



## Welcome from Helena, Chair of Trustees

I hope that when you have read this information you will feel as inspired as I do about the future of the Mare and Foal Sanctuary.

You would be joining us as a trustee at an exciting time as we are in the process of recruiting our new Chief Executive who will help set our new five-year strategy for sustainable growth 2025-2030.

At the Mare and Foal Sanctuary you will find an ambitious and passionate charity dedicated to the wellbeing of horses and ponies and the value they bring to people's lives. Our team are talented and committed. They are highly knowledgeable in the care and welfare of horses and ponies and the operational complexities of running four sanctuary sites, welfare assistance and education, equine-assisted services, and a retail network to support our fundraising activities.

We are extraordinarily lucky to have a group of supporters who are loyal and passionate about our work and have enabled us to be financially secure in a tough economic climate. We want to build on this passion. We have ambitious plans to grow the scale, reach and impact of our work across the south-west and become nationally recognised as a leading charity in the equine sector.

## The benefits to you

The benefits of becoming a trustee are not only in the interests of our charity. As an individual, it is also an excellent personal development opportunity and includes the following benefits:

- Contributing your skills and expertise to a cause that is important to you
- Playing a fundamental role in the strategic development of the organisation
- Gaining valuable experience and learning new skills within a leadership role
- Challenging yourself by applying your skills in a different environment
- Gaining non-executive board experience in a supportive, developmentally focused culture
- Learning from other trustees and gaining new insights from seeing how others respond to situations and make decisions.

## Meet some of our trustees

We asked some of our current trustees to say a little about their experience of being a trustee:



*“As a trustee at the Mare and Foal Sanctuary I have been truly welcomed and my input is really valued. Coming from an education background I was not sure exactly how I would fit within the Board, and if I would have sufficient experience, but I feel I make a valuable contribution and would encourage others to apply” – Jane Williams*

*“I appreciate the flexibility so that as a Board member I can fit it in around other commitments like childcare. I bring a diversity to the Board, and it means a great deal that this is valued and respected by the Mare and Foal Sanctuary” – Rebecca-Rafiyah Findlay*



*“I wasn’t sure how my professional and clinical skills would be of value to the Mare and Foal Sanctuary. However, I have found that my clinical experience and knowledge of horses and ponies has been both relevant and of use, complementing the knowledge and skill base of the other trustees” – Jacqueline Watton*

**You can see all Trustees’ profiles on our website –**

<https://www.mareandfoal.org/about-us/our-staff/our-trustees/>

## **An Inclusive Board**

We are committed to developing a diverse board and wish to recruit trustees from a wide range of backgrounds including young people, people from minority and ethnic communities, people with disabilities and people who have lived experience of the difference that horses and ponies or outdoor learning can make to other people’s lives. We believe that different perspectives and the richness of our people’s experience will help drive our growth.

## **Becoming a Trustee**

Becoming a trustee means that you have one of the most important and inspiring roles within the charity. With your fellow Trustees, you will set the direction and priorities of the Mare and Foal Sanctuary and are ultimately responsible for ensuring it achieves its aims. You can help us leverage our well-respected brand to develop and deliver an impactful new five-year strategy.

We are seeking trustees with specific skills in the following specialist areas:

- HR expertise
- Financial expertise
- Commercial expertise

If you feel you have the right skills to join our Board, we will very much welcome your application and look forward to hearing from you.

Best of luck!

*Helena Vega-Lozano*

Chair of Trustee