

# Horseworld: Case Study

HorseWorld is the leading UK charity caring primarily for horses, ponies and donkeys. The charity rescues, rehabilitates and rehomes animals who have been abandoned, neglected or ill-treated. HorseWorld has a Visitor Centre in Bristol where visitors can see the work of the charity in action. The Visitor Centre also has a gift shop and a café.

In 2007 the charity's Chief Accountant left and it was decided that the Assistant Accountant would take over the responsibilities of this post. Many of the responsibilities were new to the Assistant Accountant, such as management accounting, budgeting, investments/treasury management and financial strategy. Godfrey Wilson were appointed to train and mentor the Assistant Accountant, to enable her to build her skill base and make the transition to her new role. Sessions were initially held once a month, but as confidence and skills were built up, frequency dropped to bi-monthly, then quarterly. We were on hand throughout the process to troubleshoot on specific issues. We also worked alongside the Finance Department to improve systems and processes, such as automating the fixed asset register and putting in place more rigorous month end timetables.

Nikki Bridges, Finance Manager at Horseworld, says "Throughout the transition I have found the assistance of Godfrey Wilson extremely beneficial. My confidence in my own abilities has grown considerably and I have gained in both knowledge and experience. I have been informed by the Trustees that they value my input, that I have become more confident and the financial reports have become clearer and easier to read as a result of the assistance I have received from Godfrey Wilson. I know that I would not have been ready to undertake these duties and the others I have encountered had it not been for Godfrey Wilson and the valuable support they have, and continue to give me."