

# Accredited Registers Programme

## Notification of Change

### Summary of proposed changes

Notification of change from: **Athena Herd Foundation CIC**

Once accredited any relevant changes that a register wishes to make will need to be assessed by the Authority to ensure ongoing compliance with the [Standards for Accredited Registers](#). Part of this assessment includes a review of information received from anyone sharing their experience. Below is a summary of the proposed changes for consideration.

<p><b>Summary of Proposed Changes</b></p>	<p>The <a href="#">Athena Herd Foundation</a> is a professional body that operates an Accredited Practitioner Register (<a href="#">Athena Register</a>) for Equine Practitioners (EPs). EPs work in a range of contexts, including therapeutic and corporate development. Many EPs will also be trained in other disciplines, such as counselling and psychotherapy. These practitioners will blend a range of therapeutic approaches when working with service users. Counselling and psychotherapy are accessed by individuals privately, and through other services such as health and education.</p> <p>There are also EPs who do not have prior learning or experience with counselling or psychotherapy. They may or may not have training in other practices such as life coaching, particularly if their work is orientated towards corporate environments. In these settings, equine facilitators offer a specialist form of personal development, with aims that include enhanced business performance. In our <a href="#">Standard One assessment</a>, we made clear that we would only be able to accredit a Register of practitioners whose primary objective in delivering EFL is for personal health and wellbeing, rather than professional development.</p> <p>Athena currently registers the following roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equine facilitated practitioner</li> <li>• Equine assisted practitioner</li> <li>• Equine practitioner</li> <li>• Equine interactions</li> <li>• Equine facilitated learning</li> <li>• Equine assisted learning</li> </ul>
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**Athena is proposing to introduce two new titles:**

- Equine Facilitated/Assisted Psychotherapist/Therapist (generically referred to here as “EFP”s)
- Equine Facilitated Occupational Therapist (generically referred to here as “EFOT”s)

By adding these roles to its Register, Athena aims at permitting practitioners and registrants to register their practice under other specific “titles” where it is appropriate to do so. Athena explains that the change is being requested because there are already appropriately qualified practitioners providing services under titles covered by EFP and EFOT. In effect, these are not “new” titles but ones which are already extensively in use in this context.

According to Athena, there are existing externally regulated qualifications and university-based courses that are already training these practices and practitioners. These qualifications are, therefore, supported by robust qualifications. Adding them to the Athena Register would not only help clarify and formalise titles that are already in common use, but also recognise and ratify formally the use of these titles.

Athena further asserts that by directly including these therapist-related titles under the Register’s remit, it aims to resolve the current uncertainty and inconsistency in the marketplace, where essentially too many people are just offering therapy because they own a horse. These practices are being delivered without any form of oversight or governance and as such are leaving the public unprotected and risk bringing disrepute to the practice.

An additional benefit to this change, if successfully implemented, is its potential to further build confidence in other regulators, registers and commissioning bodies in the promotion and engagement of these practices.

Athena proposes that in keeping with the current Standards of Education and Training, registration for the new roles requires an appropriate minimum L4 Equine Facilitated qualification (or completed Certificate of Proficiency), as well as an appropriate regulated qualification of a minimum Level 4 in any associated therapeutic

	<p>practice. The aim is to strengthen these definitions in the context of these two new roles.</p> <p>In addition, in the context of EFOT registration, Athena will ensure there is a defined certified knowledge of equine anatomy and physiology. This represents an important additional resource for practitioners, to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of both service users and horses is maintained.</p> <p>The standard Certificate of Proficiency will also need to be amended as an option for EFOT. It will not be engaged (in EFOT context) until appropriate amendments have been established.</p> <p>By adding these roles to its Register, Athena aims at permitting practitioners and registrants who use counselling and psychotherapy modalities to register their practice under other specific “titles” where it is appropriate to do so.</p> <p>As with previous standards, there will be no granting of these proposed titles without appropriate and agreed definitions in place.</p> <p>Athena is in the process of establishing a committee to oversee the Register’s recognised Standards in Education and Training. In establishing this committee there will be appropriate representation from these proposed roles.</p>
<p><b>Main standards which may be affected</b></p>	<p>1, 2, 3, 4, 7,</p>
<p><b>Proposed Timescales</b></p>	<p>Athena would like to make these changes as soon as possible but have no specific timelines.</p>