

Meeting Minutes

Present Attendees		Apologies	Also Distributed To:
Malcolm Armstrong (MA)	Chair	Mark Deaville	Core Team
Jude Taylor (JT)	Director, SASSOT	Sarah Getley	
Jane Kracke (JK)	Chief Operating Officer, SASSOT	Sharon Heath	
Kimiyo Rickett (KR)	Senior Independent Director	Jonathan Topham	
Tim Clegg (TC)	Stafford Borough Council		
Derek Peters (DP)	Board Member		
Rebecca Roberts (RR)	Board Member		
Alistair Fisher	Board Member		
Toyin Higgs	Board Member		
Hazell Thorogood (HT)	Admin Office Manager		

No.	Item Topic
1.	Apologies As above
2.	Declarations of Interest Jane Kracke, Jude Taylor, and Hazell Thorogood as employees of SASSOT. Tim Clegg as the CEO of the host organisation.
3	Minutes of Last Meeting – All agreed the minutes were an accurate record
4	<p>State of the Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sport England are doing a study into physical activity during lockdown. Initial findings were very positive, with increases in walking, cycling and running in particular, However in areas of high deprivation / BAME; people are far less likely to active. - Couch to 5k received one million downloads since March. - The Gym Group have reported that 180,000 members have cancelled their direct debits despite payments being frozen. - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent clubs drew down half a million in funding from the Communities Fund. - Public Leisure provision is a huge concern; 8 local authorities in the county are responsible for providing leisure facilities (3 in house, 5 via leisure trusts). All LA's have made substantial financial promises to their trusts. - The Arts industry seems to have garnered a much higher level of response in relation to concerns for that sector in comparison to sport and leisure. - Entrust have withdrawn their school swimming provision. - Our responsibility lies in understanding our collective impact on this situation and to provide initial capacity and support to our local authority colleagues. - The Board discussed that although the government have advised establishments can open, many still are not. - The indoor sport offer is likely to be restricted for a substantial amount of time. - Once habits change to carrying out exercise individually will they ever revert to use of the gym / other facilities? - We need to look for opportunities which may emerge as a result of Covid and ensure the team is positioned well to make an impact. - We need to think about how we can evolve and change in response to the lockdown. - The SBC Leisure provider is a not for profit trust; SBC assisted financially over lockdown

and will look to sustain them.

- The unpredictability of the pandemic makes it increasingly hard to plan future provision needed.
- School swimming will be complicated to implement due to the social distancing aspects.
- Nationally the balance is starting to tip to more contracted services.
- UK Active forecasted that 20% of leisure trusts will cease to operate.
- The next 3-6 months will have different demands and the level of support needed may differ in the long-term.
- **Action 1:** JT to check: is there the possibility that grant terms and conditions could be breached if facilities are not opened (for example 3g pitches).
- Long term, leisure facilities are a huge capital investment.
- There may be local government reorganisation in the future with a preference for unitary authorities.

5

Sport England Framework Response

The Board split into two groups to formulate a response to Sport England's Framework and Strategy.

Group 1 – JT

- We would welcome the longer term perspective if in relation to Active Partnerships.
- Sport England rebranding to 'Active' England or similar does not seem to be a preferred route.
- Progress seems to move on a 10-20 year cycle and we may be in the heart of one currently.
- Should there be more of a responsibility for elite sports to feed into the grass roots?
- Big issue should include safeguarding, which should have more emphasis generally in terms of the framework
- We need clear accountability for the component parts of the strategy

Relationship with Sport England

- We have been on a journey with SE and now feel more engaged and consulted.
- The approach to the Tackling Inequalities Funding where SE gave SASSOT the authority to divide a pot of funding worked very well.
- There is inefficiency in the active partnership system without a collaborative approach.
- We need to focus on the sporting system working more efficiently.

Group 2 – JK

Positives

- Flexibility, no longer working or funding in silos
- Already 'practicing what they preach' through TIF and CYP funding
- Supporting the ecosystem; recognition of the importance of clubs
- Are campaigns such as TGC, WAU etc. benefitting the full ecosystem?
- There is an opportunity to 'reset' post Covid-19 and re-evaluate what's needed.
- Analyse the negative / positive impacts of the pandemic and learn from them so if there's another lockdown or pandemic we're better placed to be resilient as a sector, e.g. detrimental effect on women's sport mitigated.
- An opportunity to make sure at the end of the 10 year period we can say 'we're in a better position than we were a decade ago'
- Sport England recognises the value and challenges of Local Government.
- 10 year strategy rather than 4 year
- An opportunity to 'future proof' the 10 year strategy, i.e. all Party Parliamentary Group focussed on the long-term vision; the strategy needs to be able to ride out a change of government.
- Needs to be a focus on sharing what works, high quality insight from successful projects etc.

Negatives

- Trying to be all things to all people
- Social prescribing may not be the answer
- Build facilities are an issue – needs to be at the forefront, need to sustain indoor sport (not

	<p>new facilities or refurb, just keeping them open). Swimming is nearly wholly-reliant on local government provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's not enough to recognise the importance of local government, SE needs to have a stronger voice on local issues, the impact of physical activity on physical and mental health etc. and needs to be much stronger at lobbying for this. <p>Next Steps</p> <p>We will coordinate a response to be submitted. A draft will be circulated and sent round for comments.</p>
6	<p>Developing Together Active's Strategy</p> <p>Given the focus on those that are less active, what is the most appropriate delivery mechanism?</p> <p>The following principles were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity to all on what our priorities are - Driven by data - Where could we make most impact - Needs to be a combination of the previous two bullets, i.e. no value in identifying a priority audience we'll struggle to impact on. Look at our strengths, relationships etc. - Deliver a range of pilots, look at what works, and scale up. - Marmot review; focus on inequalities doesn't mean only focusing on target groups, but putting different effort, resources etc. in to different populations. - Identify what the barriers are by liaising directly with the target groups. - Group 2 agreed that the vision and mission were still appropriate. - Need to include reference to targeting our support where it's most needed - Supportive of Sport England's 10 year approach with shorter term action plans - JT shared the approach to Together Active's strategy development via PowerPoint slides. <p>Decision 1: The Board agreed the approach.</p>
7	<p>Options for Transfer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Board discussed the three options presented and decided to continue with the transfer to Together Active on the 1st September 2020. - Together Active will need a registered address and a postal address. - It was suggested the home base could become the contractual base. <p>Decision 2: SASSOT will transfer to Together Active on 1st September 2020; predominantly employees will work from home in the short term and rent a socially distanced space to be able to meet in once a week. The intention is to lease appropriate office space when this becomes practical due to Covid-19</p>
8	<p>Reports (discussion by exception)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair's Actions <i>Malcolm Armstrong Enc. 3</i> • PALS <i>Malcolm Armstrong Enc. 3</i> • Finance & Audit Group <i>Enc. 4</i> • Governance & Appointments Group <i>Enc. 5</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The job descriptions / TOR's / Succession Plan were formally approved by the Board. • Director and Chief Operating Officer Report <i>Enc. 6</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 3.2 – There is a 3.6% cut to primary role funding however we budgeted 7%. - The Children and Young People funding is now granted as one work stream which allows more flexibility. - Tackling Inequalities Fund: We have been awarded £80,000 to divide between organisations in the county to assist the community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 3.4: an open letter has gone to leaders and MP's across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and this will be going to the next LEP meeting. • Independence Working Group – late report submitted regarding future options appraisal (see section 7). <p>Board Self-Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A self-assessment will be sent out shortly to all Board members, to be completed by the end of August 2020 and followed up by virtual 121's with MA. 																		
9	<p>Date of next meeting(s) – Please note, meetings may be held virtually</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesday 20th October 2020, 2pm, TBC - 2021 Meeting dates <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Meeting</th> <th>Suggested date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FAG/GAG/PALS</td> <td>Tuesday 12th Jan 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOARD</td> <td>Tuesday 26th Jan 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAG/GAG/PALS</td> <td>Tuesday 6th April 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOARD</td> <td>Tuesday 20th April 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAG/GAG/PALS</td> <td>Tuesday 6th July 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOARD</td> <td>Tuesday 20th July 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAG/GAG/PALS</td> <td>Tuesday 5th October 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOARD</td> <td>Tuesday 19th October 2021</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action 2: JT to discuss if there is a more convenient time for Mark Deaville on a Tuesday for the Board. - Meetings can be recorded and shared afterward if all participants agree. - There will need to be an official step down of the SASSOT Board and step up of the Together Active Board. 	Meeting	Suggested date	FAG/GAG/PALS	Tuesday 12th Jan 2021	BOARD	Tuesday 26th Jan 2021	FAG/GAG/PALS	Tuesday 6th April 2021	BOARD	Tuesday 20th April 2021	FAG/GAG/PALS	Tuesday 6th July 2021	BOARD	Tuesday 20th July 2021	FAG/GAG/PALS	Tuesday 5th October 2021	BOARD	Tuesday 19th October 2021
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Actions	Owner	Date
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Decisions
Decision 1: The Board agreed the approach JT shared on developing Together Active's strategy.
Decision 2: SASSOT will transfer to Together Active on 1 st September 2020; predominantly employees will work from home and rent a socially distanced space to be able to meet in once a week.

Prepared By:	Date	Checked By	File Code
Hazell Thorogood	14.07.20	Malcolm Armstrong	Board Minutes 14.07.20