



Minutes of the meeting of the Sport NI Board held Wednesday 18 August, 9.00am - 12.45pm @ Wellington Park Hotel

Present: Board members: George Lucas Jay Colville Richard Bullick Wilma Erskine Kyle Ferguson Kieran Harding Gavin Boyd Denise Burns	In attendance: Sport NI Officials Adrian Doherty, Chief Operating Officer Richard Archibald, Head of Sports Systems John Hart, Head of Policy & Innovation Colm Jennings, Board Secretary
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Tea/Coffee to welcome new Board members – ahead of closed session
Closed Session attended by Board members CEO, COO
MAIN BOARD MEETING STARTS

Agenda Item	Record of Main Discussion
1. Apologies	Apologies were noted from Wendy Elliot, Darryl Petticrew, Antoinette McKeown and Gillian Gilliland.
2. Register of Member's Declarations of Interest	There were no new declarations of interest to note.
3.1 Minutes of meeting held on 14 June 2021	Members approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021.
3.2 Minutes of meeting held on 30 June 2021	Members approved the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2021.
4. Chair's remarks	<p>The Chair formally welcomed Gavin and Denise to their first Board meeting since taking up appointment as Board members.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the Sport Matters Implementation Groups met on Monday 16 August, with good engagement at all and asked Committee Chairs for Participation, Performance and Places for feedback.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated Olympians from here, performing for Team Ireland or Team GB & NI at Tokyo this summer, on their success and also looking forward to the Paralympics and our athletes competing. Board was advised that R Archibald has an update later in today's meeting</p>

	<p>Chair noted this is the first Board meeting since the PAC hearing on the Sport Sustainability Fund. Sport NI and DfC did answer all queries put to us and follow up questions are not being handled. John Hart is preparing a full report and this will be sent to Board members with an opportunity to discuss any issues which Board members feel are relevant to ongoing discussion.</p>
<p>5.1 CEO Report SNI/21/39</p>	<p>Members received paper number SNI 21 22 for information.</p> <p>Members noted the paper.</p>
<p>5.2 Presentation on Build Back Better Programme</p>	<p>A Bunt, Covid Project Manager, joined the meeting for Project Re-Boot presentation on BBB's crowd-funding initiative and its implications for partnership funding in the new Corporate Plan</p> <p>A Bunt outlined the sought after outcomes from BBB and what specifically Project Re-Boot aims to invest in new and innovate project, which will support the engagement and re-engagement of participants into sport, particularly people from groups who have been especially impacted by Covid-19.</p> <p>Members were advised of consultation with the sports sector and the identified need and partnership funding involved. A Bunt updated Members on the crowd funding process which has been established and how projects can use multiple funding pots, which improve flexibility in developing and delivering the project. Members were informed of the payment, monitoring and due diligence process and how, in looking at delivery, the project team sought similar projects to use as case studies when developing this programme. Members viewed a short video from Ballymacash Rangers FC to this effect.</p> <p>Chair asked Members if there were any questions.</p> <p>Members noted Crowd Funder is a new way approach, which was welcomed and could encourage people to give more towards projects that are important to them.</p> <p>Members asked if there was a sign posting to alternatives for project. Members were advised that yes, work continued to support projects in capacity building and to develop other elements of their project.</p> <p>Members discussed the aspect of relying upon need. If there is no need then people will not support or fund a project. Does this approach have to go through an equality screening process? Members were advised that BBB underwent Section 75 screening and that there is flexibility within the programme. Sport NI will assess and commit to funding, which can be demonstrated so projects can then pursue crowd funding element.</p> <p>Member queried how the £5m was sourced and was advised this was through National Lottery funding.</p> <p>Member asked who takes on the risk of donors who provide funding via crowd funding as to who might be the donor? Members were advised that public donors are managed via 'Stripe' and that Sport NI will be managed via 'Mango Pay'. Member asked how the donors are regulated. A Bunt advised this is managed by Crowd Funder as donations are predominantly made by individuals and sometimes by businesses.</p> <p>Member queried if projects are unsuccessful is there follow-up support. Members were informed that training is available from Crowd Funder and Sport NI offers support in improving campaign advertising. If unsuccessful a project can continue through the crowd funding process to raise funds</p>

	<p>AD asked Members to approve the setup of a bank account on 'Mango Pay' and asked if a Member can be identified to do this. Chair formally proposed and Board approved. AD appointed on behalf of Board.</p>
<p>6. Communication Report</p>	<p>Members had previously received the interactive Comms Report June 17th - August 10th 2021, for information.</p> <p>JH informed Board of increased website traffic on the recent Olympic coverage and on Return to Sport. Members were informed of the ongoing BBB programme and of the BBC interview with Sport NI's Head of Sport Systems, R Archibald, which articulated well the work of Sport NI and what has been achieved through Sporting Winners.</p> <p>Member asked if Sport NI has a Comms Strategy or Comms Plan or will this be coordinated with the new Corporate Plan? JH advised that this is being developed and will be coordinated with the new Corporate Plan.</p> <p>Member asked how well people engage with the Sport NI social accounts. JH advised that this is dependent upon the messaging. To promoting funding programmes or to get information out quickly then social media is the better way. However, if it is a more nuanced debate then traditional media approaches can work better.</p> <p>Members noted the change in Sport NI media engagement over the last three to four years and that Sport NI is much more publicly engaged through a wider variety of media channels. Member queried if there a way to let applicants know more in advance of when their funding might be coming. JH noted this is something that could be looked into as Sport NI wishes to build upon working relationships with stakeholders and keep them informed.</p> <p>Members asked if there is a way to further promote the good news stories that Sport NI have. JH advised members of ongoing work with stakeholders, including more regular dialogue to show case the positive work that Sport NI carries out and move beyond some of the recent news.</p>
<p>7. Trans - inclusion Guidance Paper SNI/21/40</p>	<p>Members received paper number SNI 21 40 for approval.</p> <p>Chair welcomed Jemima Coates, UK Sport, and Cathy Hughes, Sport England, to the meeting. Chair informed Members that Sport NI and the 3 UK Home Nations Sports Councils have been working closely with UK Sport on sensitive issues surrounding transgendered people in sport. A paper is being presented here today that has been to other UK Sports Councils proposing guidance on these issues. The Chair noted the importance of understanding these are matters for the governing bodies of sport, but that UK Sport and the Home Nations Sports Council want to provide sensitive guidance on this.</p> <p>C Hughes advised of increasing enquires from sports on Trans issues. Previous guidance had been published in 2013 and updated in 2015. Since then more research has been carried out and with greater numbers transitioning it was agreed that the guidance needed to be updated. A researcher was appointed in March 2020, unfortunately the pandemic then had an immediate impact upon undertaking this research. However a paper has now gone to the other Home Nations Boards and has been approved.</p> <p>Members were informed that findings showed this is a complex issue requiring balance between inclusion, fairness and safety. The guidance is not about telling sports what they should be doing, but provide the research to sports so they can</p>

	<p>identify how this impacts upon their particular sport and make bespoke guidance for each sport. Sports will need to look at the various options open to them in order to develop their own policies and procedures and the guidance framework is to provide support to sports in doing this.</p> <p>C Hughes left the meeting.</p> <p>Board noted the complexity and nuance of this discussion and the range of opinions across the sport sector and society as a whole and noted this paper covers this very well. Board queried if there has been any cross reference with Department of Education as to what might happen in schools. JM advised Board that this has not happened yet but Scotland has recently published information on Trans issues within schools and UK Sport and Sport England are speaking with DCMS, which could broaden to Department of Education.</p> <p>Member queried the procurement of the consultant, Cardinal? JH advised that this would be a joint funding venture and that UK Sport will be speaking with the Sport NI Executive team about making a contribution towards the costs.</p> <p>Member noted that this is to be reviewed every two to three years and queried if Cardinal would be reviewing the guidance? JM advised that this has not been decided and it would not necessarily be Cardinal.</p> <p>Members approved the paper.</p>
<p>8. Corporate Plan 2021-26 - Additional Narrative SNI/21/41</p>	<p>Members received paper for approval</p> <p>Chair noted concerns and discussion on Physical Activity and sport. A Board majority agreed a view that Sport NI would continue to contribute to Physical Activity within a partnership setting, including investing financially where appropriate.</p> <p>Chair stated that Board members considered a paper setting out the concerns raised by UCGAA, Ulster Rugby and IFA in relation to Outcome 2 of the corporate plan, which focuses on Olympic/Paralympic, world and European competition at the Board workshop 11th August.</p> <p>The CP was approved with the Board requesting that the Executive Team include narrative on the breadth and depth of Outcome 1, recognising that in many sports, athletes operate at the highest levels of their sport. Additional narrative has been provided to address this. Members also noted Sport NI's commitment to continue engaging on physical activity and in what capacity. Chair noted the significant stakeholder engagement by Sport NI for this corporate plan before, during and after its development that any previous.</p> <p>The Chair noted that Board also discussed stakeholder engagement and the issue of who with, how and when the Board should be engaging. Examples were provided of the range of engagements undertaken by the Chair, Board, CEO and Executive. It was agreed that a stakeholder plan, aligned to the corporate plan would be brought forward to the Board to set this out.</p> <p>RA noted two meetings have taken place, with the IFA and the GAA with the third meeting with Ulster Rugby scheduled for this afternoon to highlight that outcome 1 and outcome 2 were to be taken together and cover the entire sporting sector and not separately. It was clarified that outcome 1 was quite broad and covered the highest level of sport participation. It was noted that Sport NI is a sport development agency and not just a grant giving agency and Sport NI has so much more it can do with these sports under outcome 1.</p>

	<p>Members noted the ongoing concerns around physical activity; the need to finalise the Partnership Agreement; and the continued need for Sport Matters Implementation Groups, all of which need to be discussed and agreed with the DfC. The Chair asked that minutes of the last three Sport Matters Implementation Group meetings be shared with all Board Members.</p> <p>Member asked who developed outcome 2, Sport NI or DfC. Chair advised Board had agreed this. It was queried if DfC were on-board with this or could Sport NI be circumvented by sports going straight to the Minister. Chair advised DfC will not submit to Minister until Board have approved. Once approved it will go to the Minister and Sport NI will await feedback. In the interim, queries regarding outcome 1 and 2 have been raised with Sport NI.</p> <p>Board approved Corporate Plan.</p> <p>Board queried risks going forward. Members informed that Clubs and Winners end in 2022 and Sporting Winners and Sporting Clubs programmes took two years to develop. The longer this proceeds without CP the higher the risk, particularly reputation risk if replacements are not in place.</p>
9. Sporting Clubs Update SNI/21/42	<p>Members received paper number SNI 21 43 for information.</p> <p>RA provided a synopsis of programmes for new Members. Originally four years and extended into fifth year. A PPE will be carried out and learning has been initiated in order to inform the development of future programmes.</p> <p>Board noted the paper.</p>
10. Sporting Winners Update Paper SNI/21/43	<p>Members received paper number SNI 21 43 for information.</p> <p>Board noted the paper.</p>
11. Finance and Governance Report SNI/21/44	<p>Members received paper number SNI 21 44 for information.</p> <p>Board noted the paper.</p>
12. Delegated Decisions Paper SNI/21/45	<p>Members received paper number SNI 21 45 for approval</p> <p>Member queried McBride decision. Advised that legal advice had been sought by DfC. All decisions have to be made by the Board. Is approval after the event safe? Advised that it is not always after the event if of a significant size of award, however with smaller awards it was agreed to proceed at risk and retrospectively approve.</p> <p>Members noted the paper and approved decisions within.</p>
13. New Route Map for Change SNI/21/46	<p>Members received paper number SNI 21 46 for information.</p> <p>This paper sets out the background to the Route Map for Change and sets an updated proposed new Route Map, which recognises that all recommendations arising from the NIAO March 2020 published report have been complete. The new route map now includes the recommendations arising from the PAR health check reported in April this year so that the Board can also track progress with these as they are completed.</p> <p>Chair noted actions undertaken and following previous discussions asked if items can be flagged up in advance to Board.</p>

	<p>Member queried if items are green if they drop off the paper as some of the updates do not appear to match the Key. AD agreed to look into this ahead of next Board meeting.</p> <p>Member queried ongoing Partnership Agreement discussions. AD outlined ongoing discussions on roles and responsibilities between DfC and Sport NI, noting that there is crossover here and that this needs to be addressed. Members agreed that there needs to be clearly delineated roles and responsibilities and clarity is needed on this issue. A Member asked if this is on, or can be added to, the risk register and the impact that this is having on Sport NI. AD advised that it is referenced within one of the risks but that this could be looked at further. Members discussed and agreed if possible that these are recognised as individual risks and added that, for example, that the first risk is lack of clarity of roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Members noted the paper and asked that the Risk Register to be reviewed by Executive team and ARAC.</p>
14. A.O.B.	<p>Chair requested Board rolling business be presented in October.</p> <p>D Burns provided apologies for October meeting.</p>
15. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 6 October at 9am

Approved by Chair: *George Lucas.*

Date: 06/10/21