

# Aftercare Funding Review - Recommendations

These can be divided up into seven categories but deal with *any horse bred for racing* and allow the industry to provide for an appropriate transition from racing and to effect welfare for the most vulnerable as necessary throughout their lives. This would then allow the management of all horses bred for racing, allows traceability throughout the horse's life and delivers robust reporting capabilities.

## 1. Funding

- The development of an agreed funding structure for all horses, aided by an assessment process.
- Introduction of a “pension” scheme formally supported by a broader set of stakeholders than is currently the case.
- A comprehensive database of approved organisations which could be eligible to receive industry funding via a transparent, accountable framework.
- Effective delivery of existing funds, whilst leveraging opportunities for additional financial support.

## 2. Focus and integration

- Consideration should be given to the boundaries of aftercare and a definition of the scope of future responsibilities should be a priority.
- A focused and independent organisation, supported by the industry and fully integrated within, and accountable to, the HWB and its strategy, is recommended. It would specifically manage the welfare of the aftercare sector and action the findings of this report.
- These organisational responsibilities would include:
  - Strategic oversight of the sector.
  - Managing and distributing funding.
  - Supporting the delivery organisations within the sector.
  - Developing a culture of accountability.
  - Data monitoring and compliance.
  - Creating a united, inclusive and transparent structure.
  - Effective integration with the racing industry.
  - Development of a communications and promotion strategy.
- Consideration given to the provision by the racing industry of services currently offered by charitable centres.
- The promotion of welfare within the sector needs to be broadened to incorporate not just the retrained racehorses, but also those horses rehomed to demonstrate and build a full and rounded picture.

## 3. Traceability and data

- Reiteration of the findings from “A Life Well Lived” that data and lifetime traceability are core to the future of a sustainable racing industry.

- Continue to focus on the “first transition” resulting in the delivery of a comprehensive aftercare database and a strategic approach to data collection, the use of this data, whilst monitoring traceability beyond retirement from racing.

#### **4. Accreditation**

- The development of an enhanced accreditation scheme so that organisations receive a “quality mark” that is aligned with the agreed industry protocols and is an aid to define credibility, which would build on existing schemes.

#### **5. Community**

- Create a community for all participants, including owners retiring their horses, rehoming and retraining centres and non-racing owners allowing the development of greater communication tools, support and a “one-stop shop” for information.
- This will bring benefit to racehorse trainers, breeders, charities and commercial centres providing non-financial support.

#### **6. Education**

- Continue and build on the good work that is already present in highlighting and promoting the thoroughbred post racing.
- Focus on ongoing education regarding industry responsibilities to the horse beyond racing.
- Encouragement of post-racing engagement to broaden education opportunities.

#### **7. Communication**

- A dedicated communication programme. This would only be possible with clear data and progress in the management of the sector.

These categories are not mutually exclusive within the aftercare sector, nor the overall welfare strategy and must be considered alongside the other initiatives highlighted by “A Life Well Lived”.

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