

Minutes of the Sport Wales Board held on Monday 9 July 2018 10:30 at the Sport Wales National Centre

Present: Lawrence Conway (Chair), Pippa Britton (Vice Chair), Ian Bancroft (IB), Peter King (PK), Christian Malcolm (CM), Alison Thorne (ATH)

Attending: Sarah Powell (CEO), Peter Curran (PC), Graham Williams (GW), Brian Davies (BD), Jane Foulkes (JF), Neil Emberton (NE) (Items 1 to 6.1), Rhian Evans (RE), Amanda Thompson (minutes)

Observers: David Rosser (DR) Welsh Government, Lloyd Carr (LC) Young Ambassadors

1. Welcome/apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Parks, Ashok Ahir and Julia Longville.

The Chair thanked both PK and JL for their contribution to the Sport Wales Board. Both would finish their second terms of office at the end of August. Four new members would join the Board from September.

The Chair also thanked LC as this was also his last meeting as the YA representative. A successor would be chosen over the summer by the YA Steering Group.

The Chair congratulated IB on his recent appointment as the CEO of Wrexham CBC and JL on her appointment as Dean at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

The Minister had accepted Samar Small's resignation for personal reasons from the Board with immediate effect.

2. Declarations of interest

IB, as Chief Officer for Flintshire CC as well as his forthcoming role with Wrexham CBC, with regards to papers SW(18)26 and SW(18)31.

3. Chair's report

The Chair, CEO, CM, Helen Phillips, Chair of Team Wales, met with the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Services and the Minister for Culture, Tourism & Sport on 13 June. The meeting reflected on the successes of Team Wales at the Commonwealth Games and how this could continue more widely. The Minister asked for a report on the suitability of Welsh sports facilities for future needs. The Chair and CEO would visit Sport Scotland on 8 August to see their elite performance facilities.

The launch of the Vision for Sport in Wales would take place on 19 July at the Garwnant Visitor Centre. This was a joint event with the launch of the Welsh Government's Healthy & Active Fund.

On 31 August Wales would play England for the FIFA Women's World Cup qualifier in Newport.

4. CEO's report

Build a brilliant organisation

- A Quest visit was held at Plas Menai on 3/4 July and a raise to a rating of 'Very Good' was expected. ATH visited Plas Menai on 27 June as part of the review of the National Centres.

Set sport up for success

- The School Sports Survey was underway and a record number of respondents was hoped for.
- The 'Social and Economic Value of Sport in Wales' report conducted by Sheffield Hallam University had been received and would be launched after the summer.
- UKAD policy changes would be brought back to the Board in September for consideration.

Enable success on the international stage

- Recent elite successes were achieved by athletics, gymnastics, cycling, boxing and sailing.
- UK Sport consultation would be discussed with the Board during the afternoon session.

Lead the development of sport in all communities

- Sport Wales worked with the Welsh Government on the United Nations' convention on the Rights of the Child, including Young Ambassadors, workshops and training opportunities.
- Jo Stevens MP would visit the Sport Wales National Centre on 12 July.

Land at Morfa Stadium, Swansea

- PC reported that negotiations between the various parties involved in the development of the land were protracted. Consequently, Sport Wales had been advised to set a date for the payment to be received after which interest would be charged. This money was due to go back into Sport Wales' Lottery resources. Next update to the Board in September.

5. Consent agenda

5.1 Engagement log

The Chair reminded Board members to notify the Executive Assistant of events they attended on behalf of Sport Wales or to complete the engagement log online. ATH took part in Sport England's diversity and inclusion training. AA and CM attended the BME Project Celebration in Newport.

5.2 National Survey for Wales

Members noted the report. IB requested reflection upon the 13% reduction among the 25-34 age group in taking part in sport 3+ times per week.

Paper Ref: SW(18)22

5.3 Healthy & Active Fund

The Welsh Government had confirmed funding of £3.75m through to 2021/22 for this fund. Sport Wales would commit up to £1.25m to create a total fund of up to £5m for physical activity. The funding would be subject to the recommendations in relation to the Free Swimming initiative being agreed by the Welsh Government.

The criteria for the fund, how it would be run and assessed was still under discussion between Sport Wales and its partners Public Health Wales and Natural Resources Wales. The aim was to push

boundaries, fund innovative solutions and obtain a wider reach. A project board would be set up and all three partners would need to be continuously engaged with the fund. This fund's approach was likely to be rolled out to other grant funding programmes. Sport Wales would ensure the process for applicants steered them towards the funding programme that was most appropriate for their needs.

Paper Ref: SW(18)23

5.4 Sports Resilience programme (WSA's proposal)

The Wales Sports Association (WSA) had submitted a 'Resilience programme' to Sport Wales, requesting £1.4m funding from the Welsh Government and Sport Wales. An independent panel was formed to scrutinise the programme and it met on 14 June. The paper outlined the panel's recommendations and the need for further information from WSA. No response from WSA had been received to date but PC had met with them to maintain the momentum. A further update to the Board would be given at the next meeting in September.

Paper Ref: SW(18)24

6. Policy and development issues

6.1 Partner Board Diversity update

Item 15 laid out the recommended policy position, that high impact NGBs and national sports organisations were to achieve 50:50 gender diversity on boards by 2020 whilst applying the EU Commission's definition of gender parity (at least 40% of women or men on a board).

The Executive was pleased with the feedback received from NGBs. There would be a need for tailored support to help NGBs achieve the target. As part of that support, NGBs would be required to have a board diversity action plan and to report progress to their own boards and to Sport Wales. Item 18 outlined action that could be taken in the event of failing to achieve gender parity by 2020.

Members recognised the importance of developing the 'pipeline' of potential Board appointees. It was suggested that a toolkit would be helpful for the lower level/non funded sports and clubs to use.

Members approved the recommendation.

Paper Ref: SW(18)25

6.2 Free Swimming

The independent review of the Free Swimming Initiative (FSI) had been circulated to Members. It was clear that the current provision and outputs were not providing value for money. The fundamental challenges could not be addressed by making improvements within the current format. Two options for a different approach were laid out: a) a £1m Swim Plus initiative and (b) a £2m Get Active initiative. The CEO and GW met with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) on 5 July to discuss the report and proposed options. RE gave an update on the proposed accompanying communications and stakeholder engagement plans.

After further discussion Members agreed that the direction of travel was correct and approved the recommendation. The Chair would write to the Minister with recommendations for his consideration.

Paper Ref: SW(18)26

6.3 Transition funding agreements

Given that the new strategy would be developed over the autumn this year, it was recommended that the partner funding submission process be suspended and replaced with a 'light touch' review and the current grant agreements be extended by 6 months from 31 March to 30 September 2019.

New investment principles to accompany the new strategy were due to be completed by the summer 2019. A new 18 month funding period was proposed, spanning October 2019 to March 2021. An update with the known figures would be brought back to the Board in February next year.

Members approved the recommendations.

Paper Ref: SW(18)27

6.4 Long Term Strategy update

The Vision for Sport would be launched on 19 July, jointly with the Welsh Government's new Healthy & Active fund, and the Chair had formally written to the Minister and Cabinet Secretary for comment and support of the Vision. The fund would have access to up to £5m over a two year period.

With regards to the new strategy, the Board would see a draft in September with a view to sign off in November. The strategy would require an in-depth review of Sport Wales in relation to the skills and functions required to deliver it. The pay and grading project was also nearing completion. There was a gap in resource and level of expertise required to support the effective delivery of these two major change programmes and the CEO would be seeking to address that. The establishment of a task and finish group to work alongside the Chair and CEO and approval of the resourcing of change management expertise was requested.

Members approved the recommendations.

Paper Ref: SW(18)28

6.5 GDPR compliance

This paper reminded the Board of its responsibilities and set out reporting and monitoring arrangements for the new GDPR regulations. Sport Wales had recruited a Data Protection Officer (DPO) who would make a presentation to the Board later in the day. Members agreed that the detailed scrutiny of compliance and progress against that should be delegated to the Audit & Risk Committee and that the Assurance Framework should be used to assess the relative risks and priorities associated within the GDPR environment.

Members approved the recommendations.

Paper Ref: SW(18)29

7. Finance and corporate risk

7.1 Statutory accounts 2017/18

Board Members were asked to approve the 2017/18 Financial Statements for

7.1.1 The Sports Council for Wales and the Sports Council for Wales Trust

7.1.2 Sports Council for Wales Lottery Distribution Account

7.1.3 The Sports Council for Wales Trust

The Audit & Risk Committee had endorsed these statements at its meeting on 22 June 2018. PC thanked the Finance team for their commitment to delivering the accounts in an accurate and timely fashion.

Members' attention was drawn to the revaluation reserve (item 9) and it was noted that the Audit & Risk Committee were content with the revised value of the Sport Wales National Centre.

The pension reserve (items 10-11) had been reported to the Board earlier in May. The next three-year pension review was due in March 2019. It was likely that Sport Wales would need to review its pension policy going forward and a report would be brought back to the Board in due course.

7.2 Reports of the External Auditors (ISA 260)

The Wales Audit Office (WAO) had completed their annual audit and there were no outstanding issues. There was one recommendation with regards to the retention of paperwork. With regards to the external audit for the Lottery, which WAO conducted on behalf of the National Audit Office, all areas were reported as complete and the summary of amendments to draft financial statements was included.

Board Members approved the Consolidated SCW & Trust accounts, the Lottery accounts and Trust accounts.

Paper Ref: SW(18)30

8. Working groups and standing committees

8.1 Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)

The Board would look at revised ARC terms of reference in September. Deloitte LLP, who had been reappointed in March as internal auditors, presented an internal audit performance report and three-year programme. ARC's schedule of business had also been presented and PC would add an annual report for anti-fraud policy. This was PK's final meeting as ARC Chair and a new Chair would be appointed in time for September.

8.2 CSAP Project Board

For the Expression of Interest stage, 3 partnerships had applied as project leaders and 13 had applied to be a key partner for delivery. All 3 project leader applications required further information, which had been requested by 13 July before being formally scored on 17 July. Thereafter the Project Board would recommend how best to proceed, whether by a negotiated partnership, a full tendering process or by other means.

Board Members agreed to Chair's action on this decision so that the recommendation would go before the Minister for his approval before the summer recess.

Paper Ref: SW(18)31

9. Advisory groups

9.1 Young Ambassadors Steering Group report

LC reported on the YA Gold Conference and steps that local authorities were taking to run their own conferences. Training was being undertaken and the YAs continued to be active in schools, including holding multi sport days. YAs had met with Sport New Zealand's CEO when he recently visited Sport Wales. The volunteer tracking app had gone live and had attracted the attention from outside the sports sector.

10.Minutes of the last meeting (15 May 2018) and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

10.1 Matters arising

Ref: 5.4: Pay and grading update: This would come back to the Board in September. Approval had been obtained from the Welsh Government. Negotiations were still ongoing with the PCS Union who were expected to ballot all staff at Sport Wales before the autumn.

11.Any other business

The Vice Chair drew Members' attention to the GLFW Sport Wales Minimum Expectations Checklist Self-Assessment report. This would be brought back to discuss further at the September meeting.

12.Dates of next meetings

10/11 September at Plas Menai, 26/27 November 2018

11/12 February, 13/14 May, 8 July, 9/10 September, 25/26 November 2019

The meeting concluded at 13:05

Signed  Lawrence Conway CB, Chair

Date 25.09.18 2018