

Riding
for
Smiles

Update

December 2021



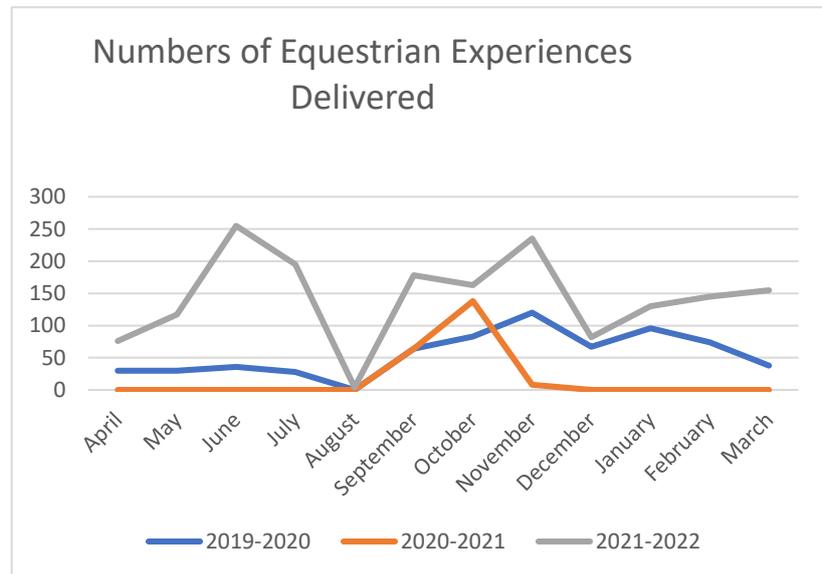
The graph shows the number of children and young people who came along to the Coloured Cob Equestrian Centre month by month, all supported by Riding for Smiles.

The **blue line** shows the pre-pandemic figures for 2019-2020.

The **orange line** shows clearly the periods of lock down with just a few experiences delivered from September to very early November.

The **grey line** shows the very significant growth in numbers from April of 2021.

The numbers for January to March, 2022 are the predicted figures based on the arrangements we have with schools for that period. We might expect them to reduce a little depending on what the winter throws at us. The predicted numbers are capped by the amount of funding available to Riding for Smiles.



With the help of the National Lottery Community Fund players RfS will fund around 150 experiences each month until the end of 2025. RfS has some smaller grants to fund the capped level of total numbers up to Easter 2022.

The funding gap then kicks in. However we continue to submit bids and hopefully will start to close the gap by Easter, 2022. That gap looks like somewhere between £20,000 and £30,00 each year. If you have any ideas, leads or can help we would really love to hear from you.

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From everyone at Riding for Smiles, the Trustees; Geoff, Helen, Sarah and Sharon; and Stephanie,

Thank you

We wish you a very happy Christmas break, a period of calm away from the anxiety and stress of the past year and the hope of a return to something like normal during 2022.

Thank you to everyone at the Coloured Cob Equestrian Centre, Sharron; Gail and Sheryl and all the willing staff who support RfS,

Thank you to all the volunteers who turn up day after day, how good are you?

Thank you to the many organisations who have funded RfS over the years, can you believe RfS was only founded in 2017?

Thank you to the schools and groups and super staff , your support, outstanding effort, and dedication to your children is simply amazing,

and most importantly

Thank you to the children and young people who so clearly benefit from the experience and put a smile on the face of everybody who spends a few minutes at the stables when the children are there.

Thank you, you mean so much to us at Riding for Smiles. We are ALL riding for smiles.

It has been an incredibly challenging time for all of us. I have been and will continue to be extremely proud of what together we have achieved. I am honoured to be Chair of the Trustees and extend my personal thanks and good wishes to Stephanie and Sharon, to Janet, my wife, she puts up with me, helps with everything RfS, and shows me how to do graphs, to my merry gang of trustees and to you all, I salute you, every one of you, for your valued contributions to our charity, Riding for Smiles.

With my best wishes to you all, Geoff, Chair of Riding for Smiles