



Fairfield Farm Trust

BREXIT Position Statement

April 2019

Introduction

Fairfield Farm Trust provides both education and residential provision for young people up to the age of 25 with SEND. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in this respect. For education services, the college is regulated by Ofsted, accountable to the Department for Education and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The Social Care provision is regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The Trust also runs a farm, coffee shops, animal walk and an animal park which are licenced through the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA); the Foods Standards Agency (FSA) respectively. Such a broad range of services and provision means that forethought, strategic oversight and clear action planning are required in order to respond to the changing government priorities regarding BREXIT.

Context

The UK was due to leave the European Union on Friday 29 March 2019. On 21 March, the EU Council meeting gave the UK government a number of choices following the Prime Minister's application for an extension to the departure date. If the UK Parliament votes in favour of the current deal the departure date will be 22 May 2019. If Parliament does not approve the deal then the EU Council has given the UK until 12 April (Good Friday) to come up with a new plan. This could involve a no-deal exit or an extension to the negotiating period.

The impact on Fairfield Farm Trust is less than in some areas of national life but 40 years in the EU has made a difference to our sector. BREXIT could bring some big changes in the 2020s and ensuring that there is sufficient strategic planning, preparation and contingency is paramount.

Summary of potential impact:

- Economic disruption between the UK and Europe will result in: Trade/import/export tariffs affecting supply and demand of goods, products and services, changes in opportunities for recruitment, international activity, trade and animal licencing and regulation surrounding travel and the supply and control of medication.
- Existing communication and trading with industries that require revision and new trade deals, will shape the future of demand for care, further education and training more widely.

- If there are changes to the rights of EU citizens in the 2020s, this will affect staff and students attending or working within the Trust.
- If there is lower migration to the UK in future, this will reinforce the need to tackle weaknesses in UK education and make the country more self-sufficient in skills

Post BREXIT Action

Fairfield Farm Trust will adopt a pragmatic and solution-focussed approach that seeks to minimise difficulties and threats to UK education and social care sector and look out for and make the most of any positive opportunities that may arise.

- Review, amend and revise policy within the Trust.
- Revise procedures, working regulations and practice as changes to legislation dictate.
- Consider and implement transitional arrangements where appropriate.
- Revise internal and external systems to adapt to changes.
- Fulfil strategic and operational oversight by way of an action plan.
- Communicate with stakeholders through and transitional arrangements or changes.
- Publish the statement setting out the College objectives on the website.

Dr Graeme Athey

Director of Education

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