

Minutes of the Meeting of the Active Partnerships National Board Held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 virtually by Zoom

Members Present: Doug Patterson (Chair), Dick Fedorcio, Nigel Harrison, Ian Hacon, Sue Imbriano, Adrian Leather, Amanda Pearce-Higgins, Mike Sandys, Alison Shipway, Sue Storey, Adam Walker.

In attendance: Lee Mason (Chief Executive & Company Secretary)

1. Introductions

- Doug welcomed members and informed the Board of the sad passing from Covid-19 of Becky Underwood, a long serving member of staff at Active Cumbria who had also been involved in national and network activity over the years and was a much valued colleague. Our condolences had been passed on to the team at AC and Becky's family.
- No Apologies or Declarations of interest
- The minutes of last meeting were agreed noting that the last bullet on point 4 should read 'compliance' not 'complain'.
- Matters arising – Board evaluation survey to be progressed.

2. Member Engagement & Understanding

- **Development Group update** – Ali spoke to the paper that had been circulated sharing the output from the last meeting, which Mike Sandys had joined as part of a focus on health. The discussion focussed on influencing within the health system and recognised a shift from 'selling' to health partners to a more collaborative place based approach. A key theme emerging was the need for more high level influencing capacity, skills and expertise within APs which would need to be considered in the context of discussions with Sport England about future role and funding. Doug reflected that the development group is playing an important role in exploring key themes and providing structured thinking into the Board.
- **Member newsletter / CEO update** – lee highlighted some elements of the newsletter including:
 - Additional investment into the opening school facilities work, noting the likely focus on extracurricular for initially.
 - Live longer better developments and national events.
 - Social prescribing project and links with national developments with Sport England and NASP.
 - Workplace movement launched with 10 APs and a link established with the Sport England active employee toolkit.

3. Collaboration & Improvement

- a. The Convention programme was noted, and colleagues encourage to register for relevant sessions including the opening session with Sport England and the Chairs session. Colleagues noted it looks like a great programme.

4. Partnerships & Stakeholders

- a. **Sport England funded role & relationship** – lee gave a brief update including his involvement in a steering group for the project established by Sport England. The project will involve co-creation with APs the future role, relationship, funding and performance management for 2022 onwards.
- a. **New National Sector Partners Group** – the Board discussed the proposals for a new NSPG and our involvement and contribution. It was noted a shift from a government lobby for funding or reopening, to a more collaborative approach with government to affect system change nationally and locally. It was noted that Sport England are supportive and engaged as observers. The Board supported the proposals and our involvement, noting the potential enhance our public affairs function, and feed in a place based approach to complement the local system change approach. APs would be consulted further at the convention CEO session including how we develop our input to policy.

5. Programmes & Resources

- **Black Lives Matter Response** – lee updated the Board on progress being made with the 3rd session held with CEOs and the emerging statement of commitment for the network. Dick wondered if the reference to George Floyd was appropriate as it could imply we weren't doing anything until this point. Nigel felt it was an important catalyst to do more and we need to show humility. Sue noted the guidance on language from sporting equals an suggested checking against this. Eamonn shared some good practice, research and advice from the Black Swimming Association. Overall, the Board were supportive of the commitment to be refined and presented to the wider network as part of the Convention session.
- **Climate Change –David Gent** joined the meeting to discuss the network's approach to climate change, building on the discussion at the AGM. He described how this is a critical agenda for the network, how sedentary behaviours are carbon intensive and the need for an organisational and system perspective. He proposed an ACTI framework – Acknowledge – Change – Tackle – Inequalities. Sue Storey asked if we had connected with BASIS and it was confirmed they were engaged and to be involved in the convention session. Adam wondered if we should be a cause driven network or to acknowledge that sport and pa deliverers against a range of outcomes. It was agreed we should continue to prioritise this work, exploring it further with colleagues across the network to stimulate further ideas and action. Doug thanked David for joining the meeting and his leadership in this area.
- **Live Longer Better – Paul Brivio** joined the meeting for this agenda item and updated the Board on progress being made, and that he felt the time is right for the National team to take on the leadership as we enter phase 2. He feels this is a great opportunity for the network, to develop a community of practice, affect system change and is particularly timely as part of Covid recovery and reconditioning.

Amanda said that Sir Muir was a great ambassador and asset for the work. Ian wondered if there were potential sponsors of the programme such as Saga. Paul hoped future TIF style investment from Sport England could support this work. Doug thanked Paul for attending and his work on the project.

6. Finance & Governance

a. **Cost of Living Award Policy** – the policy had been revisited as requested at the last meeting exploring the possible link with staff performance. Sue Storey felt there was still more of a link that could be explored to complete previous actions from the HR committee. Ali was keen to broaden the work to discuss salary setting and wider people policy. Ian and others were uncomfortable with linking it to performance. In conclusion Doug suggested we should reconvene the HR committee and asked for volunteers – Ali, Sue, Doug, Adrian and Ian would meet to discuss further and bring back proposals to the next meeting.

a. **Operational Plan Priorities 21-22** – the operational plan review of progress last year and priorities for the year ahead was noted recognising it as a transition year. As time was tight, Doug asked for views to be shared and would pick up separately with Lee to finalise.

a. **Finance Committee Minutes, Q3 Report & Forward Budget 21-25** – Lee, Ian and Amanda presented the Q3 report noting the improved position due to the Convention costs reduction and income for the social prescribing work. The proposed budget for 21-2 was presented and it was noted it was a core balanced budget with proposals for additional c£25k to support additional one off expenditure, as well as previously agreed investment into underwriting business development officer costs and the social prescribing project. This was agreed, as was subscriptions to increase by 2%. Staff cost of living would be considered at the next meeting. It was noted that there may be additional requests in year e.g., to support LLB.

7. AOB

The next meet would be scheduled for end of April.