

Dedham Therapy Farm CIC

Procedure for Managing Behaviour using therapeutic thinking & PRICE Restraint.

Review – September 2026

Introduction

Dedham Therapy Farm takes a therapeutic approach to managing behaviour and relies on a collaborative approach between its staff, families, Farm Assistants and other services they work with to ensure a supportive and understanding environment to manage the various behaviours that we may experience and mitigate risks that are involved when managing behaviour.

Dedham Therapy Farm uses “Therapeutic Thinking” to approach behaviour and PRICE escalation and restraint. Therapeutic Thinking within Essex is owned by the Essex Special Schools Education Trust (ESSET). Training and practice within other services is the responsibility of the employer and management.

Dedham Therapy Farm strives to provide positive experiences that in turn create opportunity to experience helpful feelings.

It is possible that Farm Assistants may present with difficult and dangerous behaviour. At Dedham Therapy Farm,

Difficult behaviour is defined as - Behaviour that is anti-social, but not dangerous.

Dangerous behaviour is defined as - Behaviour which will imminently result in injury to self or others, damage to property or behaviour that would be considered criminal if the person was the age of criminal responsibility, such as racist abuse.

Staff must follow Dedham Therapy Farm risk assessment policy to ensure safety and wellbeing of staff, volunteers and Farm Assistants. – Risk assessment policy

Behaviours that we may experience and the process to support Farm Assistants displaying this behaviour.

Alert codes

Standard alert procedure is to state the following:

- Who you require assistance from (either name them, label first aider, or say anyone if it can be anyone that is free)
- Clearly state where you need the assistance
- Why and what assistance you need.

In the event that you need urgent assistance from office staff or other team members, and you believe that using the standard alert may cause unnecessary escalation, you may instead communicate the phrase:

“There is a purple elephant in the (YOUR LOCATION)”

Lack of clarity can cause an untimely response of support or the incorrect team member arriving to assist you.

Absconding – purposefully (walking or running at a pace to create distance between Farm Assistant and staff member while exiting the setting.)

- Raise the alarm (walkie talkie), phone as back up if required. Sharing location with office.
- Follow the Farm Assistant at safe distance.
- Staff in office to support by calling the police and informing family. Sending of available staff to support or support themselves where possible.
- Use of therapeutic thinking phrases to verbally de-escalate.
- If verbal de-escalation not successful and is safe to do so use therapeutic thinking training to guide Farm Assistant to a safe location or back to farm office.
- Continue to keep the young person in sight where possible and keep office informed of location.

Refusal to engage

- Use therapeutic approach to identify reasons Farm Assistant is refusing to engage.
- Make reasonable adjustments to encourage engagement.
- Assess behaviour displaying identifying of it is difficult or dangerous.
- Seeking support from colleagues if behaviours is dangerous or unmanageable.
- If Farm Assistant continues to refuse to engage arrange for session to end early and for Farm Assistant to be collected
- Information gather at an appropriate time afterward to ascertain reasons for disengagement and to make plans for future input.
- Attempt use of visuals during session to provide other communication opportunities.

Mobile Phones

- Set the boundary prior to starting sessions that mobile phones are not required in sessions
- Gather an understanding of why the Farm Assistant may be asking to have/use a phone during sessions.
- Use therapeutic approach to ask them to not use phones during sessions
- Staff reserve the right to end session early if Farm Assistant refuses to follow policy of no mobile phones.

Threatening staff, peers, self or animals

- Use of therapeutic approach to understand what may have triggered the behaviour.
- Make reasonable adjustments to encourage engagement.
- Assess behaviour displaying identifying of it is difficult or dangerous.
- Seeking support from colleagues if behaviours is dangerous or unmanageable.
- If Farm Assistant continues to be threatening arrange for session to end early and for Farm Assistant to be collected

- Information gather at an appropriate time afterward to ascertain reasons for disengagement and to make plans for future input.
- Update individual risk assessment.

Verbal aggression

- Use of therapeutic approach to understand what may have triggered the behaviour.
- Make reasonable adjustments to encourage engagement.
- Assess behaviour displaying identifying of it is difficult or dangerous.
- Seeking support from colleagues if behaviours is dangerous or unmanageable.
- If Farm Assistant continues to show verbal aggression arrange for session to end early and for Farm Assistant to be collected
- Information gather at an appropriate time afterward to ascertain reasons for disengagement and to make plans for future input.
- Update individual risk assessment.

Inappropriate use of equipment

- Use of therapeutic approach to encourage the young person to put down the equipment and to understand what may have triggered the behaviour.
- Assess behaviour displaying identifying of it is difficult or dangerous.
- Make sure other Farm Assistants and animals at a safe distance and animals are suitably contained.
- Make suggestions on other tasks or activities they could do that is a safe alternative to the dangerous or difficult behaviour.
- Seeking support from colleagues if behaviours is dangerous or unmanageable.
- If Farm Assistant continues to show inappropriate use of equipment that is dangerous, raise the alarm using walkie talkie or phone if required and seek support from office and police and arrange for session to end early and for Farm Assistant to be collected. Use of guiding away techniques can be used to avoid injury to self or others.
- Information gather at an appropriate time afterward to ascertain reasons for disengagement and to make plans for future input.
- Update individual risk assessment.

Refusal to wear appropriate clothing/footwear/PPE

- Use therapeutic thinking to ascertain reason behind refusal to wear appropriate clothing or footwear.
- Helping the young person understand why appropriate footwear is required eg muddy terrain or injury.
- If Farm Assistant still refuses to wear appropriate continue to attempt to complete activities with Farm Assistant as long as it is safe to do so.
- If safe to continue and Farm Assistant shows they are unable to engage in activity due to inappropriate clothing/footwear/ppe or is impacting on others in their group engaging in the activity then re offer use of appropriate/clothing/footwear/PPE. If Farm Assistant chooses to not accept offer and cannot engage or impacts on others. Staff to inform office to contact home/family/transport and organise collection early or make use of staff available either

attending with Farm Assistant or farm staff to sit with Farm Assistant at a suitable location on the farm until they either change their mind or are collected.

- If unsafe to continue session make Farm Assistant aware that session will need to end as planned activity cannot be completed safely follow steps to end session.

Teasing or belittling others or animals

- Use of therapeutic approach to understand what may have triggered the behaviour.
- Discuss with Farm Assistant pro social behaviours and share how their behaviour may be impacting on others.
- Assess behaviour displaying identifying if it is difficult or dangerous.
- If Farm Assistant continues behaviour anti-social behaviour bring concern Lead OT for review of level of support and suitability of session
- Information gather at an appropriate time afterward to ascertain reasons for disengagement and to make plans for future input.
- Update individual risk assessment.

Inappropriate language or comments

- Use of therapeutic approach to understand what may have triggered the behaviour.
- Discuss with Farm Assistant pro social behaviours and share how their behaviour may be impacting on others.
- Assess behaviour displaying identifying if it is difficult or dangerous.
- If Farm Assistant continues behaviour anti-social behaviour bring concern Lead OT for review of level of support and suitability of session
- Information gather at an appropriate time afterward to ascertain reasons for disengagement and to make plans for future input.
- Update individual risk assessment.

Bringing in or suspected concealed or prohibited items

Items that are considered prohibited included but are not limited to

- Weapons
- Drugs
- Items that could potentially cause harm to self/others or animals
- Illegal items
- alcohol, tobacco, cigarette papers or fireworks,
- pornographic material
- Stolen items

In the event Dedham Therapy Farm staff/volunteers believe a Farm Assistant or visitor may have an item concealed on their person or their belongings that could be considered a prohibited item the procedure below **MUST** be followed.

- Information gathered prior to Farm Assistant starting and if it is believed Farm Assistant could in the future bring in prohibited items, lines of communication kept open with parent/school/other services to monitor behaviour presentation prior to attending their sessions and risk assessment updated.
 - Young person made aware in advance there will be no access to the farm if prohibited items are brought onto the farm
1. In the event staff believe prohibited item has been brought onto the farm encourage Farm Assistant to hand over and or dispose of the prohibited item. Staff member must radio office to ask for support with potential prohibited item. Use of therapeutic thinking approach to work with the Farm Assistant to achieve a positive outcome.
 2. If this is not successful liaise with parent/carer in an attempt to get Farm Assistant to hand over suspected item.
 3. If this is not successful staff reserve the right to search Farm Assistant following the DFE guidance on searching young people. [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#)
 4. If it is deemed unsafe or not appropriate to complete a search and the item that is considered prohibited is likely to cause imminent danger then the police must be called.
 5. If the prohibited item is not an immediate risk but is considered a safeguarding concern staff must report potential item to parent/carer/school immediately, risk assessment updated and safeguarding procedure followed.

After the event, primary staff member to attempt restorative conversation with Farm Assistant to ensure they understand reasons for prohibited items removal and to continue a positive therapeutic relationship with Farm Assistant and staff member and provide a learning experience for the Farm Assistant.

The below must be adhered to;

- Complete a individual risk assessment, referral and initial assessment to be completed with each Farm Assistant to ascertain the likelihood of detrimental behaviour.
- Plan sessions that are tailored to meet the interest and needs of individuals accessing the service. Farm Assistants must consent to engaging in intervention at Dedham Therapy Farm CIC. This reduces the likelihood of detrimental behaviour.
- **When staff are assessing behaviour, they must label the behaviour in accordance with the definitions of difficult and dangerous behaviour at the start of this policy.**
- When recording behaviour staff must ensure it is an accurate description of events using appropriately descriptive words.
- Any physical intervention that is required must be documented using the Physical intervention log template and shared with parent/carer/school/local authority where appropriate and stored on the Farm Assistant file. The Farm Assistant information spreadsheet must also be altered to indicate correct number of physical interventions have been logged.
- Staff must attempt de-escalation first prior to any physical intervention. Using scripted de-escalation phrases. Then when escalation is not successful therapeutic thinking guiding away techniques can be attempted. In the event guiding away has not been successful, PRICE restraint techniques can be used to ensure safety of staff, animals and the Farm Assistant.

- Suspension and/or permanent exclusion (PEX) will be actioned in the event dangerous behaviour increases the level of risk, to the point that no measures can be put in place to bring down the level of risk to Farm Assistant, staff, volunteers or animals.

Procedure for managing behaviour

1. De-escalation phrases & distraction
2. Therapeutic thinking guiding away
3. Physical restraint
4. Attempt restorative conversation after any detrimental behaviour either during current session or in next session.
5. Log any physical intervention in progress notes, on physical intervention log and Farm Assistant information spreadsheet.
6. Review individual risk assessment and behaviour plan for the Farm Assistant

Risk Assessment use

Behaviour is monitored and risk assessed on an individual basis at point of referral and on an ongoing basis. Individual risk assessments are working documents that are updated as and when required and reviewed half termly. All staff follow the risk assessment policy to ensure consistency for all Farm Assistants. All staff carry walkie talkies to call for support with behaviour if needed.