



**Horse  
Welfare  
Board**



Horse Welfare Board Progress Update – Q4 2023



## A life well lived

A new strategic plan for the welfare of horses bred for racing, 2020-2024

Horse Welfare Board  
February 2020

# Horse Welfare Board & Strategy Introduction

- The Horse Welfare Board was established in April 2019, in recognition of the need for **greater cross-industry alignment** and focus on welfare
- Includes representation from **racing's tripartite system** of governance alongside **independent perspectives** from outside the industry
- **Independent chairing and representation** provides assurance that the Board will always take an objective approach, acting in the best interests of the horse
- The Horse Welfare Board has produced a **single, overarching strategy** for equine welfare in the racing industry 'A life well lived'
- The strategy considers the **whole of the racing industry**, including sectors not currently fully regulated by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) and looks across the **lifetime of all horses bred for racing**



# Outcomes

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1. Best possible  
**QUALITY OF LIFE**

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2. Collective **LIFETIME  
RESPONSIBILITY**

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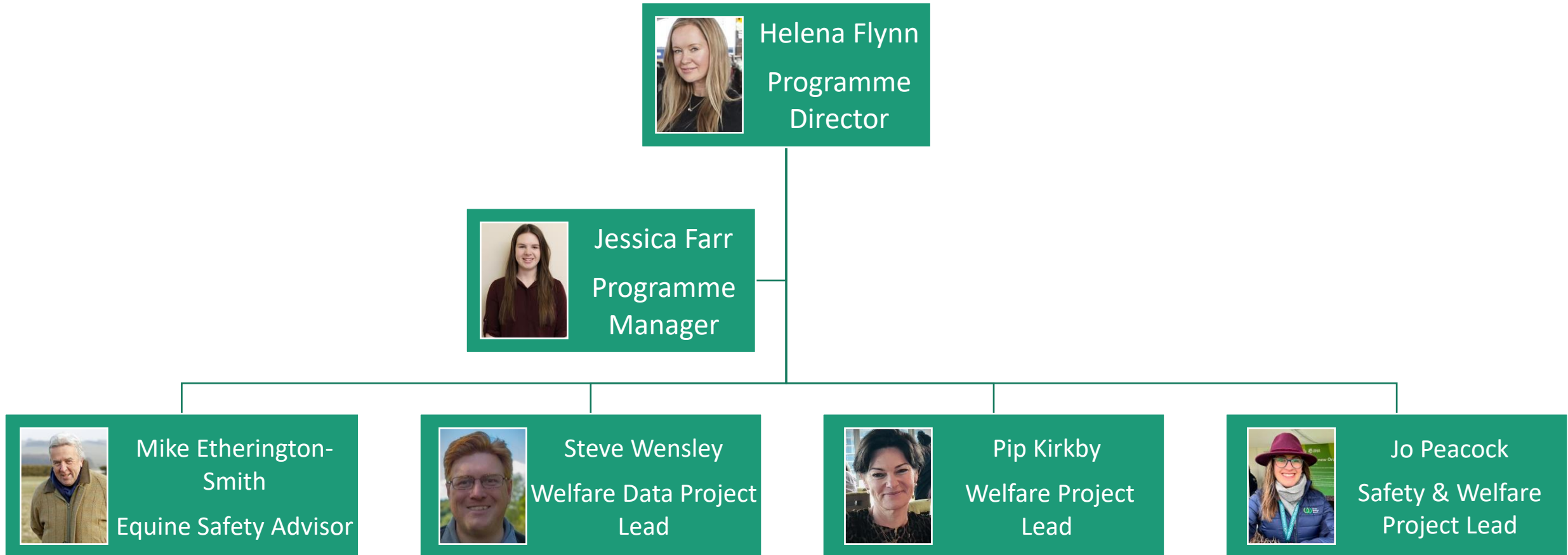
3. Best possible **SAFETY**

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4. Growth and  
maintenance of **TRUST**



# Horse Welfare Board Operational Team



# Programme Overview

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22 projects live, 3 complete

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Working with Racing Foundation and HBLB as key partners

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3-year funding grant secured from the Racing Foundation

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Key focus areas – Safety, Data, Aftercare and Welfare Communications

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Working with stakeholders to progress

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Tools in place to ensure effective management and ongoing monitoring

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# Achievements – Welfare & Aftercare

Appointment of  
Welfare & Safety  
Project Lead  
(January 2023)

Appointment of  
Welfare Project Lead  
(June 2023)

Suitability to race  
project expanded to  
include Eligibility

Start up and fatality  
review process – 6  
month pilot

HEROs contracted  
for Retraining  
Assessment  
Programme (RAP)

Trialling of Animal  
Welfare Assessment  
Grid (AWAG) for  
horse assessment

Set up of aftercare  
accreditation group

Training & CPD  
project initiated, and  
recommendations  
approved

# Achievements – Data

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Appointment of **Royal Veterinary College** to further develop Jump Racing Risk Model

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Epidemiology review and development of the way we capture off the racecourse fatalities completed

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Completed pitch process and appointment of **Equine MediRecord (EMR)**

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Digital medication system piloted at Aintree 2023, and contracted for Aintree and Cheltenham festivals in 2024

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Sleip AB markerless lameness app trial in progress

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**Hartpury University contracted** to conduct former racehorse Census to address traceability – in data collection phase

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Heat Stress paper published from analysis of Thoroughbred Welfare Database

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Thoroughbred Welfare Database transferred and set up to PowerBI

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Thoroughbred Breeders Association whereabouts analysis in traceability gaps annual process in development

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Data Unit formed with BHA having appointed a Head of Data Insights and Analytics, and a equine welfare data analyst

# Achievements – Safety

Roll out of Orange to White complete

Development of Hurdle Performance Technical Specification nearing completion

Completion of Stage 1 Plastic/Polymer Hurdle project

Development of prototype for HDPE Hurdle Frame achieved, put on ice

Concept hurdle ground lines/toe boards being developed for testing

Sourcing and testing of steeplechase toe boards completed with subsequent recommendations to BHA

Additional supplier for pads approved for padded hurdles

38 Jump course Course Walks completed

BHAGI 3.2 revision complete

Commencement of 18-month Turf Assessment Research by Nottingham Trent University & 6-month PQS work with STRI

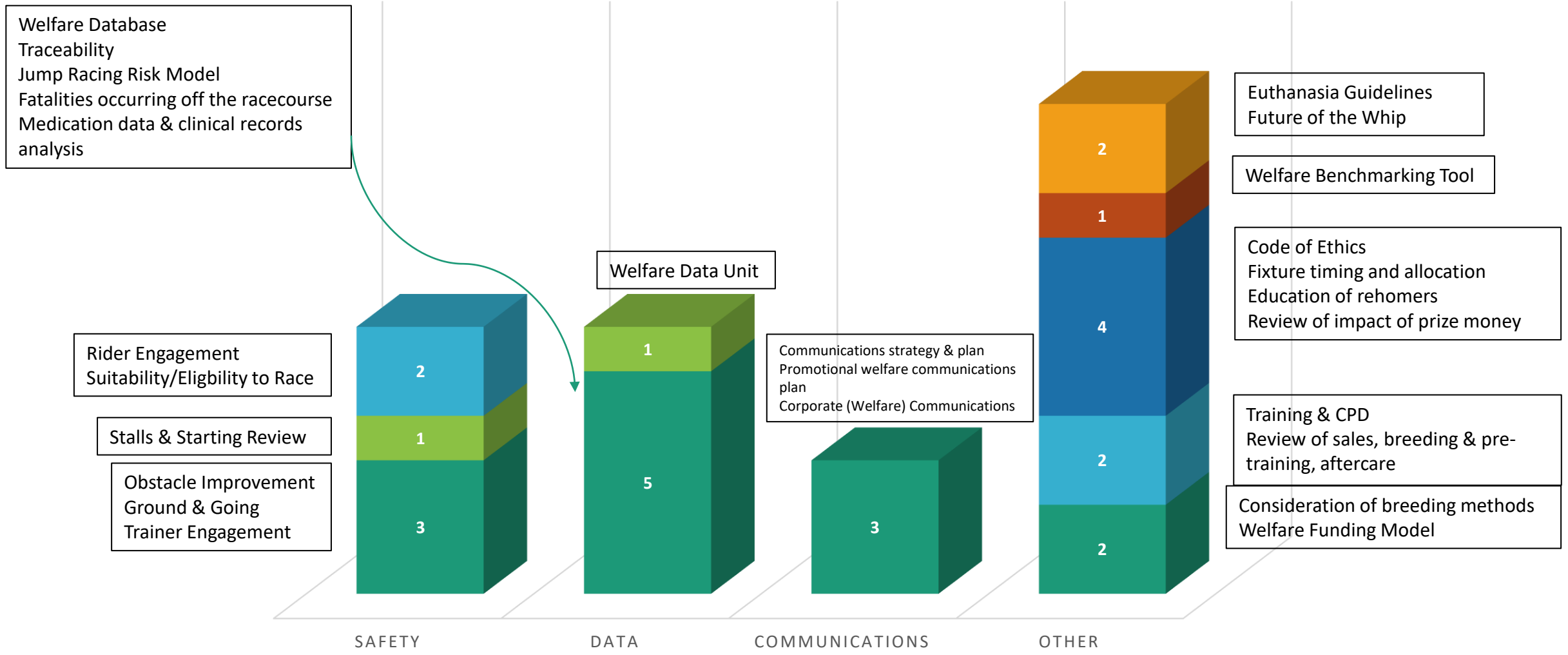
Stalls and Starting review complete, recommendations handed to BHA and implementation underway

Creation of Equine Safety Steering Group and BHA Safety Group



# Programme Overview

■ Implementation ■ Acceptance/Closure ■ Planning ■ Monitor ■ On hold ■ Complete



# HWB communications

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- HWB Weekly report
- HWB key message document
- HWB Dashboard (monthly)
- HWB Quarterly newsletter
- BHA website – HWB section
- HWB inbox (Daily)



Horse  
Welfare  
Board

THE  
RACING  
FOUNDATION



**Horse  
Welfare  
Board**