

**Précis and action points from the Scottish Student Sport Development Committee meeting held on  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 via ZOOM**

**10:30 - 12:30**

**Present**

AI – Abby Irvine (Glasgow)  
KC – Katherine Corbett (RGU)  
KM – Kirsten Mullen (Fife  
College)  
ACP – Alex Crespo Prior  
(Edinburgh)  
KB – Kirsty Bannatyne  
(Strathclyde)

**In attendance**

IL – Ian Lowe (SSS)

**Apologies**

CS – Claire Scott (St. Andrews)  
AT - Amber Taylor (Heriot  
Watt)  
LD – Leah Davidson (SSS)

**1. Welcome & apologies**

IL welcome everyone to the meeting. Noting apologies from CS, AT & LD. In the absence of our Chair IL offered to chair the meeting. This was agreed by members. Members present provided a brief overview of updates from their institution. The updates were all similar in regard to:

- a blended return to students on campus
- in person and virtual welcome events
- a sense of the unknown with regard to the return to student sport
- increased links with non-sporting university departments and services
- still some concerns regarding travel to fixtures
- Team numbers being similar to pre COVID with a hope that player recruitment will also be healthy

There was a real sense of optimism for the year ahead from all members.

**2. SSS Update**

IL update the committee with an update of SSS activity over the summer period in particular progress with negotiations with our funders partners.

IL explained that our request for funding from SFC had yet to be concluded. IL talked through the challenges that this presents SSS in terms of continuity, staff moral and in general planning for the year ahead. IL explained that staff effected by this have had a short contract extension to support the bridging between funding periods.

As a result it is still all systems go for the year ahead for SSS all be it with a slight sense of nervousness.

**3. SSS Operational Plan 2021/2022**

IL tabled the above document explaining the thought process behind the development of the document and the strategic change in staffing responsibilities. IL explained the move from having regional development staff to a portfolio based provision giving the following rationale:

Scottish Student Sport's proposed new strategy will see a shift in the design of our Development Team. Whilst our members will remain the focal point of our development work we plan to move from a regional delivery model to a portfolio based approach that will see our development co-ordinators take ownership of a particular theme of work.

The rationale behind doing includes:

- The proposed new structure reflects a change to a similar approach in a number of other SGB's
- Our regions are diverse – as a result our members can have vastly different challenges. This in turn brings some challenges in creating a collegiate and shared agenda in each region
- Universities and colleges don't tend to work in a regional basis
- We feel that the proposed approach will provide a better service to members by having dedicated staff focussed on areas of expertise rather than a wide range of activities
- We feel the new approach will provide increased opportunities for collaboration with organisations out with student sport

The themes of work for the Development team will be **Learning & People, Equality & Culture and Active Health**.

Members welcomed the new Op Plan, in particular the focus on target setting and outcomes within the document. IL explained that the Op Plan is a moving document which will see some changes over the course of the year ahead to reflect any move in priorities and the new nature of some areas of work such as Active Health.

**Action: IL to provide update on progress at next Development Committee**

**Action: Members to consider any changes/additions to the Op Plan throughout the year**

#### **4. SSS Regional Forums**

IL tabled a paper outlining areas of consideration for the facilitation of Regional Forums in light of the move from a regionally focussed SSS Development Team. The paper outlined various options for this facilitation including:

- a) Region Fora continue as is with SSS Development Staff Team attending on a needs/agenda basis
- b) Regional Fora continue and the Head of Development attends all meetings (diary permitting)
- c) Regional Fora continue but within a National Forum agenda as breakouts
- d) Regional Fora use Basecamp as a central discussion platform to negate the need to meet in person with all Development Staff contributing to each Basecamp group to provide updates on their work
- e) SSS Development staff host drops in's specific to their work for members to attend, contribute to and provide critical friendship/ ideas for further work and collaboration.

Members discussed the merits of each option whilst highlighting the importance of having the opportunity to meet and discuss regional matters. In particular the strength of having college partners meet to discuss college specific developments was highlighted as an important opportunity for the college sector.

Members agreed that in principal Option C most closely matched their aspirations for Regional Forums, however all members agreed that changing the set up at this juncture of uncertainty for SSS would not be a wise decision.

**Action: IL to keep members updated with the SSS funding proposal to SFC and members to make decision on the future of SSS Regional Forums on conclusion of the funding request process.**

#### **5. SSS Sport Health Check**

IL tabled the above paper which gives over sight of the current status of each of the SSS sports covering information on SSS Staff leads, SGB partnerships, memberships, Sports Chairs, Development Groups & competition opportunities. Members welcomed the document highlighting the importance of having an overarching view of the status of the 35 SSS Sports.

**Action: IL to update the document if/when needed and share with the committee when appropriate**

#### **6. Active Health – Group Discussion**

As an off shot from the SSS Development Team Op Plan IL explained that the development of outcomes and areas of work in the portfolio was less developed than others. This was due to the areas of work being an emerging arm of SSS, the breadth of opportunity to support the student experience within Active Health and need to add value to the already excellent work ongoing in each institution in this area.

In a lively discussion many suggestions were made on area within Active Health where SSS could/should be operating within. These included:

- Social/Health Events
- Active health best practice sharing
- Social Prescription guidance, advice, championing
- Partnerships with other organisations (for example UKActive, CIMPSA, jogScotland, Tough Mudder, Colour Runs, Race for Life)
- Training for staff & student volunteers
- Links to academia to support the cause
- An Active Health forum

IL thanked members for their input and agreed to discuss/consult with Megan Richardson (Active Health SSS Development Coordinator). As a result the Development Team Op Plan will be update to suit.

#### **7. Learning & Development Calendar**

IL tabled the above calendar of Learning & Development opportunities for members. Members were asked to share with colleagues, students and volunteers.

**Action: Members to share the L&D Calendar along with the SSS Development Calendar (available from: <https://www.scottishstudentsport.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Development-Calendar-02.08.21.pdf> )**

## 8. Draft Equality Action Plan

IL tabled the above document highlighting the work of Eilidh Patterson in creating the document. IL also highlighted the excellent support of Barbara Lawson who as Chair of the Equality Steering Group has provided a valuable source of expertise, experience and wisdom.

Members welcomed the document whilst highlighted some of the challenges around gathering protected characteristics data to support the outcomes within the plan. IL explained that SSS planned to create a survey for club members to gather data as well as gathering information via the use of Playwaze as our event entry system. IL explained that this would still not capture a complete equality profile of membership but it would provide benchmarks for future developments and plans. Equally, monitoring response rates is a worthy measure of member's sense of importance and value of equality issues.

IL highlighted that the role of Chair of the Equality Steering Group will be advertised soon and he would welcome members sharing the opportunity far & wide.

**Action: IL to share the Chair of the Equality Steering Group job advert with members.**

## 9. AOB

None

## 10. Date of next meeting

IL advised that the date of the next meeting was **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm**. The meeting will be held on ZOOM and members should have already received the invite.

Action List	Initials
<b>SSS Dev Team Op Plan</b> Action: IL to provide update on progress at next Development Committee Action: Members to consider any changes/additions to the Op Plan throughout the year	IL All members
<b>SSS Regional Forums</b> Action: IL to keep members updated with the SSS funding proposal to SFC and members to make decision on the future of SSS Regional Forums on conclusion of the funding request process.	IL
<b>SSS Sports Health Check</b> Action: IL to update the document if/when needed and share with the committee when appropriate	IL
<b>L&amp;D Calendar</b> Action: Members to share the L&D Calendar along with the SSS Development Calendar	All Members
Equality Action Plan Action: IL to share the Chair of the Equality Steering Group job advert with members	IL All Members