

Minutes of the Meeting of the Active Partnerships National Board Held on Wednesday 1^h Sept 2020 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), Nicki Couzens (Business Support & Comms), Adrian Ledbury

1. Introductions

- a. Welcome – Doug welcomed all colleagues to the meeting.
- b. Apologies & Declarations of interest - Nigel and Adrian declared an interest in the Homelessness project as their Partnerships will receive funding.
- c. Minutes of last meeting & matters arising - Dick noted that the review of our approach to public affairs and advocacy has not yet progressed, need to put a date in the diary with Lee.

2. Member Engagement & Understanding

- a. Chair & Board Member activity update including AP Chair engagement

Dick has meetings booked in diary with Surrey and Sussex.

Ian contacted Louise in Cornwall, felt partnership on whole getting good support and had ideas for the future.

Adam reported he had 2/3 conversation with Shropshire, gentle dialogue, Active Glous confirmed they will contact when they need support.

Doug reiterated the Board approach is that we don't force relationships, we are supporting unless we have concerns on tracker when we will be more proactive but will pick up individually with contacts.

Adrian Ledbury suggested forthcoming Board diversity session could be used as a hook for engagement with chairs to get their thoughts on diversity.

b. CEO Report

- Social Prescribing; Tracey Lines started as national Social Prescribing Manager on Monday and is a welcome addition to the team. Mike S offered to offer support.
 - Regional SP networks are being created and there will be a sport coordinator in each region. Some Active Partnerships have offered to host the roles, this is an open process so any organisation can apply to take on host role. Expected that landscape will become clearer in a couple of months when infrastructure is clearer. Discussion held around how this fits with Tracey's role.
 - Adrian Leather explained funding will be flowing down from national organisations – NASP funding- not much detail yet but will link with regional structure. Can apply for funding from regional roles, small grants for small local providers and schemes, seek to get more details.

Tracey to be invited to next meeting to give an update.

c. Development Group – verbal update from meeting

Ali leads the Development Group and circulated piece on the learnings emerging from the group of where the conversations are shifting locally, what this is telling us and implications for future role. Common themes include connections into charity sector, power of communities, huge focus on inequalities, on back of TIF to mobilise and build relationships. Ongoing theme of being bolder. Opportunities and needs now so broad, AP's have the challenge to decide where to focus energy.

Doug felt it encouraging that priorities are beginning to emerge and asked if there is anything the development group required? Continue to create the space to allow them to come together. National-local links a recurring theme.

Also agreed it would help if we keep driving visibility of the group through the network, using national team, hub and Board.

Lee identified there is a recurring theme around AP capacity. Need, opportunities and demands greater than ever so a number of AP are feeling stretched.

d. Active Partnership Tracker

Noted the following

- Active Cheshire CEO has left, Lee is supporting chair, assist with interim and recruitment.
- Active Dorset – noted didn't apply for additional funding for TIF
- Dick updated on the review in Kent.
- Sue S asked if there was any update on APT, noted some engagement but not significant change of position. Doug/Sue to look to re-engage one new chair appointed.
- Pensions update - Lees explained legacy LGPS pension issue to new board members. A couple appear to be moving towards a satisfactory conclusion but more to be done – most issues has not gone away and we are continuing to connect with each other, expert advice and support. Lee to provide an update at a future meeting.
- Quest – Adrian Leather informed board their latest assessment was very light touch and asked if we should be proactive in helping shape future process. Ali noted it was a conscious move for SE performance management, using the sessions as a learning experience and make them meaningful as a partnership. Lee explained we have been discussing this with Sport England and there are plans to do this early linked to new role, relationship, and funding discussions. Agreed there is a need to continue to collectively demonstrate our impact.
- Nigel added that it was part of a wider suite of changes taking place including increased flexibility around CYP funding and new approach with TIF, all challenging the network to respond to these challenges and opportunities to be more locally driven

3. Collaboration & Improvement

a. BLM / BAME Diversity including CEO Session & Board member diversity workshop outline

Noted the first session with CEOs has been finalised for 5th October with John Amaechi as speaker and then a further two sessions will be held. 10 people are involved in a working group shaping the approach.

Chairs workshop is being held on 8th October; Sue Storey is taking the lead as board equality champion.

b. Convention Plan / decision

Board agreed the recommendation that the Convention should be held in March as a virtual event, and this should be communicated to Partnerships as a positive development. It would enable all AP staff and Board members to be involved.

All agreed the need to ensure shorter sessions, not all day, and be mindful of timings when we are encouraging volunteer Board members to attend.

Ian agreed it is possible to produce professional conference online, e.g. panel in same room. Suggest focus on production quality so it is as engaging as possible.

On a wider point of physical meetings Amanda noted the challenge for new staff/ Board members who don't have pre-established connections and suggested we explore appetite for a hybrid approach e.g. have cluster sessions for new colleagues.

c. Leadership programme update

Adrian Ledbury confirmed an exciting programme is being developed and that system leadership are key going forward to unlock the conditions for an active nation. Will be a series of introductory system leaderships modules, presented in a useable format. Interviewing two people next week for the contract. Adrian noted that few companies undertake System leadership training, so prices are high. Aim to start in Nov 2020 and run for 6 months, all subject to discussions with supplier.

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4. Partnerships & Stakeholders

a. Sport England Strategy – discussion.

Highlights – Lee outlined that SE key dates for SE strategy. The original plan for Dec 2020 was pushed back to April 2021, but now looking at producing headlines in Dec, outlining this is what we are trying to achieve and how, with spring implementation plan and resources strategy.

There will be a lot to consider in due course ref AP role etc. – Board felt it important to ensure it doesn't get rushed, keep pushing for process around this.

Amanda asked how funding decisions are made e.g. distribution across Partnerships and whether this is usually a competitive process. Lee gave an update on current practice and an opportunity to review and check this for next round. Dick felt we may need to be proactive around this – for further discussion.

5. Programmes & Resources

a. Business Development

Lee informed board Matt Liggins, head of Business Development is leaving. Has set some great foundations and established Workplace Movement. Now need to make decisions on how we move forwards. Lee, Adam and Ian to meet to discuss proposals.

Adam asked for it to be noted that Matt has been excellent over the last two years and is happy to help with next set of thinking. Board recorded their thanks to Matt –and wish him well in future

b. LMCT Homelessness Project – approval to proceed

The project has challenging timescale and projects but very positive. Strong steer was provided on need for urban Northern partnerships to be involved. Need to move very quickly, recruit project manager and get implemented. Need approve to proceed, agreed will add value.

Dick asked how it had come about and Lee explained the LMCT came to us as a trusted partner with a reputation as someone who could deliver. Lee confirmed the network has the competencies to deliver but will be challenging. Agreed we need to check VAT on project costs.

Adrian Ledbury noted the project is also exciting as it will allow network / partnerships to put into practice some concepts at a national scale etc. how to you measure in complex environments, how do we ensure learning and system change are central as opposed to just delivering projects/outputs.

The Board gave approval to proceed should the bid be successful.

c. Opening School Facilities project update

Noted the key shift to this project is now encouraging and assisting schools to reopen facilities rather than looking at new schools opening their facilities for the first time.

6. Finance & Governance

a. Q1 Report & Finance Committee Minutes

Reports were circulated in the packs and noted. Early in year but overall finance in robust position

16k of savings on budget – positive from finance but may impact on performance. Budget is fluid in current situation.

b. Annual Report & Accounts for approval

Discussed at length in finance meeting and Amanda and Ian have been through them in detail. –

Going concern as a result of Covid19 has been considered in some detail and we are able to confirm going concern status due to future funding confirmation from Sport England.

Thank you given to Amanda and Ian for progressing this and the details provided,

proposing this to be approved so can be taken through AGM. All agreed.

c. AGM Plan

Propose that AGM is online rather than physical event and that just AGM business is discussed as other training and meetings are being organised.

Need to check constitution that we can have it as an online event. Sue S confirmed that changes have been made within national legislation that enables virtual AGM. Lee to check with Sue and Adam and look at updated guidance from charities commission.

Doug proposed keeping event simple but consider the possibility of bring a few people together as Ian's previous suggestion.

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d. National Board member appointment

All agreed with proposal with Ali re-appointed for another 2 years.

e. National Board Diversity

Dick - a difficult issue that many Boards are facing and need to look at targeting people to approach.

Sue S need to take positive action, Perrett Laver have board ready candidates.

Mike- need to look at talent management – who is there that isn't in position for national level but can be nurtured, pipeline of talent. Mentor and support people.

Nigel- need to take action, no easy solution, so board paper provides some ideas. Must not provide excuse.

Amanda – give people the support to get on the first rung of the ladder.

Ian – consider wider diversity issues, what are we trying to address too.

Lee and Doug to pick up how we can enhance Board with greater diversity and expertise on inequalities.

7. AOB

- a. Agreed to continue with shorter more regular on line meetings for now. Additional meetings may be needed to discuss SE strategy.
- b. Ian noted increasing divide between cyclist and motorists.