



professional[™]
standards
authority

accredited register



Regulated Professional and Ethical Standards in Equine Assisted Services

Jennifer Geach and Graeme Green
British Horse Council – 27th June 2025



The Professional Standards Authority (PSA)

- The UK's independent regulatory oversight body improving the quality of regulation and registration of people working in health and social care.
- An independent statutory body accountable to UK Parliament, formed under the UK Health and Social Care Act (2012):
- Protecting the public by overseeing the regulation and registration of healthcare professionals and accrediting organisations that register practitioners in unregulated occupations
- Policy advice to Ministers and others; encouraging research to improve regulation



professional
standards
authority

accredited register

Accredited Practitioner Register

- Held since 2019; worked with PSA since 2021
- Awarded accreditation in January 2024
- The first and only UK national accredited register covering practitioners in the equine and animal assisted spaces, which aims to:
 - Create and maintain professional ethics and standards that prioritise the health and wellbeing of clients and public and protects them from harm or injury
 - Provides a clear definition of professional standards and ethical treatment of horses required in Equine Assisted Services
 - Promotes and maintains client confidence and public credibility in the benefits of and engaging with Equine Assisted Services



Recognising Professional Titles

- The PSA acknowledges that there is “public interest” in registering the following:
 - Equine Facilitated/Assisted Practitioner
 - Equine Facilitated/Assisted Learning
 - Equine Facilitated/Assisted Therapist
 - Equine Facilitated/Assisted Psychotherapist
 - Equine Facilitated/Assisted Occupational Therapist
- This registration does not preclude use of titles by non-registered practitioners
- Accredited Register membership is voluntary
- We acknowledge the work already done by HETI (terminology task force) and IAHAIO.



A Unified Vision

- **Advocating for EAS: engaging aligned professional/interested bodies, e.g. insurers, health and social care providers, and commissioners and other regulatory bodies**
- **Raising public awareness and developing interest and engagement beyond the existing market**
- **Representing the membership community and its needs**
- **Extending the reach of the Register in terms of activities and roles**
- **Recruiting additional members to the Register's governing bodies**



Any Questions?

Contact: register@athenaherd.org

<https://www.facebook.com/athena.accredited.practitioner.register/>

<http://athenaherd.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/athenaherd.org/>