

Agenda Item 03

Minutes of Active Black Country Board Meeting 20th May 2020

Virtual Meeting via Teams

Present:

Board Members: Amanda Tomlinson, (Chair), Carol Bate, Richard Callicott, Rachel Conlisk, Arwyn Jones, Richard Medcalf, Guy Shears and Sue Wilkinson.

ABCA Nominated: No attendee.

Advisors: Ian Carey, Chris Jones and Jennie Bimson

In attendance: Hywel Ruddick

11/20 Apologies:

Board Member apologies: Ash Rai

ABCA Nominated apologies:

Advisor apologies: Graham MacPherson, Paul Griffiths and Sarah Middleton

12/20 Declaration of Interest and DBS Completion

None declared. DBS to be followed up

13/20 Notes of Teleconference – 19th March 2020

The notes of the teleconference held on **Wednesday 19th March 2020** were submitted and the confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

In regard to Matters Arising, Ian Carey advised that the Assurance Framework, the governance of the ABC Partnership Board, required review this year.

14/20 Covid – 19 State of the Sector

A discussion amongst board members focusing on the below:

- Impact of Covid-19 on Sport & Physical Activity sector.
- Impact of Covid-19 on partner sectors – education, community, health.
- Implications for ABC strategy refresh and what should the areas of focus be as we transition into recovery phase?

Ian Carey advised that since the restrictions on movement were imposed by

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Government, ABC had committed capacity towards liaising directly with community providers to understand their immediate, medium and longer-term concerns and providing ongoing dialogue and support. Key activity had included;

- A web-based survey completed by 88 Black Country community providers
- Based on survey responses, 36 of the worst-affected community providers were given 1-2-1 calls to offer support
- ABC officers reached out to 46 community providers based in Black Country areas of deprivation to understand current concerns.

Sue Wilkinson welcomed the work of the Team during “lock down”. She reminded Members that schools had been open for the last nine weeks, but highlighted that from her experience there would be a 15% resignation rate of teaching staff in the new term, in part due to the messaging around schools.

Ian Carey suggested that Sue Wilkinson and Guy Shears should discuss outside of the meeting what further support can be provided to schools.

The Chair noted that there were issues for Mental Health whilst in isolation and coming out of isolation. Rachel Conlisk noted that ABC sign posted ways to exercise to get people back to work. The Chair acknowledged this but also highlighted the risk to the sector, especially to grass roots gyms.

Arwyn Jones acknowledged that whilst a forced shift had changed behaviours, there was a need to capitalise on this going forward to better capitalise on a changing work life balance.

Mike Salmon referenced the survey being undertaken and advised that there was a question related to gym membership and this could be linked to how activity had changed. Chris Jones stated that the survey would provide good information for leisure operator’s in relation to how Covid-19 had changed peoples activity. It was noted that the survey would remain open for 4 weeks but that he could provide weekly updates. The Chair asked Members to use their networks to promote the survey.

Richard Callicott commented that there could be a shift in society, with people not returning to the way it had been. He noted changing attitudes to walking and cycling and highlighted that until a vaccine was discovered there would be a need to run society in a different way, highlighting that in Germany there was no sport without the use of a facemask.

Guy Shears referenced the forthcoming academic year, noting that the impact on children had been poor. In respect of recovery planning there were short term and long-term considerations. He stated there would be a need to influence Sport England to generate proper change and that any future plan would need to include recovery.

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Ian Carey advised that all actions plans over the next 6-9 months would be branded with recovery plus and highlighted the need for consultation and to develop and build understanding. He stated that Sport England had delayed the release of their refreshed Strategic Framework and that the local recovery plan would inform a strategic refresh for the next three to five years.

Carol Bate stated that in respect of the recovery plan she felt at present they did not have enough information. She observed that in the short term there was a need to consider those with extra risk factors such as type 2 diabetes and de-risking activities for them.

Ian Carey referenced a potential future premium on health. He noted opportunities around walking, cycling, outdoor activities and digital but noted that there was a need to consider the impact on the employer in the sector, with changing job roles over the short, medium and long term.

The Chair stated that there was a big focus at the BC LEP Board on redundancy and re-skilling, which would be an impact for the sport and activity sector. She referenced a meeting with Mike Diaper of Sports England and whilst the ABC were positioned quite well there was a need to ensure the relationship was maximised.

Richard Callicott asked what avenue and influence the ABC had into alternative funds, to include the Towns Fund such as the funding active transport, green spaces etc. Ian Carey advised that ABC were linked into discussion on the Towns Fund and High Street Funds. He also advised that they were linked into the DfT with using roads for cycle ways etc. He advised that active travel and transport were a one of the priorities for Sport England.

Sue Wilkinson referenced the Comprehensive Spending Review, which she felt would be challenging and queried the primary school premium. Ian Carey advised that the funding came through the banner of children and young people and was not broken down into each specific programme.

Guy Shears noted that key to the Strategic Plan and Recovery would be funding and whilst his instinct was that Government would revert to austerity stated that there was a need for lobbying to ensure that sport and activity was linked into any recovery plan. The Chair agreed that it was crucial for the region's recovery plan to include the sector.

Jennie Bimson stated that there was a need to include profile raising highlighting the work of ABC, she stated that the "outdoors was free", and that the local campaign should mirror the work being done by Sport England, but with a local twist.

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Agreed

- 1) that the report and discussion be noted;
- 2) that the ABC Team reflect the discussions in the draft recovery plan to be tabled at the next meeting; and
- 3) that the ABC Board discussion would inform ongoing engagement with funding partners.

15/20 **20/21 Budget and Operational Plan**

The Chair advised that the report reflected the operational plan as was and highlighted that there was a need for budget re-profiling as the budget had increased and the hosting arrangements with BC Consortium Ltd had seen an increase in costs.

Richard Medcalf advised that he was content with budget as it was but stated that there would be a need for flexibility as to forecast what was required in the future under the pandemic was an impossible job. The Chair advised that she took as read that the budget would include flexibility.

In regard to the operational plan it was noted that the flu vaccination rate would need to increase in the Autumn and that there was an opportunity for the ABC to promote. Ian Carey advised that work was being undertaken with partners to include Dudley MBC, the overall marketing budget was £36k, up on previous years, and that community engagement needed to be a high priority for ABC. It was suggested that the Team could use local health care providers to promote some of the messaging.

The Chair advised that the Board could revisit the Marketing and Communications Strategy as there was innovation being undertaken to get people active in different ways.

Ian Carey advised that work was being undertaken on the place agenda and thus conversations would be had with partners to include the local authorities. He advised that whilst an ongoing threat to lottery sales there had been extra funding from Sports England.

Agreed that the ABC Board approve the ABC Budget for the year April 2020 to March 2021, noting the comments in regard to flexibility.

16/20 **Towards An Active Black Country Strategic Framework**

a. Health & Wellbeing

The report provided an update the board in relation to progress made on the Health and Wellbeing theme, to include Response to Coronavirus: Older People's Packs and Population Health Management – Physical Literacy Project Update.

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b. Community

The report provided an update to ABC board members of updates regarding the communities' theme, to include Covid- 19 Support for Community Clubs and Organisations; Faith Centre engagement LFFP & Small sided projects; West Midlands PCC/Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) – February Half Term activities.

c. Education

The report provided an update the ABC board with a further update on progress around the education theme including priorities and key areas over the coming 12 months. It was noted that the following activities had either been cancelled or postponed - School Games; DFE Volunteering Programme: Young Coach Academy; and the Active Lives Children's Survey, which had been postponed until schools restarted.

School Support page: In light of the current situation a new schools page had been established which included weekly activity challenges from our SGO's, Physical Education videos from local Black Country PE teachers and links to other useful school resources including an area sharing some of the good news stories from schools across the region.

Rainbow Bus Proposal: there was a current consultation with Sport England to develop a proposal of a mobile bus which would travel around Schools across the Black Country. The bus would provide children at the school with various health and wellbeing enrichment activities. The bus would be wrapped and promoted as the rainbow bus linking the children's window campaign which coincided with the outbreak of the Corona Virus and schools temporarily closing.

The Chair commented that this would be an ideal initiative for Mental Health and Children's Wellbeing.

Guy Shears commented that good schools would build a plan on what good do to include literacy and stated that the focus during lockdown had been Progress 8, which was academic based but acknowledged the need for activity to be a priority.

Tim Aldred stated that ABC had a number of routes into schools and highlighted the developing initiative of the School Supplier Hub which was being developed to provide a one stop platform for schools to search for a range of providers/deliveries. In regard to the recovery curriculum whilst this would focus on academic learning, ABC recognised pupils had lost out on social development. He advised that there were a number of layers to engage with schools with a broad approach, that is not just sport but other outdoor activities for pupils.

d. Insight

Mike Salmon advised that ABC had ambitions to be regarded as the most-insight led Active Partnership in the country and as a key contributing voice in the

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development of insight across the sector. The restrictions on normal working activity in light of Covid-19 had provided the opportunity to focus on planned Insight Hub updates, specifically - Updated Insight Hub Front Page; National Insight; and Quarterly Thematic Briefings.

Agreed that the updates be received and noted.

18/20 **Performance Management**

a. Performance

Ian Carey advised that the Performance Management Dashboards had been reviewed and included an interactive map and story board. He highlighted that they reflected the Strategic led vision, Strategic Indicators and Delivery Insight. The Dashboards incorporated nationally validated measures and enabled the identification of the impact on any piece of work undertaken by ABC. It was also noted that SE had asked ABC to adopt such a system and it had been made easier with access to the Consortium's EIU.

Mike Salmon took members through the interactive dashboards and the Chair noted that it provided a good tool for partners.

Guy Shears welcomed the interactive tool and stated that for a future agenda he would like to know more about the Members performance management role on the Board.

b. Year End 2019/20 Finance report

Ian Carey advised that the points highlighted in the Finance Report had been discussed with the Chair.

c. Safeguarding report & policy

Tim Aldred advised that the policy had been updated to incorporate CPSU and NSPCC guidance and that this had been built into the ABC webpages. Courses were continuing to be delivered through the website and were still available to book.

Agreed that the updates be noted.

19/20 **Vice Chair Recruitment**

The Chair advised that the recruitment was open for Expressions of Interest with the closing date set for 29th May 2020. A process to undertake interviews would be agreed, dependant on the levels of interest with the appointment anticipated at the July meeting.

20/20 **Date of Next Meeting**

Agreed that the next meeting would be held on 28th July 2020, on Teams.

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Meeting ended at 4.00pm