

Annual Governance Statement

April 2023 to March 2024

Background

This Governance Statement details how Yorkshire Sport Foundation's Board of Trustees have practiced good governance within the year April 2023 to March 2024, it also details compliance with the requirements of Tier 3 of Sport England's A Code for Sport Governance.

Board Updates

The Board provides a robust check and challenge on the governance of YSF, several standing items are discussed at every meeting such as Finance, HR, Health and Safety, as well as performance reports detailing the progress of the work being carried out. An evaluation takes place at the end of every meeting reviewing the documents tabled, the items discussed and the general feel of the meeting. A full evaluation of the Board and its members has also taken place, this was managed by the Chair.

During the year the Chair, Paul Reid, came to the end of his tenure and passed the position to Brendan Fatchett. There were three board members recruited, Rebecca Bibbs, Michael Hirst and Mark Winder as well as three stepping down, Sarah Muckle, Jim Lord and Ben Smith. We thank them all for the service they have provided to YSF over their terms. [Biographies for all YSF Trustees](#) can be found on the YSF website.

Four full Board meetings were held during the year with several, additional, virtual catch-up sessions, these are shorter sessions where Trustees can be updated with progress on ongoing projects. [Approved minutes](#) for the full Board meetings can be found on the YSF website. Three of the quarterly meetings were held in community facilities that YSF has worked in over the last few years. These meetings included an update on a deep dive topic ranging from the work taking place on the Local Delivery Pilots to the Strategy work that has taken place in one of the districts.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FAR Committee) provide a detailed check on several areas such as finance and risk. They also provide support on ad-hoc projects where necessary. They are ultimately accountable to the Board and provide a summary of discussions that have taken place to the full Board meeting. The FAR Committee has also held four full meetings.

Attendance at the full Board meeting is as follows;

Board member	Full Board Meetings Attended/ Eligible to attend	FAR Committee Meetings Attended/ Eligible to attend
Paul Reid	2/2	
Caroline Black	4/4	
Helen Gauden	2/4	3/4
John Williams	1/4	2/4
Gwen Smith	3/4	2/4
Rashida Salloo	4/4	
Jim Lord	2/2	
Ben Smith – Resigned Sep 23	0/2	
Sarah Muckle – Resigned Jan 24	1/3	
Brendan Fatchett - Recruited Jul 23	3/3	
Rebecca Bibbs - Recruited Jan 24	1/1	
Michael Hirst – Recruited Jan 24	1/1	
Mark Winder - Recruited Jan 24	1/1	

Strategy Updates

We continue to work towards our strategy set out in March 2022, [Our Strategy, 2022 and beyond](#), working towards achieving the aims detailed underpinned by the eight themes – Active Communities, Active Design, Health and Care, Active Travel, Active Workplaces, Public Campaigns, Active Schools and Sport.

This strategy was developed over a 12-month period and includes collaboration and consultation with many of our partners from across the area. Each Board member has been designated a ‘Board Champion’ for each of the strategy vision pillars.

We have refined our Learning and Performance System in line with the new strategy to enable the key indicators of performance to be presented to the Board at each meeting. For those areas not meeting expectations, specific remedial action plans are drawn up to ensure recovery.

This year we have made progress in achieving our vision, more information on our achievements will be available in the Annual Accounts and Impact Report.

A Code for Sports Governance

During the year we have been continuing to improve our governance procedures and compliance with the revised [A Code for Sports Governance](#) requirements. We have been focusing on the new elements including devising a People Plan, working on the Diversity and Inclusion Action plan and ensuring good Environmental Social Governance in line with the code.

We have completed a self-assessment against the code to ensure compliance. Sport England have confirmed that YSF continues to achieve a standard of governance that is in line with the Tier 3 requirements. YSF's DIAP has gone through verification and has been verified as meeting the required standard.

This is backed up by an external audit that took place this year by Campbell and Tickell. This was an in-depth review that looked at how YSF work over five different topics; Governance Framework; Diversity, Skills and Compliance; Strategic role; Dynamics and Culture; and Conduct of meetings. After looking into our written records, receiving questionnaires from board members and staff members who interact with the board, interviewing a handful of board members and observing a meeting, they reviewed that YSF are in a strong position in terms of governance providing a handful of recommendations to further strengthen the work taking place. These have been included in our working throughout the year.

Next Year

We will continue to work towards achieving our charity vision backed up by robust governance processes and procedures.