



## MVP & Askham Bryan College - The Collaboration

Following the initial discussions and feasibility assessments with MVP discussions were held with Professor Gareth Rees, Askham Bryan College Principal, and the proposal is seen as beneficial not only for the College, MVP and for Veterinary development, but also York and the North of England.

The business case for the college has been set out by Professor Rees as follows:-

### **Regional Veterinary Nurse Training Centre – a partnership between Askham Bryan College and the Minster Veterinary Practice**

#### **Preamble**

Askham Bryan College proposes to collaborate with the Minster Veterinary Practice in providing a veterinary nurse training facility for the sub-region and beyond. The proposal comprises the blending of training activities within a state of the art commercial veterinary practice co-located on the College campus.

There is only one other such facility nationally that we are aware of – most agricultural colleges do have commercial veterinary practices on their campuses (which we currently do not), but none will rival the proposed facility which will comprise a small animal referral unit, a farm and poultry practice and an equine hospital.

The College has had a longstanding and very successful relationship with Minster Veterinary Practice since the early 1950's. The practice has serviced the farm work at the College, including routine dairy visits in addition to emergency treatments of cattle, sheep and pigs. Teaching by practice vets has helped to strengthen the clinical element of various courses in both the agriculture and animal management curriculum areas.

In 2003 the College established Veterinary Nurse training programmes accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. These programmes have been progressing extremely well, so well that the College now offers a Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing. This poses some resource implications and requires us to work very closely with a number of veterinary practices, to ensure that learners have sufficient work experience within clinical situations.



Discussions about our planned extension of veterinary nursing training up to degree level coincided with Minster Veterinary Practice's strategy to develop its own infrastructure, by consolidating the bulk of its activities at a single location. This led to the proposal that the Minster Veterinary Practice establishes an integrated clinical and surgical practice on the College site, in conjunction with the College's extended veterinary nurse training provision.

The location of choice amounts to approximately 8,750 m<sup>2</sup> of the College's holdings adjoining the Bilbrough Road. For a variety of reasons, predominantly clinical, the veterinary centre would require independent access from Bilbrough Road. The College would have access, under appropriate bio-security and similar conventions, to the range of activities offered at the new site, choreographed through a joint College/Minster Veterinary Practice responsibility post based in an identified location within the practice complex – in effect a fixed College presence within the practice.

A further synergy between the two partners is readily obvious in the College's capacity to provide support for landscaping and landscape maintenance. Landscape work needed by the new Practice development would be undertaken by the College, and future maintenance of landscaping would be carried out by the College via its horticulture and landscape industries section.

### **Training in a new and relevant context**

The advantages of having the Minster Veterinary Practice premises on the College site are both numerous and exciting. The College and the Minster Veterinary Practice believe that this proposal allows us to jointly create a strategy which takes both the practice and the College forward to meet their individual and collective aims.

#### *Veterinary Nursing provision*

An important cornerstone to the proposal is the almost exponential enhancement in the training offer that is facilitated by this development. Minster Veterinary Practice will become a Training Practice supported by the College's provision and training its own nurses through the arrangement, thereby enhancing the College's Veterinary Nursing Assessment Centre.

The new DEFRA Code of Practice sets out the requirements for the registration of retail premises and suitably qualified persons (SQPs) who may therefore supply veterinary medicinal products classified as prescription only medicines (POMs), non-food animal (NFA) or authorised veterinary medicines (AVM). As a result, the College proposes to offer the Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority (AMTRA) qualifications to merchants, saddlers and Veterinary Nurses who will be required to dispense veterinary medicines in the categories mentioned above. In addition to acting as a nurse training centre on-site (including nurses studying



for nursing diplomas), the new veterinary practice will provide extensive work experience opportunities for veterinary nurse and animal management trainees at all levels. The Practice would also rota regular visits to the clinical units as part of classes. This would be facilitated by specialised equipment including viewing galleries and display windows, and live video links from clinical and theatre locations to teaching areas. The establishment of specialist laboratory facilities at the new Practice would additionally offer training opportunities for nurses in haematology, biochemistry, parasitology and microbiology – a much needed resource.

Students on NVQ Level 2 and 3 Veterinary Nursing currently number 8 and 5 respectively. It is expected that these numbers will increase year on year in direct response to the Minster Veterinary development. These students are likely to use the facility on a regular basis, which may be weekly at some times of the year when the more practical modules are running.

Full cost revision sessions for NVQ veterinary nurses are planned to take place before their external exams in July and December. Students attending these courses could benefit greatly from use of the facility. These courses have not been offered previously but student numbers are anticipated to be 10 - 15.

The Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing starting in September 2007 is expected to recruit 10-12 students, which is anticipated to be a regular minimum annual cohort number, growing to 20 annually in subsequent years. In addition to using the facility to enhance the majority of their modules, these students have to undertake a significant amount of vocational placement and it is expected that the practice will provide the bulk of those learning opportunities.

If current levels of enquiry continue then the Animal Nursing Assistant Course (Level 1 provision) will be planned to start in September 2007. This would be offered 1 day a week. The aim would be for an initial cohort of 10-12 students. Once again the establishment of the Minster Practice at Askham Bryan would be key to this opportunity being offered.

#### *Animal Management*

In terms of Further Education provision, all First Diploma Animal Care students do a module called Animal Nursing. Also, in the second year of the National Diploma Animal Management there is a module which is also called Animal Nursing, obviously at a higher academic level.

Students at York (including the Wakefield students, as Animal Nursing is taught here) would be the primary users of the facility, but it is expected that groups from our Middlesbrough and Scarborough partnerships would also make visits to enhance these Animal Nursing modules. Numbers on these courses in 2006/07 are indicated below.



Course	Centre	Student numbers	Potential growth of group	Potential visits per year (based on average group size of 8-10)
First Diploma	York	21	Stable numbers	8
	NECAM (Middlesbrough)	29	Stable numbers	2
	YCC (Scarborough)	12	Annual growth +5 students per year until approx 25 total	2
National Diploma	York	32	Stable numbers	12
	Wakefield	18	Stable numbers	6
	NECAM (Middlesbrough)	21	Stable numbers	2
	YCC (Scarborough)	12	Year 2 to start 2007/08 with potential of 12 students	2

The BSc (Hons) Animal Management and Science contain at least two modules that have the potential to link into the Minster practice. Student numbers range from 6-8.

Approximately 12-16 students per year from the Foundation Degrees in Animal Management, Veterinary Nursing and Equine Management and a total of around 6 students annually from BSc (Hons) Animal Management and Science and BSc Equine Management would be expected to use the facility to carry out research work linked to their final year Projects.



## *Equine*

The development of a specialised clinical veterinary hospital for equine near the College's own equine facility will enable a range of options for teaching on both further and higher education programmes for our equine, animal management and veterinary nursing students. The equine vets at Minster are very experienced in teaching of this type and are keen to increase their involvement.

There will also be components of the equine management course which can be supplemented with a more clinically-based modules, such as lameness assessment, basic equine first-aid, containment of contagious diseases, which the College and the Practice would jointly develop and incorporate in to curriculum.

The new partnership would also see the establishment of equine veterinary nursing courses at the College, driven by the clinical input on a daily basis both by lectures and tutorials by vets from the Minster Veterinary Practice, and also by involving students at the clinic on a rotational basis in the practical nursing aspects of the course. Viewing facilities in the equine facility similar to those for small animals detailed above will provide real time experience of clinical practice for larger student groups. The College would be one of a handful nationally to be able to offer such specialised training, and indeed the nature of the proposed facility would enable the College to establish Foundation Degree provision in Equine Veterinary Nursing – one of a very select group nationally.

Equine reproductive services at the Practice will enable the College to explore co-delivery of the NPTC Certificate of Competence in Equine Artificial Insemination. This highly sought after qualification was developed by the NPTC and approval must be obtained from DEFRA under the Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination of Mares) Order 2004. In addition to this qualification DEFRA is proposing to introduce an exemption order, under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, to allow properly trained and competent non-veterinarians to undertake a range of advanced equine dental procedures. It is anticipated that the proposed partnership between the College and Minster Veterinary Practice would provide a valid training facility for this emerging vocational skill.

All equine students following both further and higher education courses must undertake compulsory work experience. It is anticipated that for the 06/07 academic year there will be somewhere of the region of 100 students seeking equine work placements. Having the Minster Practice on site will be major advantage for those learners wishing to gain experience in this area. Whilst each year several students do carry out their work experience at the existing veterinary practice, this has been limited to those with their own transport. Once on site this placement opportunity will be much more accessible and thus we would anticipate larger numbers taking up this opportunity – limited only by Minster's capacity.



Several elements of both the FE and HE curriculum would benefit significantly from input from practicing veterinarians. Examples of specific modules include:-

National Diploma Equine Management - Animal Health – around **45** learners annually would benefit from input on control of diseases, barrier nursing, and lameness diagnosis.

Foundation Degree Equine Management - Equine Health and Disease and Equine Injury and Repair – around **12** learners on each module requiring input on all aspect of health checks and vetting procedure, treatment techniques and disease prevention, the ability to see diagnostic equipment and images and to have the ability to monitor recovery and rehabilitation

BSc Equine Management – Advances in Equine Veterinary Research – **8-10** learners annually. Currently consists of several external visits whereas having this facility on site allow students frequent access to experts in this area.

In addition to the direct training opportunities for the existing programmes, we would expect some of the National Diploma Horse Management students to progress via the veterinary nursing route through to the RCVS Certificate in Equine Nursing (**6-8** students) and on to the Foundation Degree in Equine Veterinary nursing (**8-10** students every cohort). These would be new, specialist courses that could only occur if the Minster development took place

#### *Farm*

Minster Veterinary Practice is actively involved on the committee of the British Veterinary Poultry Association. Its present complement of poultry vets are experienced in clinical teaching, currently involved in poultry training for a variety of commercial poultry companies at their York and Hereford sites. Similar teaching will also be carried out at the new Veterinary School at the University of Nottingham, providing an important additional collaboration with the planned Askham Bryan development.

Teaching at the clinical unit would involve post-mortem examinations, specialised laboratory teaching, site visits to commercial broiler, layer, turkey and duck units around the North of England and an overall appreciation of the commercial industry in the UK. As the industry faces up to the challenges of a potential avian influenza outbreak, such a unit will be of enormous significance, simply by including a nationally important clinical poultry diagnostic unit as part of the new Practice facility.

Similar benefits would emanate from a closer involvement with the farm vets, generating the potential for more on-farm training and lecture work to students on the agriculture, animal management and veterinary nursing courses.



As the new joint initiative develops, there are a significant number of further enhancements to the partnership mode of working that will provide more training opportunities for the region. These would include joint investments in high cost resources for both clinical and therapeutic treatment - such as an aqua treadmill for animal therapy. We would expect to develop further courses in canine therapy, canine counselling, dog grooming and alternative therapies such as aromatherapy and homeopathy entirely in partnership with the Practice. We would expect to further exploit a behaviour counselling suite with associated observation area as an important curriculum resource for innovative approaches to treatment.

In addition, we feel that the partnership will be able to offer a range of qualifications in veterinary practice management, up to and including honours degree programmes in this area. The College also has advanced plans to develop postgraduate programmes in animal science in conjunction with the University of Leeds - this development would ensure a high quality provision at that level and also a resource for academic research activities.

## Summary

There would be major benefits to both parties based on mutual reputations. The benefit to the practice by being linked to the major agricultural college in the region are tangible, and help to strengthen the agricultural base that has been developed by the practice over the last 100 years (Minster is the longest established practice in Yorkshire). Similarly the modern clinical reputation of the Practice, both nationally as well as locally, will help the College in many ways, but primarily in establishing courses relevant to the veterinary profession regionally and beyond. The fusion of commercial and academic expertise in the way envisaged will provide a powerful driver for veterinary training in the wider context. This document indicates that direct training and demonstration activities will be facilitated for in excess of 150 learners on Animal Management courses and in excess of 60 learners on Equine programmes up to honours degree level to varying extent. Importantly, extensive practical experience, demonstration and direct training opportunities will be available for in excess of 60 students on Veterinary Nursing programmes. Further, the development will allow new full-time and part-time courses to run that otherwise not be possible, specifically equine veterinary nursing courses for up to 30 students each year. The potential for continuous professional development courses and the likely numbers of candidates is enormous. The scale of the training and education activities would make this partnership a supra-regional resource.