

**Charity number: 1086915**  
**Company number: 4180163**

**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Wednesday 26 September 2024 12.30-15.00**

**In person at ISH Venues, One Park Crescent,  
International Students House, 1 Park Crescent, Regent's Park, London, W1B 1SH**

**Attendees:**

Neil Davidson [ND] - Chair  
Billy Downie [BD] – Senior Independent Director [joined virtually]  
Shweta Sharma [SS]  
John Gilligan [JG]  
Fatou Jeng [FJ]  
Shaunagh Brown [SB] – Observer  
Claire Boakes [CB]  
Dr Paula Franklin [PF]  
Abhishna Yogarajan [AY]  
Abi-Misselbrook-Lovejoy [AML] [joined virtually]

**In attendance:**

Ali Oliver [AO] – Chief Executive Officer  
Surinder Sihra [SSS] – Dir Finance & Governance  
Nicola Boon [NB] – Chief Brand Officer  
Kay Batkin [KB] – Network Director  
Lisa McHendry [LMCH] - Coach  
Peter Ellis [PE] – Company Secretary

Alice Smith – Campbell Tickell [joined virtually]  
Sarah Loader – Campbell Tickell [in person]  
Francesca Stanyer – Campbell Tickell [joined virtually]

**Apologies:**

Lois Challand (LC) – Executive Assistant

Valerie Copenhagen [VC]  
Joanna Coates [JC]

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<p><b>1. CEO Update &amp; Executive Dashboard</b></p>
<p>ND invited AO to provide her update.</p> <p>AO provided an update on the work of the charity since the last Board meeting. She drew Trustees attention to the recent media coverage reinforcing the charity's strapline, 'unhealthy, unhappy children don't learn' and the continued decline of children and young people's wellbeing.</p> <p>AO went on to provide a political update, with specific mention to Youth Sport Trust's (YST) first 100-day engagement plan with the new Government; followed by her attendance at the Labour Party Conference, the YST Fringe involving the School Standards Minister, the Children's Commissioner, the new General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders and a member of the YST Youth Board. She also reported back on her attendance at a fringe event run by the Children's Commissioner entitled 'The Big Conversation: Ensuring children's voices are the heart of government policy'.</p> <p>AO shared with Trustees that the charity had also recently secured an excellent piece to camera recorded by Catherine McKinnell the Schools Minister for the School Sport &amp; Activity Sector Partnership which is convened by the YST.</p>
<p><b>2. Annual Report and Accounts – Year ended 31 March 2024</b></p>
<p>In the annual general meeting held just prior to the board meeting, the members approved the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.</p>
<p><b>3. Management Accounts – 2024/25 to August 2024</b></p>
<p>SSS presented an update to Board on the results to Period 5.</p> <p>SSS confirmed that a Phased Budget had not yet been completed but will be prepared ready for the next reporting period, however, the surplus at £2,281k is £363k better than last year.</p> <p>Income is £1.9m above last year due to receiving School Games National Finals income of £2.3m which is part offset by delayed membership invoicing of £205k and Local Government income of £115k.</p> <p>Cash holdings are down by £560k from 31 March 2024 due to expenditure on deferred projects.</p>
<p><b>4. Management Accounts – full year forecast</b></p>
<p>SSS went on to provide an update on the full year forecast.</p> <p>The current forecast (including strategic investment expenditure) is showing a full year forecast deficit of £1,535k which is £44k better than budget. At the Operational level, the forecast deficit is £684k which is also £44k better than budget as no savings/overspends have been assumed for investment expenditure.</p>
<p><b>5. Investment Plan Update</b></p>
<p>SSS presented his update on the strategic investment plan, schedule of spend this year and a summary of the return on investment to date.</p>

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<b>6. Risk Register</b>
AO provided an update on the Risk Register which highlighted how Strategy Risks and Organisational Risks have changed. She reported the emerging education policy changes are reducing the likelihood of schools not wanting to or being empowered to engage in our campaigns, programmes and projects.
<b>7. Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan</b>
<p>The purpose of the paper was to provide an update on the development, delivery and progress of the Diversity &amp; Inclusion Action Plan.</p> <p>This plan is a requirement for organisations required to conform to Tier 3 of the revised Code for Sports Governance enacted by Sport England and UK Sport.</p>
<b>8. Welfare and Safety</b>
<p>The purpose of this paper was to provide Trustees with an update to ensure transparency and accountability regarding Welfare and Safety [including Safeguarding] at the charity, aligned with our commitment to constant review and challenge.</p> <p>Trustees were asked to note the content of the paper and recognise the ongoing progress in refining and further strengthening our approach to Welfare and Safety.</p>

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**Date of next meeting – Thursday 28 November 2024 08.30 – 15.45 [Loughborough]**