

# YOUNG INSPECTORS



Young Inspectors report on: Bodsters Equine assisted Learning  
CIC

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With the views and voice from Young Inspectors

## **Young Inspectors report on: Bodster Equine Assisted Learning CIC**

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**Date of Inspection: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Number of Young Inspectors present: 3**

**Date of Publication:**

The ‘Young Inspectors Scheme’ has been developed to capture the voice of children and young people who have a disability and/or additional needs giving them the opportunity to contribute in shaping and developing the service.

The Young Inspectors reviewed the Short Breaks service based on the following areas deemed important to them. The inspection is part of an agreement between Short Breaks and the provider highlighted within the Short Breaks agreement. This is what the Young Inspectors found:

## Report Summary

| Inspected areas         | Overall (star rating) out of 3 Stars   | Did they meet Young Inspectors needs |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Staff                   |    | See 4.1                              |
| Fun and Enjoyment       |    | See 4.2                              |
| Accessibility           |     | See 4.3                              |
| Safety and surroundings |  | See 4.4                              |

## **Contents**

- 1.0 Details about the provision that was inspected
- 2.0 Introduction – Why we inspected Bodster Equine Assisted Learning CIC?
- 3.0 Methodology – How we inspected Bodster Equine Assisted Learning CIC?
- 4.0 Review analysis- What we reviewed
  - 4.1 Staff
  - 4.2 Fun and enjoyment
  - 4.3 Accessibility
  - 4.4 Safety and Surroundings
  - 4.5 Food and Dining experience
- 5.0 Summary of Inspection - What the Young Inspectors found
- 6.0 Recommendations – How the activity can be made better?
  - 6.1 Young Inspectors views
  - 6.2 Young Inspector Lead recommendations
  - 6.3 Parents feedback
- 7.0 Determining overall award
- 8.0 Provider feedback

## **1.0 Details about the provision that was inspected**

Bodster - Equine Assisted Learning CIC is a short breaks activity where learners interact with ponies on the ground. Learners who come help devise activities to complete e.g. leading a pony and working loose in the round pen.

### **Overview of the organisation/service:**

Bodster offers Short Breaks sessions on Saturdays from 10 to 3 pm at a cost of £15 for the whole day, £7.50 for half a day.

£7.50 for a half hour one to one session.

### **What they provide:**

Bodster Equine Assisted Learning Centre is run by, Jo and Giles Boddington. They offer Equine Assisted Learning, where People develop a range of skills, improving their self-esteem, understanding their own behaviour and increasing their emotional intelligence in a supervised horse environment..

Mrs Jo Boddington

Jo holds a BA (Hons), PGCE, Registered BHSAI, NVQ Level 1+ 2 in Horse Care Assessor, NVQ Level 3 Health and Social Care, EAQ Equine Assisted Learning Facilitator, First Aid at Work. 17 years day-to-day experience as an equine assisted learning facilitator.

“I have been riding since the age of 4 and for the last 17 years have worked, together with Giles, with horses and people in a facilitation role. I moved to the Isle of Wight from my home on the edge of the New Forest to start up Bodster Equine Assisted Learning here at Ryde”.

Mr Giles Boddington

Giles holds the Professional Certificate in Education, NVQ Level 3 Health and Social Care, ASET Level 2 Certificate in Health & Safety in the Workplace, First Aid at Work. 17 years day-to-day experience as an equine assisted learning facilitator.

“I have worked in a variety of areas including setting up workers co-operatives selling wholefoods in Scotland and working as a Service Manager in the motor trade but I really found my niche when I started working with young people and horses. The Isle of Wight offers a fabulous opportunity to bring the two together under our supervision.”

**When is it available:** Every Saturday from 10 to 3pm. Half day slots available.

**How much is the costs:** £15 for the whole day and half day sessions at £7.50.

**Who to contact to book:** Jo or Giles Boddington on 07887 876138

## **2.0 Introduction – Why we inspected Bodster Equine Assisted Learning CIC??**

We decided to inspect Bodster on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Young Inspectors joined the usual Saturday group for the whole day session of 10 to 3pm. We inspected to capture the views and opinions of the young people who attended the activity.

## **3.0 Methodology – How we inspected Bodster Equine Assisted Learning CIC?**

The inspection took place on Saturday for the whole day session of 10 to 3pm. Young Inspectors went along to participate in the usual Saturday Short Breaks session. Three young people took part in the inspection.

## **4.0 Review analysis- What we reviewed**

### **4.1 Staff**

Young Inspectors stated that they were greeted nicely by Jo and Giles and the Young Inspectors fed back that Jo and Giles were mostly friendly, helpful and fun.

### **4.2 Fun and enjoyment**

Young Inspectors had lots of fun during the session. Two commented that they would go again and although the third Young Inspector wasn't 100% sure if they would like to go, his family thought that his big sister would really enjoy it.

Two young Inspectors commented that they felt happy, the activity was fun and that they Bodsters so much they would like to go again. All our Young Inspectors were happy that they met someone new.

### **4.3 Accessibility**

Accessibility was discussed with each Young Inspector; it was felt that Bodsters offered a good price (£15 per young person for a whole day session). The setting was based outside and Young Inspectors did comment that it would be a bit difficult if you were a wheelchair user, but that Jo and Giles worked hard to make sure everyone was included. All three of the Young Inspectors noted the signage to direct you to the farm was quite hard to find and that sat navigation didn't quite get you to where you expected to be.

One of the inspectors wanted to make the point that it was timed perfectly and two young inspectors thought the location was beautiful and everyone agreed that the location was quiet and relaxing.

### **4.4 Safety and Surroundings**

The Young Inspectors participating left feedback that said they felt safe and that the staff were very nice during the inspection. Young Inspectors said they were told about safety during the session.

One of our Young Inspector's made the point that the ability levels of the group were too vast and this made it a bit difficult for everyone to have the same experience.

### **4.5 Food and Dinning experience**

There are no facilities available on site to purchase food or drinks, but you could use the fridge to put your lunch in and there was tea and coffee and fresh water if you wanted it.

## **5.0 Summary of Inspection - What the Young Inspectors found**

Young Inspectors were asked to inspect the safety and surroundings, the staff, accessibility and the fun and enjoyment of the activity.

Young Inspectors felt they were safe throughout the session but one of the Young Inspectors commented that they thought that the day was a bit long and that they would like more time to interact with the horses. Jo



and Giles were very safety conscious and the ponies were very well behaved. The Young Inspectors enjoyed the location and the relaxed atmosphere and the opportunity to make new friends. Two of the Young Inspectors wanted to go back on a regular basis and the third thought his sister would really enjoy it.

## **6.0 Recommendations – How the activity can be made better?**

One of the family members of one Young Inspector did comment that they felt that a reduced session may be beneficial and that it may be better in some ways to have sessions that catered specifically for differing ability ranges.

Jo and Giles and the Young Inspectors Lead also commented that future inspections may be better if they were half day sessions and planned separately from the current Short Breaks Saturday session. The reason given was that it was clear that the addition of new people (Young Inspectors) impacted on the existing Bodsters group members.

All three inspectors commented that the signage needed to be improved so that it was easier to find.

### **6.1 Young Inspectors views**

Young Inspectors felt that the session overall was very good and the activity offered was fun and relaxed.

One Young Inspector said that "He loved it!"

### **6.2 Young Inspectors Lead recommendations**

I feel that Bodsters tried very hard to accommodate the differing needs of our three Young Inspectors and Jo and Giles adapted their approach well.

The location was very beautiful and relaxing and this was reflected in the resulting brilliant behaviours of our inspectors. The ponies were very well behaved and responsive in line with the children that attended the activity.

I am in agreement with the comments from one of our Young Inspectors in that the differing abilities of the inspectors impacted on the

involvement levels of all. I am of the view that future inspections should be facilitated through a separate half day session and both Giles and Jo were in agreement with this thinking.

Safety was a very high consideration for Jo and Giles and this was evidenced throughout the activity day.

Jo and Giles allowed each Young Inspector to explore at their own pace and encouraged and celebrated each achievement.

For wheelchair users the toilets and location is not wholly suitable and I would advise parent's checking to ensure this matches individual need. It is important to note that the setting is mainly based outside but there is a barn to use when the weather is not so kind.

I would recommend that new starters to the setting should be introduced to the activity through an initial taster meeting, which Jo and Giles already provide.

Signage to the site is in need of improvement as are the directions on the website.

## **6.2 Parents Feedback**

One of the Young Inspectors parents left feedback to say "I would prefer more interaction with the horses for my child."

Another commented on how calm and relaxed he was at the end of the day.

## **7.0 Overall award**



**3 stars awarded**

## **8.0 Provider feedback**

1. It would be good to have knowledge of any young inspector learners' allergies etc. as Learner B was fair skinned so we hope he did not get sun burnt as it was hot today. We did offer Kim some of our sun block for

him but we and Kim had no idea if he was allergic to it so we did not actually offer it for him to put on.

2. Our regular learners were affected by the experience and one of the regular learners became so upset she decided to leave at lunch time rather than stay the whole day, which she normally does. We had last week told them we would have young inspectors but today she found it too much of a change to cope with. Thus we would suggest another time that we arrange a day when the young inspectors come to inspect on their own, without any other learners present so this doesn't happen.