

**MINUTES****of the East Midlands Regional Sports Board**

Held on Monday 19 May 2008 from 0900 to 1130

**PRESENT:** Len Jackson (Chair), Ted Cassidy (Vice Chair), Nick Bunting, Mary Butler, Ted Cattle, Carol Chambers, Ian Drake, Christine Fisher, Tony Hams, Pam Jardine, Sam Messam, Peter Richardson and Duncan Sharkey together with Anne Rippon, Graeme Beaumont, Tracey Francis and Colin Dyson.

**APOLOGIES:** Jeff Moore, Peter Murphy and Professor Shirley Pearce

**ACTION****1 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed Carol Chambers (Director of Children and Young People's Services, Rutland County Council) and Christine Fisher (Chief Executive, North West Leicestershire District Council) to their first meeting of the Board.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mary Butler declared an interest in minute 4, Playground to Podium as she was a Board member on the English Federation of Disability Sport.

**3 LONDON 2012**

Tracy Croft, the 2012 Co-ordinator for the region, circulated packs which included her annual report for the period April 2007 to March 2008, a structure for the regional 2012 work, the draft Nations and Regions Group reporting framework and recent press coverage. Tracy gave a presentation on progress in the last 12 months which included –

- The region's revised draft strategy for the Games had been released in January 2008. Counties were now working up plans and regional theme groups were shaping action plans all of which were at different stages. The theme groups were business (driven by 'CompeteFor' launch in January 2009 aimed at ensuring EM firms became involved 'lower down the chain'), culture, health (well defined), visitor economy (focusing on quality), children and young people (out to consultation), skills (work carried out but needed embedding across all theme areas) and sport.
- The regional cultural strategy – Igniting Ambition- had attracted funding of £1.61m from Legacy Trust UK for a 5 year programme of showcase festivals - a further £2m was being sought from public and private sector partners. The Derby Festival would be 24 August and 26-28 September 2008, Leicester July 2009, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire summer 2010, Northamptonshire, Rutland and Lincolnshire summer 2011 and the Great Exhibition from May to September 2012.

- Much work needed to be undertaken with young people and John Sinnott (CE of Leicestershire County Council) had persuaded the 9 upper tier authorities that they should jointly fund a post to ensure young people benefitted from the Games. Carol Chambers asked that the Directors of Children's Services Group should be involved as they were committed to support the John Sinnott Group and as they were responsible for 0 to 19 year olds and their families they could make a big difference.
- The 2012 Co-ordination project had delivered significant financial support to CSPs to deliver on the sport agenda. e.g. Derbyshire Talented Athlete Fund, Shape Up Notts. The 2012 Co-ordinator post had given sport its most senior level advocate for the sector within emda and this had led to significant focus on sports based projects such as support for events like the FA Women's Cup Final (2007 and 2008), the EM Cicle Classic (Rutland/Melton 2008), the Lincoln Grand Prix (2008), Special Olympics in Leicester (2009), Twenty20 World Cup (2009) and Women's Champions Trophy (hockey – Nottingham 2010).
- Pre Games Training Camps (PGTC) had been announced on 3 March 2008 and Paralympic venues would be announced by the end of May.
- Current priorities included completing brand licensing negotiations, a Parliamentary reception for the regions MPs in June 2008, visit by Paul Deighton, CEO of LOCOG in July 2008, PGTC launch in Beijing in August 2008, handover activities on 24 August and 17 September 2008, Cultural Olympiad launch September 2008, County group action plans, embed skills work across all themes and identifying how to address volunteering.
- The ambition was that 2012 would be the 'greenest Games' ever and a sustainability policy and environmental impact study existed. Christine Fisher asked whether sustainability in the region would be monitored and Tracy Croft agreed to raise this with the Management Board.

In response to a question about the link between building the profile of the Games and participation and who was responsible for leading the participation element, Tracy Croft replied that while there was no evidence from previous Games that high profile events drove participation it was a stated aim of London 2012 to inspire and involve people in sport. However, neither LOCOG nor the ODA had responsibility for participation. The Chair considered that no one currently had responsibility but it may come out of NGB whole sport plans over the next 3 or 4 years. There appeared to be a national vacuum and a national agreement was needed to position agencies to deal with the participation agenda.

A video of recent television coverage of Jonathon Edward's visit to the region was shown.

AGREED that Tracy Croft be thanked for her 2012 update and the concern of the Board be noted that there appeared to be no national agreement as to who was responsible for the participation element of 2012.

#### **4 PLAYGROUND TO PODIUM**

Report circulated. The report was being considered by all RSBs with a view to regional budgets 'ring fenced' for the Playground to Podium Programme being amalgamated for development of the programme nationally.

## **AGREED**

- (1) that the developments in the Playground to Podium Programme including developments to the framework and selection of the sports be noted.**
- (2) that the work being conducted with EFDS to ensure consistent quality delivery of the national framework across England be noted.**
- (3) that the recommendation to transfer the £400,000 'ring fenced' in the region's strategic investment strand of the regional investment strategy to the Support Centre be supported for the development of the Playground to Podium Strategy nationally.**
- (4) that the recommendation that NGBs and EFDS submit single applications for consideration by the national Project Committee be supported.**

## **5 THE 5 HOUR OFFER – EXTENDING ACTIVITIES**

**Tracey Francis gave a presentation on the work which had been undertaken in the last few months on the 5 hour offer and extending activities. The additional funding had been announced in July 2007 and trail blazers had started in Leicestershire and Derbyshire on 1 April 2008. PE School Sport Club Links (PESSCL) had been renamed PE Sports Strategy for Young People (PESSYP). The additional funding extended the reach of the strategy to 16-19 year olds and the offer was for 3 hours of sport rather than 5, unless they were studying sport. For 5-16 year olds the offer would be made up of 2 hours high quality PE and 3 hours of sport beyond the curriculum delivered through a range of school, community and club providers.**

**£60m of the additional funding would go to the YST for FE Sports Co-ordinators linked to School Sport Partnerships (SSPs), the completion of the roll out of Competition Managers, top up grants to SSPs and multi sport clubs for children with special needs linked to SSPs. The remaining £48m would support extended club activity designed to attract a different type of young person. The mission was to have 900,000 children and young people from the 'semi sporty' types taking up the 5 hour offer in the community for the period 2008 – 2011. Of the £48m, £12m would go to CSPs to manage the programme. The funding was for term time only.**

**Leicestershire and Derbyshire, as trailblazers, had already commenced delivery and Leicestershire had been chosen for detailed national evaluation of Bebo, Facebook and PDAs. In Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire strategic and planning engagement was taking place and there was a submissions deadline of 23 May 2008.**

**The 5 hour offer was an integral part of the legacy of 2012 and the benefits were beginning to be seen.**

**Carol Chambers explained that there was a huge amount happening on the children and young people agenda with all upper tier authorities now having Directors of Children's Services instead of Directors of Education. The 9 upper tier authorities in the EM were working effectively as a team providing training and raising awareness. That body would be used to deliver a range of programmes and awareness alongside the other initiatives. For the first time the Government had a Children's Plan for**

Sport 'Building a Brighter Future' – the structures already in place would be used to produce a coherent scheme for the region which would include all children and young people. The change in legislation had been in 2004 and had a huge range of objectives and priorities – things would not change overnight but they were beginning to make a difference.

The 'bottom 20%' of children would be picked up by organisations such as Positive Activities, Local Authority Sports Development Teams etc. Carol Chambers said that the EM Children's Plan was looking to affect all children and young people 52 weeks of the year but there was a long way to go.

AGREED that Tracey Francis be thanked for her presentation and she be wished every success in her new post at Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club.

## 6 MINUTES

AGREED

(1) that the minutes of the last Board meeting held on 3 December 2007 be agreed.

(2) that the minutes of the Investment Sub Group held on 9 May 2008 be noted.

(3) that with regard to the Investment Sub Group –

- The terms of reference be amended to include 'deciding matters within the strategy agreed by the Board' so that due consideration was given to providing funding to the 14 most deprived areas.
- That a report be submitted to the next sub group meeting analysing the awards made to ascertain if the Board was reaching its 50% target of the remaining CIF allocation being invested into 14 local authority areas (those which fell into the bottom 25% for Indices of Multiple Deprivation and/or 3X30 participation) and 31.8% of the priority group population in the EM, subject to the receipt of quality applications for those areas.
- That each application submitted to the sub group should in future include a statement about whether the area being considered was of greatest need.

Investment  
Team

Investment  
Team

## 6 INVESTMENT SUB GROUP

Report circulated.

AGREED

(1) that the decision taken by the Board via e-mail to appoint an Investment Sub Group with the following terms of reference be noted –

- Delegated authority on behalf of the RSB to consider all applications for CIF funding above £100,000 and below £500,000 within the strategy agreed by the Board on 16 July 2007 (min 7 (a)) on investing in areas of greatest need, any outstanding Community Club Development Programme

applications and any other related financial matters; by exception projects below £100,000 may be submitted if they were of a novel or contentious nature.

- A quorum for a meeting of the sub group to be 3.
- Meetings to be organised as and when necessary but the sub group was likely to have to meet approximately every 3 weeks for a limited period of about 3 months.
- Decisions of the sub group would be reported to the Board for information.

(2) that it be noted that the membership of the sub group was Len Jackson (Chair), Ted Cassidy (Vice Chair), Nick Bunting, Mary Butler, Ian Drake, Tony Hams and Peter Richardson.

## **8 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE**

Anne Rippon and Graeme Beaumont reported that since the departure of Tim Garfield to Loughborough University, they together with Wendy Campbell had assumed responsibility for the management of the office. No replacement was being sought for the Regional Director until the new strategy for SE was finalised which it was hoped would be by the end of June. The new staffing structure would be available by the end of the month. In the meantime three staff were leaving for promotional opportunities – Tracey Francis (Head of Capacity Building and Young People), Judy Merrin (Business Manager) and Trish Quinn (Performance Analyst). An advert had been placed for a second planner to support Tony Aitchison as this was an area of significant need.

The draft delivery plan had been submitted to the DCMS and had the three strands of grow, sustain and excel. Much of the funding would in the future be through NGBs and SEs new focus would be to support NGBs. The funding programme for NGBs 2009 – 2013 was in development. Consultation events had taken place with NGBs, CSPs etc and the way forward for CSPs had been discussed.

Change 4 Sport came to an end this year and the new national strategy would take its place. The first two quarters of the business plan were being rolled forward and as soon as the new arrangements were known work would start on developing the plan. It was stressed that the new delivery plan was a national plan and the EM would contribute to it – there would be no regional strategy as a direct replacement to Change 4 Sport.

AGREED that the update be noted.

## **9 RSB BUSINESS PLAN 2007/08 – FINAL REPORT**

Report circulated. Anne Rippon confirmed that with regard to Sport Nottinghamshire and ‘safeguarding’ they had now delivered the preliminary stage and would undertake the next stage in July, so that they would be ‘fit’ for extending activities.

Building Schools for the Future stakeholder groups had been established in Derby City and Nottinghamshire and were currently being established for Nottingham City. SE was also working closely with Leicester City Council to establish such a group.

**AGREED** that the progress made in achieving targets associated with the 2007/08 business plan be noted.

## **10 WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

Len Jackson reported that the Secretary of State had approved SEs outline strategy to focus resources on building the foundations of sporting success through the creation of a world leading community sports system. The system would ensure –

- A substantial and growing number of people from across the community play sport.
- Talented people from all backgrounds are identified early, nurtured and have the opportunity to progress to the elite level.
- Everyone who plays sport has a quality experience and is able to fulfil their potential.

A substantial amount of future budgets would go through NGBs with specific targets set in the three areas and SE working with all partners – NGBs, CSPs, local authorities etc to deliver the strategy. There would still be some funding into the regions – funding to CSPs for specific areas of delivery would continue and there could be national investment in facilities in line with the facilities investment plan, a small grants scheme and an innovation fund. Regions would be engaged in identifying projects for these funds but they would be processed at the shared service based at Loughborough University. Decisions on grants would be made centrally or for the smaller amounts by the executive in the region.

The Minister had yet to sign off the proposals for SE regional offices and RSBs. James Purnell, the previous Secretary of State had been determined to take bureaucracy (layers) out of the system but had been persuaded that CSPs were integral. The 9 RSB Chairs had recently considered options for the future of RSBs – disband completely (not sensible as would lose around 120 influential people committed to sport who worked voluntarily), leave RSBs intact (not an option evidently) or a Ministerial appointment in each region as an advocate with links to major stakeholders and/or a small advisory group possibly linked to counties. The last option was favoured by RSB Chairs and the CE would put this to the Secretary of State. The advisory group would have an influencing role only and it was necessary to develop a structure that did not lose the key influential people. Len was coming to the end of his second term as RSB Chair and therefore the new structure would not involve him but he hoped that the Board would leave the legacy of a delivery system.

There was still a great deal of work for the Board to undertake before the end of the year and it may have to meet in June/July once the strategy was released.

A number of points were made by members –

- There was likely to be a ‘big ideas’ speech on sport in the next few weeks – Andy Burnham would talk about the future direction of SE, Tessa Jowell on legacy and Gordon Brown on the ‘big ideas.’
- The major change was the move away from the funding physical activity agenda to the funding sport agenda. NGBs had put forward a role for regional advocacy and suggested that the Government should take their time and ‘get it right’ – SE had already been through a number of reorganisations in a short period and frequent change was destructive. NGBs had found it difficult delivering national plans when not all regions had been

supportive and this had been a cause of frustration.

- There appeared to be a 'softening' among NGBs around sport and physical activity as going to the gym, which was originally out of the definition, was now in. The big unknown was the target for the number of people playing sport - if this was playing competitive sport the links to clubs etc was vital. It was not known whether NGBs would be prioritised on their ability to deliver or whether they would be given playing figures.
- It normally took two Olympic cycles of investment and planning to make a difference and as the system was in its infancy people should not expect too much too soon.
- SE was not appointing a new Chair until the restructuring had been finalised – a new Chair would support the changes and not implement more.
- The top 5 sports had the infrastructure etc to deliver, the issue was the other 20 plus sports who did not have the infrastructure. The smaller NGBs needed partnerships at a local level – if these were not present NGBs would work in silos.
- VAT was an issue the Government still needed to resolve. e.g a school would be built exempt of VAT but if was opened to the public it would then become liable for VAT.
- Members generally agreed that investing in CSPs should result in a slimmer regional operation but there was still a vital regional role as CSPs could not undertake their role without the support of the regions who maintain the links to NGBs, RDA, press and media etc.
- Local authorities were very supportive of the participation agenda but would find it difficult to engage in the 'excellence' agenda.
- Even though it appeared that CSP core funding would continue, Active Sports funding finished in March 2009 and this would reduce the funding of some CSPs by a third.

**AGREED** that the update be noted.

## **11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**AGREED** that it be noted that future meetings would be held at 0900 on Mondays 22 September and 15 December 2008 but an earlier meeting be called by the Chair should it be considered necessary once further information was received on the future direction of the organisation.