



S Hutchinson
The Nineveh Charitable Trust
8 Mill Lane,
Saffron Walden,
Essex, CB10 2AS
10th April 2020

17th November 2021

Dear Ms Hutchinson,

Report following funding from the Ninevah Charitable Trust

Thank you again for your award on 6th August 2020 of funding of £2,000 towards our Course Directors salary. We would like to report on our related activity and outcomes since then and outline how your funding has helped.

As you know, HorseBack UK is the multi-award-winning Scottish charity (registration number SC040765) based just outside Aboyne, in the Scottish Highlands delivering personal development courses incorporating horsemanship, rural skills and the outdoors that encourage participants to acquire new coping strategies, life skills and resilience whilst gaining nationally recognised awards and qualifications and a new and lasting appreciation of the countryside.

The charity was founded in 2009 by Jock Hutchison, a former Royal Marine and Emma Hutchison, a former police officer, initially to empower and support service personnel and veterans suffering from life-changing injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder and aid them on their road to recovery and is now also working with several other groups including schools and councils to provide training, qualifications and confidence building for disengaged young people. Our location is purposefully remote and rural and our participants, disadvantaged through a variety of circumstances, come from across the UK to experience, appreciate and reconnect with the outdoors whilst learning new rural and equine related skills.

At the time of writing to you in April 2020, with our request for funding, we already had the majority of the funding in place for our courses for 2020/21 which we had hope to be able to commence in the Autumn of 2020 or Spring of 2021. The demand was already there but the start was dependent on the national COVID-19 response.



As it turned out, due to the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions for a short period in the Autumn of 2020, we were able to deliver two weekly programmes to school groups in October 2020 as well as one military group in September. During the COVID-19 restrictions, we successfully pivoted to deliver a support service on-line and on the phone. We ran individual and group Zoom meetings which helped to reduce social isolation and enabled us to work on initial goal setting as well as developing peer support groups. We encouraged those we support to go for walks and spend time outside whenever possible as we understand the wellbeing and mental health benefits of being out in, and having an appreciation of, nature and the countryside.

We of course treated your funding as restricted and allocated £500 per month from the time of receipt towards the Course Directors salary so that it was fully spent by the end of our financial year (31st March 2021).

At the end of the summer of 2021, we were able to start delivering the residential aspect of our courses across all groups.

"HorseBack has been an absolute life saver for me, literally. When Covid hit I didn't know how I would manage the isolation, anxiety and depression that I went through. With regular contact from the HorseBack team and then meeting my fellow course mates via zoom I truly felt part of a family with people who cared. I have since had the opportunity to visit HorseBack to actually meet these people and cannot thank them enough for absolutely changing my life"

Thank you again for your support and for helping us to meet the shortfall in funding for our work, especially at such a challenging time for so many in the sector. Your support helped us to support a greater number of people on their development journey and road to recovery through equine therapy, rural skills and the outdoors.

Yours sincerely



Emma Hutchison
Co-Founder and Managing Director

