

What do our trustees do?

Trustees have a really key role at the Cavalier Centre

Trustees are the people who lead the Cavalier Centre and decide how it is run. They are all volunteers and use their skills and experience to support the Centre, helping us to achieve our aims. They are the people behind the scenes who deal with long term decisions, recruiting key members of staff, fundraising and promote the Centre to the wider community. They're also ultimately responsible for the finances and compliance with the Charity Commission. Here's a breakdown of what they do and how it impacts us all.

Empowering

Trustees help to empower people to ride, vault or carriage drive. Without staff, volunteers and our site we'd be in trouble. We have helped with recruitment, interviews and appraisals as well as new systems of working for staff and volunteers. They have obtained planning permission, tendered and project managed improvements to the premises – a new outdoor toilet and store, top paddock, Little Bradbury Arena, procurement of water engineer, hedge laying and removal of muck!

Educating

Trustees can assist with education, motivating and challenging participants, volunteers and their families. We have helped formulate new programmes, set objectives, and planning activities, co-opted a "voice of the coaches", "voice of the participants" and "voice of the volunteers" to board meetings, and established an improved support structure for coaches. They listen.

Engaging

Trustees are fully engaged with our local community. We have helped to plan and put on the summer open day and Christmas celebrations, helping with refreshments, MOC duties and entertaining, assisted with the procurement and development of the new website, engaged with other RDA centres and made many introductions to the Centre to establish new working relationships and partnerships

Enhancing

Trustees can enhance the health and wellbeing for participants and volunteers. We are responsible ultimately for health and safety, risk and good governance, they have reduced the risk of exposure for funds held in the bank, had safeguarding training updated, DBS checks, ensured systems in place to mitigate exposure to risk both operationally and in term of finance, complied with the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, held a "delivering the vision" workshop to ensure we stay on track and relevant, interviewed and appointed new trustees, and changed our charity objects to reflect the wider nature of our current activities.

Enriching

Trustees can help enrich lives with a wide variety of innovative, inspiring and inclusive equine related activities. None of which would be possible if the we did not produce budgets, cashflows, forecasts, accounts and the annual report and financial statements, they appoint auditors, carry out bookkeeping tasks, and fundraising. They have also considered a business mentoring scheme through the Cranfield Trust, met with the Community Foundation, drafted an investment strategy and had several meetings and discussions about VAT registration.

