published as an exemplar by New Philanthropy Capital and includes measurable outcomes in eight psycho-social skills:

- Calmness
- Assertiveness
- Communication
- Responsibility (for emotions, thoughts, and behaviors)
- Engagement/Confidence as a learner
- Focus and Perseverance
- Empathy
- Realistic Analysis and Planning

Measurement Tools

We use the THC Skills Star, a validated tool to measure progress across the eight skills on a scale of 0-4:

- Initial Assessment: Referrers rate participants' skills before starting the course
- End-of-Course Assessment: Facilitators and participants assess progress during the final session, comparing "before" and "after" scores
- Follow-Up Assessment: Two months post-course, referrers and participants evaluate sustained progress

Intermediate Outcomes

2 months post course we monitor broader outcomes, including:

- Reduced problem behaviours
- Improved relationships
- Better engagement with school, work, or training
- Enhanced self-belief and identity
- Improved mental health

Participants and their families, as well as referrers, provide qualitative and quantitative feedback on these outcomes.

Participant Feedback

- Each participant provides a rating on how helpful they found the course (average score: 9.5/10)
- Open-ended feedback is collected to identify strengths and areas for improvement



Achievements and performance



During the brief reporting period between our first ReStart on 19 March 2024 and the end date of 31 March 2024, we had two participants.

We delivered two ReStart programmes, each consisting of 10 hours of 1-to-1 equine-assisted sessions. However, as one ReStart was still in progress as of 31 March, the total equine-assisted session (EAS) hours for the period was 12.5, rather than the 20 hours that would typically be delivered upon completion.

Despite this short timeframe, the sessions had a profound impact, bringing about meaningful, longer-term changes in the lives of both participants. The transformative outcomes of these sessions are highlighted on the following pages.

Equine Assisted Sessions Delivered

ReStart Participants

2

Lighter touch Participants

0

EAS hours delivered

12.5

Average participant score of our courses out of 10

9.5

% participants who improved in all 8 skills on the THC Skills Star

100%

Participant Feedback

“Brilliant and friendly environment, well worth it as struggling with anxiety. The course has helped me overcome overwhelming stress”

“Not knowing quite what to expect from equine therapy, but realising my 9 year old daughter couldn't take part in talking therapy I was blown away watching my anxious little girl engage with Clips and Louise.

I watched her confidence grow with every session and saw her persevere in situations she previously would have given up in. Along with coping strategies, she took away with her a feeling of self worth, knowing she can achieve hard things”

Participant Success Story

Finding Confidence, Calm, and Connection

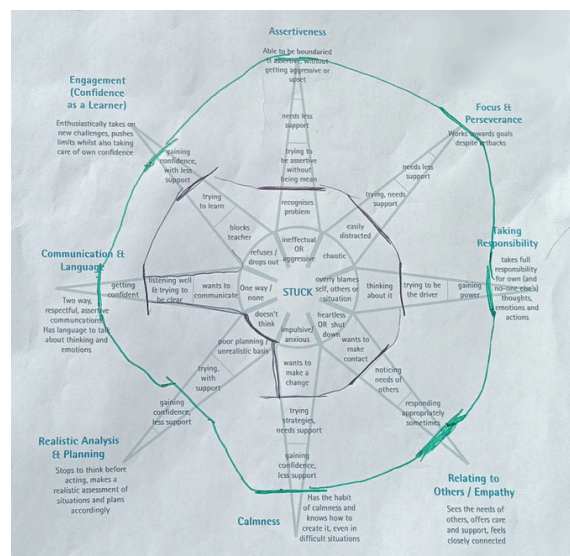
In spring 2024, Devon Healing Horsemanship welcomed one of our first participants, a 10-year-old girl referred by her previous school due to severe anxiety. Diagnosed with autism, her world had become increasingly small—she wasn't attending school, meeting friends, or even leaving her home to walk the dog. The challenges deeply impacted not only her life but also her family's.

Over the course of our 10-hour ReStart Programme, she partnered with our horse, Clips, and embarked on a journey of self-discovery, emotional regulation, and confidence-building. Using a non-verbal, action-based approach, she learned eight core psycho-social skills such as calmness, assertiveness, and perseverance. Each session was carefully tailored to her needs, ensuring she felt supported and in control. For instance, she was encouraged to retreat and re-approach challenging tasks, breaking them into manageable steps to build her comfort zone over time.

The progress she made was remarkable. By practicing finding her "neutral"—a state of complete calm and relaxation—she not only connected deeply with Clips but also learned how to self-regulate in stressful situations. Through tasks like guiding Clips backwards through an "L-shape" obstacle, she discovered how staying calm and focused could make difficult tasks achievable. Her perseverance and determination shone, and by the end of the course, she was confidently making choices, solving problems, and tackling new challenges with ease.

The results extended far beyond the sessions. She began attending a forest school, where she made her first-ever friend of her own age, whom she now meets regularly. She also overcame her anxiety enough to navigate a busy airport and enjoy a family holiday—something her family had thought impossible just months before.

Her mother shared: "Her mental health has improved massively. She's more confident, handles her emotions better, and is excited about learning again. We are so grateful for what you've done for her."



This THC Skills Star diagram visually represents the participant's progress across 8 key skills, measured on a scale from 0 at the center to 4 at the outer edge. The inner line shows the participant's starting point on the course, while the outer line represents their growth by the end of the course.

Impact In Numbers

Transforming Lives Through Measurable Outcomes

We are committed to delivering measurable, life-changing outcomes for our participants who have not progressed with traditional talk-based support. Using data from our 2023/2024 participants we compare our results with larger studies on TheHorseCourse (THC) ReStart program. This comparison allows us to showcase the consistency and effectiveness of our approach while also reinforcing the validity of our results through robust external research. Details of the studies can be found at www.thehorsecourse.org/evidence

These statistics show the profound transformations our participants achieve, By aligning with TheHorseCourse’s proven methods, we ensure our work is based on evidence-backed strategies, empowering individuals to overcome barriers and thrive

DHH 2023/2024	Outcomes Measured 2 Months Post-ReStart	THC ReStart (Studies)
100%	ReStart Completion	95%
50%	Improved Mental Health (Anxiety)	33%
100%	Improved Education/Work Engagement	77%
50%	Improved Relationships	81%
50%	Reduction in Problematic Behaviours	83%
100%	Greater Self-Belief and Identity	78%

These results demonstrate that Devon Healing Horsemanship, even in its early stages, is delivering outcomes that align closely with—and in some cases exceed—benchmarks established by TheHorseCourse, the creators of the ReStart Program. While our data is based on a small sample size, it highlights the potential for significant impact as we continue to grow and support more participants. We can build on this strong foundation and expand our reach to transform even more lives.

Financial Review

Income

The majority of our funding came from grants, totaling £13,224 from three funders, which accounted for 82% of our income. All of this funding was restricted. In addition, we received £2,828 in donations, representing 17% of our income. These donations were unrestricted, providing vital flexibility for our work.

Outgoings

We incurred a total of £1,125 delivering 12.5 hours of equine-assisted sessions to two participants. This expenditure covered the hire of specially trained horses, arena hire, and facilitation costs. In addition, £910.85 was spent on essential operating expenses, including insurance and phone services, which support the smooth running of the charity.

During the reporting period, a 50% deposit of £1,895 was paid towards the purchase of a shed to provide an indoor break area and toilet facilities. The full payment and delivery of the shed occurred after 31 March 2024.

Financial Position at Year-End

At the end of the financial period, we held £10,204 in restricted funds and £1,922.34 in unrestricted funds. Of the unrestricted funds, £510 will be retained as reserves, with the remaining balance dedicated to advancing our charitable objectives.

Reserves

Our policy is to maintain reserve funds equivalent to a minimum of six months' essential non-course-related overheads. These reserves cover vital expenses such as insurance, phone SIM, bank account fees, accounting software, and website maintenance. These are the charity's only regular expenses and can be cancelled at any time if necessary. These costs amount to approximately £85 per month, or £510 for six months.

All course-related expenses are incurred on a "pay-as-you-go" basis and directly tied to course delivery. It is the charity's policy not to deliver courses unless sufficient funds are available to cover all associated costs, ensuring the financial stability of the organisation.

Financial Statement & Independent Examination

Attached at the end of this report is our financial statement and the independent examiner's report.

Future Outlook

At Devon Healing Horsemanship, our vision is to create a lasting, transformative impact on the lives of individuals who face significant mental health, emotional, and sensory challenges. Building on the successes of our early participants and the robust foundations established through the ReStart program, we are committed to scaling our reach to meet the increasing demand for our services.



The growing recognition of the life-changing outcomes we deliver underscores the importance of innovative, action-based interventions, especially for those who have not progressed with traditional support systems. Our plans include forging deeper partnerships with schools, mental health professionals, and community organisations, ensuring we can identify and support even more individuals who will benefit from our approach.

Our focus remains on collaboration and quality, enabling us to extend our impact across Devon while maintaining the personal, high-standard support for which we are known.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, Devon Healing Horsemanship is committed to building on the strong foundations we've established. A key part of our future vision is to expand our capacity to meet the growing demand for our transformative equine-assisted programs. To achieve this, we will seek funding to recruit our first paid staff member—a significant step that will enhance our ability to deliver consistent, high-quality support to participants. This dedicated role will enable us to scale our services, strengthen our administrative capabilities, and ensure we can respond more effectively to referrals and inquiries.

We are also excited to introduce new initiatives, such as non-equine "Non-Verbal Toolbox" sessions for participants, their families, and the professionals who support them. These sessions will broaden our impact, equipping more people with the tools they need to foster emotional regulation and resilience in everyday life.

By deepening our partnerships with schools, mental health professionals, and community organisations, we aim to identify and reach even more individuals who can benefit from our unique approach. Through collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to excellence, we are determined to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve and to continue contributing to the strength and well-being of our wider community.

Contact Us

Phone	07770 173 552	↑
Email	hi@devonhh.org.uk	↑
Website	devonhh.org.uk	↑



Financial Statement for the year ended

31st March 2024

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Registered Charity Number 1203138

	This year Unrestricted funds £	This year Restricted funds £	Last year £		This year Unrestricted funds £	This year Restricted funds £	Last Year £
Receipts				Payments			
Grant Income	-	13224.00	-	1. Direct Costs			
Donations	2828.23	-	-	- Arena Hire	-	250.00	-
Interest Received	4.96	-	-	- Horse Costs	-	250.00	-
	-	-	-	- Freelance Facilitators	-	625.00	-
	-	-	-	2. Expenses			
	-	-	-	- Low Value Equipment	273.27	-	-
	-	-	-	- Telephone	10.00	-	-
	-	-	-	- Office Supplies	60.40	-	-
	-	-	-	- Bank charges	35.00	-	-
	-	-	-	- Business insurance	521.61	-	-
	-	-	-	- Website and software	9.59	-	-
	-	-	-	- Sundry	0.98	-	-
Total Receipts	2833.19	13224.00	0.00	Total payments	910.85	1125.00	0.00
Asset Sales				Asset Purchases			
				Shed	-	1895.00	-
	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	1895.00	0.00
Net Receipts	2833.19	13224.00	0.00	Net Payments	910.85	3020.00	0.00
Net Receipts Total		16057.19		Net Payments Total		3930.85	
Total Receipts less Total Payments (Surplus for the year)						12126.34	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

		£
Assets	(a) Equipment owned (Shed)	3,032.00 (cost)
	(b) Investments (at market value)	-
Liabilities	Unpaid Bills Owing (total value)	1,895.00
Cash		
1. Petty Cash		-
2. Bank		
Bank Balance as per physical bank statement (current account)		12,126.34
Plus money paid in but not cleared		-
Less cheques written/payments but not cleared		-
Less uncleared cheques from previous year		-
Bank Cash		12,126.34

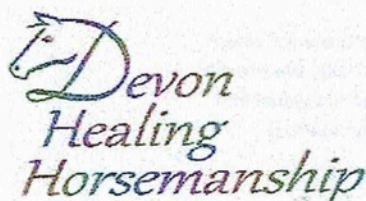
PTO

M. Harker
18.11.24

D. Jones
20/11/24

A. Perry
F. P. C.
15/11/24

Printed 15/11/2024



Financial Statement for the year ended

31st March 2024

Page 2 of 2

Surplus/Deficit for the year - Restricted	£10,204.00
Surplus/Deficit for the year - Unrestricted	£1,922.34
Total Receipts less Total Payments (Surplus/Deficit for the year)	£12,126.34

Balance brought forward at the BEGINNING of the	
(a) at Bank (Current Account)	£0.00
(b) In Hand (Petty Cash)	£0.00
(c) Deposit/ Savings Account	£0.00
(d) Other	£0.00
Total brought forward (B)	£0.00

Balance carried forward at the END of the year	
(a) At Bank (Current Account)	£12,126.34
(b) In Hand (Petty Cash)	£0.00
(c) Deposit/Savings Account	£0.00
(d) Other	£0.00
Total Carried Forward	£12,126.34

Signed by one or more trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Name MARIE WHITAKER

Address Widdow's Lane, Looe, Cornwall PL28 7AA

Postcode PL28 7AA

Signature [Signature]

Date 18.11.24

I maintain the bank statements and confirm the balances

Name DIANNE HAINES

Address Widdow's Lane, Looe, Cornwall PL28 7AA

Postcode PL28 7AA

Signature [Signature]

Date 20.11.24

Independent Financial Examiner

Name ALAN JENNINGS

Address 27 Widdow's Lane, Looe, Cornwall

Post Code PL28 7AA

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of thehave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Comments: (if a qualified report or feedback if not)

Signed A. Jennings

Date 15/11/24



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Devon Healing Horsemanship

**On accounts for the year
ended**

2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1203138

Set out on

The attached financial statement with accounting records and supporting documents both held in Pandle.com

(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 **31/03/2024**

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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 Act or
- the accounts 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:

A. Jennings

Date:

15/11/24

Name:

Allan Jennings

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

27 Lasswade Road

Chertsey

Surrey . KT16 9HZ