

**Presenter's name:** Graeme Green

**Curriculum vitae:**

**Jennifer Geach:**

Jennifer is the co-founder of Athena® Herd Foundtion. She has a lifetime of horse ownership, and over 25 years' experience of working internationally with magic circle law firms, including global investment banking clients, international investment management firms and insurance companies.

Jennifer has trained in Equine Facilitated Interactions, is a Fellow Member of the ACCPH (Accredited Counsellors, Coaches, Psychotherapists and Hypnotherapists), Mental Health First Aider and actively supports funded projects at the Athena® as well as the Training Programmes weaving in the horse aspects and enjoys supporting learners through their journeys. Jennifer is also a qualified Internal Quality Assurer.

Jennifer is passionate about community and regulation in this field. Jennifer enjoys sharing her experience of track systems, provides private consultations in this space, has spoken at conferences, written papers for the BHS and runs interactive track days both online and onsite at the Athena®.

With the rest of the Athena® team she has worked with the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) for Health and Social Care, an independent statutory body, accountable to the UK Parliament, to accredit Accredited Practitioner Register under their accredited registers programme. It is the first Register accredited by the PSA that involves the direct use of animals to deliver therapeutic and wellbeing services.

**Graeme Green:**

Graeme Green is a Director of Athena® Herd Foundation and provides facilitation support and training services for the Equine Facilitated Interactions on-site at Athena®.

Graeme has worked as a Equine Facilitated professional since around 2010 which has included the provision of personal coaching, corporate training, wellbeing-based retreats and therapeutic support. Graeme is also a Mental Health First Aid trainer for MHFA England, a Fellow Member of the ACCPH (Accredited Counsellors, Coaches, Psychotherapists and Hypnotherapists), a first aider and qualified safeguarding officer.

Graeme has provided Equine Facilitated Interactions with clients as diverse as Pupil Referral Units, fellows of Oxford University, and senior executive teams. He has provided Mindfulness training to clients of the Mental Health charity MIND and trains Mental Health First Aiders.

He has worked with Jennifer and the Athena® team, and the Professional Standards Authority to accredit Accredited Practitioner Register under their accredited registers programme.

**Category:** Oral presentation

**Topic:** Education: Good practices

**Authors:**

Jennifer Geach

Graeme Green

**Title: TO INTRODUCE THE BENEFIT OF INDEPENDENT REGULATION THAT IS RECOGNISED BY HEALTHCARE COMMISSION AND CLINICIANS**

**Keyword 1:** Professional standards

**Keyword 2:** Standards in education

**Keyword 3:** Public confidence and safety

**Abstract:**

To introduce the benefit of independent regulation that is recognised by healthcare commission and clinicians.

The global provision of Equine Assisted Services has largely grown without formal regulation, with some oversight being provided by training organisations through ongoing membership arrangements or within-industry oversight.

In the UK this has changed, potential service users and healthcare employers and providers, can now commission a service provider, or choose an individual practitioner that belongs to a register vetted and approved by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (the Authority), an independent statutory body, accountable to the UK Parliament.

This represents the first and only current independent (i.e. out of industry) national animal assisted register of practitioners in the UK.

To quote the CEO of the Professional Services Authority:

*“Bringing practitioners into a broad framework of assurance is good for clients, service users and the public and is the best way to promote quality. The programme offers enhanced consumer protection to anyone looking for health and social care services”*

The Register has been established to:

- create and maintain professional ethics and standards that prioritise the health and wellbeing of clients and public and protects them from harm or injury;
- promote and maintain client confidence and public credibility in the benefits of Equine Facilitated Interactions and the delivery thereof;
- provide a clear definition of professional standards required to support the delivery of Equine Facilitated Interactions;
- practitioners maintain professional compliance with defined professional and ethical standards;
- create more active relationships with other accredited registers and regulators

Athena wishes to share with the international HETI community the importance and benefits of such independently accredited registers.