



## **Active partnerships National Board meeting**

**21 June 2022**

**Online meeting via teams**

**In attendance:** Adam Walker (Chair), Adrian Leather, Amanda Pearce- Higgins, Eammon O'Rourke, Ali Shipway, Dick Fedorcio, Ian Hacon, Nigel Harrison, Mike Sandys

**In attendance:** Andy Taylor, APNT CEO, Nicki Couzens, Relationships Partner

**Apologise:** Sue Storey

### **1 Introductions.**

Andy was welcomed to the meeting and into his new role, all board members introduced themselves.

Andy provided a summary of his skills and work experience and explained the focus for the first few months was to build a high performing team with clarity of role, ensuring all the systems were in place to support each other and the network effectively. Andy outlined he had already spent time with Graeme and Nicki and Ali through the recruitment process

Adam encouraged Andy to make the most of the huge skills and expertise of the board members.

### **2 Opening Schools Facilities 3 Tender Bid**

Adam and Nigel updated the board on the tender bid which was submitted on 10 June.

The short timescales between the bid being released and deadline meant that some intensive work with YST, Streetgames and UK Active has taken place. Nigel emphasised that the ways of working with three agencies has been tremendous with a mature collaborative approach. All understand role and the capacity will come into Active Partnerships. Streetgames will help build connections with local trusted organisations, UK Active will build on opening doors evaluation, YST will utilise their skills around programme design, CPD support, support in multi academies trust. Etc

Since submission the consortium has been asked one clarification question but not been called for interview. Expect to know the result on Friday 24 June.

The bid is for £57 million with 80% of money coming through APNT into AP and into schools. 10% each year allocated for managing the project, £150k allocated to create more capacity to manage project and provide finance and legal support. Each Active Partnership will receive £25-35 depending on how budget is allocated and split. If successful have 4 weeks from signing contract to decide on this process.



Adam explained that the full bid had not been circulated to board due to timescales, but we haven't committed to anything. If successful will need to involve Amanda and Ian and finance subcommittee to ensure work is robust and effective and we are comfortable with the situation. Need to sort the legal issues on MOU between 3 agencies and contract with DoE. Nigel confirmed that VAT advice had been taken prior to bid submission. There will be a need to move at pace if successful as have 4 weeks to submit plan and 4 additional weeks to identify 800 schools for year one.

Amanda asked if Adam or Nigel were aware of who else may have submitted a bid. Nigel confirmed that there hasn't been any talk in public sector and all the larger players were involved in the consortium. No other organisations had asked for clarification. Adam confirmed that a business focused approach had been taken, hadn't chased the bid so we haven't exposed ourselves to risk.

Adam emphasised the collaboration between the organisation was a revolution and very good illustration of how we can work together. This was led by how Nigel and Emily (YST) set up the meetings. The Active Partnership colleagues involved in the working group have been brilliant with everyone contributing to tasks on time to a high standard which made the process very easy.

Adrian thanked Nigel for his work on the project and how this helps seals the position of the network as leader in the sector. Active Lancashire has expertise in sub-contracting and risk transfer so offered to help where needed. Adam confirmed there had been discussion prior to submitting the bid as to whether AP would count as sub-contractors but took the position this was not the case and will not need an MOU but this will be looked into again if awarded the contract.

Ali asked what the view on the collaborative relationship with other partners was locally as some are in different places. After some initial scepticism Nigel emphasised the message to Active Partnerships that the collaborative approach has been great but need to get this through locally. Adam said the short timescales helped as they had to quickly identify leader and who could contribute what, which led to money distribution. There was no conflict in any meeting but a group of people saying this is the job that needs to be done.

Nigel informed board that they have adopted the tactic of maximum funding and min KPI as it is a tight contract and didn't want to extent targets as it is a tight project. Interpreting the KPIs in the bid had been tough

Ali suggested that the learning piece on how to work collaboratively could come from this work.

### 3 **Recruitment Update**

Adam thanked Ali for her role in all the recruitment, she has done an amazing job pulling it all together. Feedback from candidates is that they enjoyed the experience, and it has put the network in a good light.

Ali updated the board that all the appointments had now been made.

- Relationships Partners

A similar process to that of the CEO was carried out, with a two stage process. An appointment was made last night and the candidate Helen Pring has verbally accepted. Helen brings different skills into the team and has worked in federated membership systems. Is very credible, warm, professional individual and will bring different personality and skills into network.

- finance and governance

Josie has been appointed and has very technical skills in finance element role, understands charity and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector, has a clear understanding of her skill set. Will be supported in relationships partner part of role as it develops.

- Business Support and Admin

Heid James has been appointed. Heidi stood out from the other candidates and will be an asset to help develop systems and admin processes of the team.

Andy explained how throughout the recruitment the processes, skills and fit within the team has been considered. He emphasised how pleased he was with the three new team members.

Josie and Heidi are on longer noticed periods, but both have agreed to start for one day a week before notice period has finished. Helen is on a one-month notice.

Amanda asked about Josies support on the forthcoming code of sports governance review Andy confirmed that her initial focus will be finances with support from Gemma at YSF. Andy and Ali will lead on the review and then as Josie develops in the role, she will be able to then support the network.

#### 4 **Governance Review**

Adam reported that little progress had been made on the review due to time commitments of Opening Schools Facilities bid and recruitment which were seen as prioritises. Andy, Nigel and Adam have arranged a meeting to progress it this area.

Adam confirmed that this is Adrian, Eammon and Sue's, last meeting board meeting. Adam asked if they would be prepared to stay on the board in an advisory role until Sept when aim to have new board members recruited. They will be taken off trustees on companies' house but will support board until new members in place. All agreed they were happy with this (Adam had spoken to Sue prior to the meeting).

It was confirmed that Ian will leave at the end of his term and Mike offered to stay for another term. Dick will be transferred from being a connected / elected member to an independent as he is finishing his role as Kent Chair, if he is happy with this process.

It was agreed that the Chair and trustee positions recruitment process would run parallel to each other would be advertised at the same time.

Adam thanked Sue, Eammon and Adrian for all their substantial contributions, work and time as Board members.

**Matters Arising and Future Action**

<b>Resolution or Action</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Action Update</b>
Action	If successful in OSF involve Finance Sub to look at proposals	Nigel, Ian, Amanda	
Resolution	Eammon, Sue and Adrian stay on board as advisors until Sept	Adam	
Action	Take Eammon, Sue and Adrian off companies' house	Nicki	
Action	Start governance review	Andy, Ali, Adam	