

## **Project Name: Research into Equine pathways and student needs in Herefordshire and Worcestershire**

### **Amendment History:**

Version No.	Date	Reason for Amendment
1	23/4/08	New proposal

### **Project Manager**

Donna de Haan

### **Document Distribution**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Action/Information</b>
Donna de Haan	UW	Project leader	
Debbie Lambert	LLN	Manager of the LLN	For information
Geoffrey Elliott	UW	Members of the Steering	To approve to
Chris Morecroft	WCT	Group	proposal
Ian Peake	HCT		
Mike Rookes	OU		
Gail Rothnie	UoB		
Colin Wood	LLN	Curriculum theme lead	
Donna Obrey	LLN	Project Officer for the LLN	To track and monitor project

### **Background**

This research proposal seeks to understand the current provision and progression; student needs, and the potential for new programmes and curriculum development in Equine studies with Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

### **Objectives of the Project**

At present there is little base line research on employer and student needs in the area of equine studies. There are a limited number of FE programmes and little opportunity for progression into HE and beyond. However this is a popular field and research is required to see how the current provision meets the needs of students. The University of Worcester previously delivered a degree programme in equine studies in conjunction with the British Horse Society. This course no longer exists and at present it appears that there is no provision at levels 4+ within Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Research is needed to establish the needs of students in this curriculum area.

The research would look at overall numbers, provision and pathways within equine studies at FE / HE. It would survey students on appropriate FE courses to assess

their preferences for studying at HE level. The research would focus on current students, as well as gaining feedback from lecturers. The research sample is anticipated to include all colleges offering L3 equine courses.

### **Project Approach**

The project would include discussion with course leaders in Equine studies to set the terms of the research and agree questionnaire format and content.

The research will then be conducted as a desk-based research project by the LLN. The LLN will administer the research, facilitate meetings of those concerned to have input into the research and share the findings. The research will be through a mixture of paper-based questionnaires for students, interviews with lecturing staff, desk research and analysis.

The project would end with the production of a written report by end of July 2009

### **Scope:**

#### **A Key Products from the project**

- Baseline data on current provision (inc student numbers) in equine studies at L3, L4, and above for Herefordshire & Worcestershire (and surrounding area as appropriate)
- Survey of Lecturers in equine studies to identify HE needs in Herefordshire and Worcestershire within the curriculum area.
- Information on preferences and likelihood of L3 equine students progressing to current and potential HE courses as identified by course leaders
- Information on experiences and preferences of current HE students to identify retrospective preferences

#### **B Out of Scope**

The project will not cover the marketing of any courses, or any research that is not available to all members of the LLN.

### **Constraints**

- Time of LLN staff.
- Time of academic staff and availability of students and staff for surveying.

### **Initial Project Case**

The project will identify issues within current provision and demand for new courses, focusing on students with vocational qualifications..

### **Benefits of the Project**

To the LLN

- Improved information on equine studies provision.
- Identification of equine studies pathways

To Students

- Potential new course offers that reflect student needs

- Increased focus on student progression opportunities in equine studies

**To Colleges**

- Increased opportunities for curriculum development within the area to accurately reflect student needs.
- Sharing of ideas and information between course teams in colleges.
- Increased focus on student progression opportunities in equine studies
- Improved linkages between providers of FE and HE

**Key Assumptions**

All findings will be disseminated via the LLN website.

**Costs**

The research will be funded collaboratively – with LLN providing staff time and costs to a maximum of £750, and UW providing additional research costs.

**How will the project be evaluated?**

Provision of a report by end of July 2008

**How will the project be sustained?**

N/A

**Implications for Equality and Diversity**

The Research will be conducted in a manner that addresses issues of inclusiveness and widening participation.

**Initial Risk Log**

The following table summarises the risks that have been identified that may prevent the project being completed to the required quality, budget and timescale. The probability and impact of each risk has been graded as low, medium or high to indicate the relative importance attached to each element of risk.

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Probability</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Containment Plan</b>
Low return rates	medium	low	Simple questionnaires Mixed methods: paper survey, E-survey, phone survey Use existing contacts through college lecturers

**Project Team**

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Donna Obrey - LLN  
Donna de Haan -UW