

RIDING for SMILES

A charity based at the Coloured Cob Equestrian Centre, Creswell, Derbyshire

Riding for Smiles (RfS) – in one hundred words - is a charity offering inclusive and innovative equestrian based activities to disabled and vulnerable children, young people, and adults. We work with those who have physical, social, learning, behavioural and emotional / mental disabilities, or multiple needs and those who are disaffected, excluded, or marginalised. Our sessions and activities provide enjoyable, enrichment experiences and recreational opportunities which develop confidence and self-esteem, self-regulation, positive social interaction, motivation, calmness, thoughtfulness, resilience, and physical exercise. We work with Schools, Special Schools, Behaviour Units, Disability Sports Clubs, and other Charities to bespoke projects to meet individual and group needs.

New Trustees - Geoff, retired Director Sheffield Hallam University, trustee from the start, recently elected Chair. Helen, horse owner, retired special educational needs coordinator. Sarah, horse owner, solicitor, lawyer. Vacancies – new advisory role trustees, please join us.

The people you know – Sharon, proprietor, and owner of the CCEC. Stephanie, special educational needs advisor and project liaison officer for RfS. We are all indebted to Sharon and Stephanie for their vision in creating RfS and for their continued support and dedication.

Lock Down – RfS was unable to provide any equestrian experiences between April to August. In September we delivered 64 experiences, October 138 but sadly only 8 last month, November. RfS is working very closely with CCEC to provide a covid safe environment. We hope that many of you find your way back to the stables in 2021.

Exciting News – RfS has received a grant from Parasport, funded by Toyota to purchase a horse carriage designed for wheelchair users. The carriage will accommodate two wheelchairs and their carers in addition to the driver and groom. There is even a way to enable wheelchair users the opportunity to learn to drive. The carriage will be delivered in the Spring of 2021.



RfS – The last few months. We have been busy submitting new applications for grants. We are delighted to report financial support has been received from Healthy Bolsover, the Duke of Devonshire's charitable trust, the JN Derbyshire Trust, Derbyshire County Council and the Country Land and Business Association.

Thank you – to all our funders. The National Lottery Awards for All and the Community Fund, the Talbot Trust, Coloured Cob charity rides, Elmton NGS Open gardens, the Jones Charitable Trust, Bassetlaw District Council and to everyone who has donated or run fund raising events. Thank you. .

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Charity number 1174773

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