



**wesport**

INSPIRING ACTIVE LIVES

# Governance Statement

2016-17

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## Contents

Introduction ..... 3

Wesport Mission, Vision, and Values..... 3

Board Meetings & Membership..... 4

Risk Management Statement..... 4

Governance Updates ..... 5

*This document can be made available in alternative formats upon request*

## **Introduction**

Wesport is a Registered Charity & Company Limited by Guarantee and fulfils the role of the County Sports Partnership for the West of England, which covers Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Wesport works with a network of organisations across this area.

Wesport is comprised of & governed by a Memorandum of Understanding and Articles of Association, and the non-executive independent Board of Trustees.

(Where the term “Independent” is used with regard to Wesport Trustees, the definition from Sport England’s Code of Sports Governance applies:

*“Independent - a person is independent if they are free from any close connection to the organisation and if, from the perspective of an objective outsider, they would be viewed as independent. A person may still be deemed to be ‘independent’ even if they are a member of the organisation and/or play the sport. Examples of a ‘close connection’ include:*

*(A) they are or have within the last four years been actively involved in the organisation’s affairs, e.g. as a representative of a specific interest group within the organisation such as a sporting discipline, a region or a home country;*

*(B) they are or have within the last four years been an employee of the organisation; or*

*(C) they have close family ties with any of the organisation’s directors or senior employees.”)*

Wesport aims to coordinate and support a range of organisations to improve the delivery of sport and physical activity initiatives, in order to have a positive impact on the lives of people and communities of the West of England. Wesport’s role requires significant networking and a collaborative approach linking sporting, cultural and business outcomes.

## **Wesport Mission, Vision, and Values**

Wesport’s vision is: Improving lives in the West of England through championing, developing, and delivering sport & physical activity

Wesport’s mission is to: Create, Inspire, and Empower through Sport & Physical Activity

This describes what Wesport aims to achieve in the long-term and serves as a guide for choosing the current and future courses of action.

The Wesport team subscribes to the following organisational values:

- Passion
- Respect
- Integrity
- Diversity
- Excellence

Trustees & staff are expected to act with integrity, objectivity and honesty, acting in the best interests of the Trust at all times.

## Board Meetings & Membership

In the financial year 2016-17, four Board meetings were held (one per quarter).

The Wesport Trust Board determines the strategic direction of the Trust, including setting the 4-year strategy & advising on the annual Operations Plan. They also provide accountability and support across all areas of the Trust, with a particular focus on finance, safeguarding, risk, and governance.

Membership of the Wesport Trust Board was as follows (all roles are non-executive and independent):

<b>Name (role)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Andrea Arlidge (Chair)	
John Baker	
Sue Dors (Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding)	
Louise Buxton (Portfolio Holder for Finance)	
Stephen Wray	Left April 2016
Dan Summers	
Annie Vernon	
Bryn Vaile	

1 resignation from the Board took place in 2016-17.

The Board recognises the importance of diversity in the membership of the Board as well as the Senior Management Team (SMT) of the Trust.

Historically, the Wesport Trust Board has had a minimum of 33% female representation since its inception in 2006. Greater diversity generally continues to be a focus for Wesport.

Wesport has always had a strong commitment to equality & diversity, including achieving and maintaining the Equality Standard.

## Skills Matrix

As part of an annual review of the Board, the Skills Matrix is also reviewed. This is taken into consideration when any Trustee recruitment is being advertised to ensure that there is a broad range of skills and expertise available on the Wesport Trust Board.

## Risk Management Statement

The Wesport Trust Board continues to review and monitor the risks that Wesport may face. There is a Risk Management Policy in place, as well as a Risk Register that is brought to the Board every 6 months for a full review.

The Board clearly communicates the objectives, priorities, and delegations of the risk management to the Senior Management Team and Finance Team of the Trust.

## **Governance Updates**

Wesport continues to adhere to the Voluntary Code of Good Governance for the Sport & Recreation Sector from the Sport & Recreation Alliance.

This covers the areas of:

- Integrity
- Role
- Vision & Mission
- Objectivity
- Systems
- Accountability
- Engagement

Sport England are releasing their own Code of Sports Governance which comes into effect from April 2017. This has 3 tiers, and Wesport will need to ensure full compliance to the highest level (Tier 3).

This covers the principle areas of:

1. Structure
2. People
3. Communication
4. Standards & Conduct
5. Policies & Processes