LANE FOOT FARM ESTATE LIMITED

Trading as Pastures New

LETTER OF ASSURANCE – Academic Year 2026/27

Therapeutic Alternative Provision

Date:

To :

Letter of Assurance – Pastures New

Lane Foot Farm Estate Limited (Pastures New) provides **therapeutic alternative provision** for children and young people who may experience barriers to accessing or engaging successfully with mainstream education.

Pastures New is a **therapeutic provision and not a school or registered educational establishment**. We do not provide a conventional academic curriculum. Our role is to provide a safe, structured and supportive environment in which young people can develop through positive relationships, practical activity, interaction with animals and the natural environment.

Our therapeutic approach is relationship-based and may support areas such as confidence, self-esteem, emotional regulation, communication, resilience, responsibility, social development and positive engagement.

This Letter of Assurance is provided to support the due-diligence and commissioning processes of schools and other organisations placing young people with Pastures New.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Pastures New is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people attending the provision.

We maintain appropriate safeguarding and child-protection policies and procedures and have arrangements in place for:

- recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns;
- responding to disclosures;
- recording and reporting concerns;
- appropriate information sharing;
- managing allegations or concerns regarding adults;
- emergency safeguarding situations;
- communication with the commissioning school.

A Designated Safeguarding Lead is appointed and responsible for coordinating safeguarding arrangements.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Louise Smith
Contact: 07854 251859 / email louisesmith3105@yahoo.co.uk

Safeguarding concerns relating to a young person placed with us will be communicated to the commissioning school in accordance with the agreed placement and safeguarding arrangements.

Staff Suitability and Safer Recruitment

Adults working with children at Pastures New are subject to appropriate recruitment and suitability checks relevant to their role, including appropriate DBS checks where required.

We maintain records of relevant checks and can provide appropriate confirmation to commissioning schools as part of their due-diligence processes.

We will notify the commissioning school of relevant changes in staffing or circumstances which may affect the safeguarding or welfare of a young person placed with us.

Health, Safety and Risk Management

Pastures New operates within a working farm and rural environment. We recognise that this environment presents hazards which differ from those found in conventional educational settings.

Appropriate health and safety procedures and risk assessments are maintained for the activities and environment in which young people participate.

These include consideration of risks associated with:

- horses and other animals;
- livestock;
- farm buildings and facilities;
- farm vehicles and machinery;
- tools and equipment;
- fields and uneven or sloping ground;
- watercourses;
- fencing and gates;
- weather and environmental conditions;
- visitors and contractors;
- individual young people's needs and circumstances.

Activities are selected and supervised according to the individual young person's age, ability, needs, experience and assessed level of risk.

Where appropriate, individual risk assessments will be undertaken and reviewed when circumstances change or following a significant incident.

Animals and Animal Welfare

Animals form an important part of the Pastures New environment and may form part of an individual young person's therapeutic experience.

Interaction with animals is appropriately supervised and managed according to the temperament and suitability of the individual animal, the activity being undertaken and the young person's individual circumstances.

Young people are taught appropriate behaviour around animals and will not be required to interact with an animal where this is considered unsuitable or unsafe.

Animal welfare is an integral part of our practice.

Riding and External Equestrian Activities

Riding does not take place at Pastures New.

On occasion, where considered appropriate for an individual young person, Pastures New may accompany or transport them to an external equestrian facility for a riding lesson.

The riding activity is provided by the external equestrian facility and is undertaken under that facility's own:

- safeguarding arrangements;
- policies and procedures;
- riding risk assessments;
- health and safety arrangements;
- horse welfare procedures;
- supervision arrangements; and
- emergency procedures.

Pastures New does not deliver the riding lesson or assume responsibility for the external facility's operational procedures.

Pastures New will consider whether the activity is appropriate for the individual young person and will maintain appropriate safeguarding oversight during the visit.

Therapeutic & Trauma Informed Approach

Pastures New provides a supportive and structured environment in which young people can develop through practical and meaningful activity.

Our approach may include:

- developing positive and trusting relationships;
- establishing appropriate routines and boundaries;
- practical farm activities;
- animal care and interaction;
- outdoor and nature-based activities;
- developing responsibility;
- encouraging communication;
- supporting emotional regulation;
- building confidence and resilience;
- recognising and celebrating individual achievements.

Pastures New does not represent itself as a clinical mental-health or medical therapy service and does not undertake diagnosis or clinical treatment.

Where a young person's needs appear to require specialist or clinical intervention beyond the scope of our provision, we will communicate appropriately with the commissioning school, parent/carer and/or relevant professional.

Individual Needs and Support

Before and during a placement, Pastures New will consider information provided by the commissioning school regarding the young person's individual needs.

This may include information relating to:

- safeguarding;
- SEND;
- medical needs;

- communication;
- behaviour;
- emotional needs;
- known triggers;
- relevant previous experiences;
- supervision requirements;
- activities considered appropriate or inappropriate.

We recognise that each young person is an individual and that activities and support arrangements must be appropriate to their circumstances.

Attendance and Communication

Attendance will be recorded in accordance with the agreed placement arrangements.

The commissioning school will be informed of unexplained absence or significant concerns regarding attendance or engagement.

Pastures New will maintain appropriate communication with the commissioning school regarding:

- attendance;
- safeguarding concerns;
- significant incidents;
- changes in presentation or behaviour;
- welfare concerns;
- engagement;
- agreed therapeutic or developmental outcomes; and
- matters affecting the suitability or continuation of the placement.

We will participate in placement reviews where reasonably required.

Incidents and Emergencies

Pastures New maintains appropriate procedures for responding to accidents, incidents and emergencies relevant to the provision.

Significant incidents involving a young person will be recorded and communicated to the commissioning school in accordance with the agreed arrangements.

Where immediate action is required to protect a young person or another person from significant harm, emergency procedures will take precedence over normal administrative arrangements.

Policies and Procedures

Pastures New maintains policies and procedures appropriate to the nature and scale of its provision.

These include, where applicable:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection;
- Safer Recruitment;
- Health and Safety;
- Farm and Site Risk Management;
- Animal Welfare;
- Individual Risk Assessment;
- First Aid and Emergency Procedures;
- Incident and Accident Reporting;
- Behaviour and Positive Engagement;
- Attendance;
- SEND and Inclusion;
- Data Protection and Information Sharing;
- Staff Code of Conduct;
- Lone Working;

- External Activities.

Relevant policies and risk assessments can be made available to commissioning organisations as part of their due-diligence process, subject to appropriate confidentiality and data-protection considerations.

Insurance

Pastures New maintains appropriate insurance arrangements relevant to the activities and services it provides.

Evidence of relevant insurance cover can be made available to commissioning organisations upon request.

Quality Assurance

Pastures New recognises the importance of commissioning organisations being able to satisfy themselves that alternative provision is safe, suitable and appropriate for the young people they place with us.

We will cooperate with reasonable due-diligence enquiries and placement reviews undertaken by commissioning schools, local authorities or other appropriate organisations.

We are committed to reviewing and improving our safeguarding, health and safety and therapeutic practices and to maintaining appropriate standards for the nature of our provision.

Declaration

We confirm that, to the best of our knowledge, the information contained within this Letter of Assurance accurately reflects the arrangements operated by **Lane Foot Farm Estate Limited (Pastures New)** at the date of issue.

This Letter of Assurance should be read alongside our individual policies, procedures, placement agreements and risk assessments.

This document does not replace the commissioning school's own safeguarding, due-diligence or statutory responsibilities in relation to a young person placed with Pastures New.

Signed: _____Jacqui Taylor_____

Name: _____Jacqui Taylor_____

Position: _____Operations Director_____

For and on behalf of Lane Foot Farm Estate Limited (Pastures New)

Date: _____

Next Review Date: __July 2027_____