
Yorkshire Sport Foundation

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 11 November 2024

Venue: Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre, Sheffield

Board Members: Brendan Fatchett (Chair), Gwen Smith, Michael Hirst, Rebecca Bibbs, Mark Winder, Jodie Bridger, Caroline Black

Apologies: Helen Gauden, Karl Oxford, Rashida Salloo

Supporting Officers: Nigel Harrison, Amanda Potter, Joe Thompson, James Brown, Gemma Armitage, Tom Hughes, Rachael Weston

Guests: None

Minutes

Agenda Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Brendan opened the meeting. He introduced Jodie and Karl. The Board approved the appointments to the Board.</p> <p>ACTION: Introductions to take place at the next meeting</p> <p>ACTION: Inductions for Jodie and Karl to take place – Brendan will attend these inductions with Jodie and Karl.</p> <p>Discussions are still taking place with prospective Board members.</p> <p>Rashida, Karl and Helen sent their apologies</p>	

<p>2. Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes were accepted.</p> <p>Matters arising;</p> <p>Nigel and Gwen still to meet. All other actions completed.</p> <p>Further Best Company information is due to be released on Thursday this week. This will be circulated to the Board when known.</p>	
<p>3. Performance Report</p> <p>Nigel introduced the report and commented that the way that this has been reported seems to be working. He picked up areas that have not progressed this year. He pointed out the Sub-Regional work that is progressing.</p> <p>Brendan queried the “red arrows” in the report and asked if there were any additional comments to be made. Nigel covered the Bradford reduction and explained the current situation. James also explained that this may have happened due to including the thinking behind the System Maturity Matrix. It is reassuring that these changes are minor.</p> <p>Clarification was sought over calculations on 4.3.2 - this is due to not all the figures being detailed – further details can be seen in the finance papers.</p> <p>Clarification around the differences between the Local Authority area scoring – James explained that there are differences in sizes and set up in areas. We are trying to moderate these as much as possible.</p> <p>Clarification around the health measures – what do these breakdown to as there seems to have been quite a jump. This may be addressed in the report, one of the measures is local and one is national.</p> <p>Active Design work has increased a lot and seems to be soaring – what is behind this? Joe explained that there has been a lot of work to research what is in place so a more reflective position has been reported. We have also been successful in some areas in the work. Can the target be adjusted as it has already been achieved?</p> <p>The district footnotes were missed – 4.2.1 etc? The commentary would be better to be more explanatory rather than describing. Districts and system themes - deep dive once a year. Active Schools, Barnsley and Sport for example – 5 minutes each, this is done during the meetings, we are trying to focus on a different work area each time. More explanation on the how and the why. Connect the performance and directors reports better to link stories with reports.</p>	
<p>4. Communication Report</p>	

Julian shared the current working in the communication function. There were discussions around the social media and other metrics. The board members asked what they could do to help, more specifically what to share on LinkedIn for example, possibly specific asks around sharing specific things.

Clarification was sought as to if the challenges are volume specific or message and the possible conflicting ones.

A comment was made that we are miles behind this as a sector. How is AI being incorporated into this? We understand that this a big area of work and we are keen to get involved carefully. Brendan commented that there has been push back against AI as it can create, however this can potentially be manipulative and fictional whilst appearing true. On the other hand, it can save a large amount of time, possibly in summarising documents.

If there was a forward plan of campaigns members would find it much easier to help.

ACTION: Bring a campaign plan to the next meeting to aid the members to help spread the messages.

The analysis of the website metrics was discussed. Are we comparing the right things and with the right organisations? Are we focussing on the right channels? What would we be happy with as a target/success measure? The board campaign would help to reduce the spikes and enable us to see the success of the campaigns.

5. CEO/ Director Report

Nigel explained the current situations with the government budget announcements and some of the details that are being released. The increase in allocation to elite sport for the Olympics and the additional costs to YSF for the Employers Liability. He explained where a lot of our focus is at the current time. He described the current situations in the districts with the Sport England Place funding. The universal funding from Sport England to the Active Partnerships was described however this is unlikely to be received by YSF as all of our districts are expected to be covered in the Place funding.

6. Deep Dive - Health

James and Rachael shared a presentation with the group on the background and what the health work looks like. The group discussed some of the points. Rachael explained the sharing around the support we provide internally. James explained the current thinking around the need to add value with any recruitment to a specialised health role within YSF. He shared a current work topic on the cancer prehabilitation.

Brendan asked how much of this work is being replicated across other areas. James explained that there are some differences across all the districts however each district will have something in place but may be focussing on different work streams. Jodie described what this looks like in Doncaster. Brendan explained how some of this work is seen within the health space. There is a temptation to work at a much more micro level rather than strategically which is harder to replicate.

<p>To clarify Move More was initially funded through Sport England and they are now able to sustain the work.</p> <p>Reflections of the walk around the area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some great resources in a concentrated area but how much community use is there? • EIS has a lot of use over the weekend. • It seemed a pretty quiet. • It isn't necessarily in a residential area therefore people would need to travel. • We have touch points throughout it's life time and throughout the year with the area. • It is interesting to compare with other similar areas within our patch. 	
<p>7. HR and Health and Safety</p> <p>The mini restructure is progressing. The FAR Committee reviewed the figures to confirm that there were no redundancy issues. There are a handful of some small line management changes. We will review again at this time next year.</p>	
<p>8. Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-Committee</p> <p>In Helen's absence Gwen shared that we are on track for the contribution target. Some minor variances in costs but nothing material. Discussed the mini restructure. The group made no changes to the risk register and discussed the cyber-attack that took place recently.</p>	
<p>9. Any Other Urgent Business</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>10. Board Reflections on meeting</p> <p>Time was short.</p>	
<p>11. Dates of future meetings</p> <p>12 May 2025</p>	

Agenda Item	Action	Lead	When	Update
Actions from minutes				

1	Board Recruitment; Introductions to be done at Board meeting Induction of new board members		Scheduled in meeting Taken place	Completed
3	Meet with Gwen regarding clarifying resource questions	NH	4 November 2024	
4	Communication - Bring a campaign plan to the next meeting to aid the members to help spread the messages.	JP	Scheduled in meeting	Completed
6	Share Best Companies result with the Board	SH	November 2024	Completed
6	DIAP and progress to be shared with the Board	SH	12 May 2025	