

**ENGLAND ATHLETICS BOARD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OUTCOMES
22nd October and 2nd November 2020
Via Microsoft Teams**

Present

Members of the Board

Myra Nimmo, Chair (MN)

Adetunji Akintokun (AA).

David Lodwick (DL)

Ellie Brown (EB)

Janyce Holmes (JH)

Leshia Hawkins (LH)

Lorna Boothe (LB)

Peter Crawshaw (PC)

Steve Grainger MBE (SG) (attended 22 Oct only. Provided verbal input for 2 Nov)

Tim Soutar (TS)

England Athletics Officers:

Dan Isherwood, Head of Operations (DI)

Apologies

Chris Jones, CEO (CJ)

Reflections on AGM process

The Board were keen to understand more fully the negative communications, primarily on social media, around and leading to the EA AGM.

It therefore met virtually on 2 occasions (22nd October and 2nd November) to reflect on how best to avoid a similar position in the future. The 2 meetings were supported by 1:1 conversations with the Chair.

Through discussion the Board agreed:

1. Over the next few months, we want to focus our communication and engagement with our clubs. The hope is that this will support our regional councils in attracting representatives to serve on the regional councils and help shape our sport to be fit for the future.
2. We will establish a joint executive and Board task and finish group to look at ways to improve our longer-term communication planning.
3. The Board will generate a communication on the web site to share its perspective on future priorities and concerns.
4. EA needs feedback from our members to improve our services and make our sport enjoyable for all, however we will not tolerate poor behaviour. Where

there are personal and threatening comments made appropriate action will be taken.

5. In response to the recommendation of the UK independent safeguarding review (Quinlan 2020) to introduce a requirement of all our members to adhere to our values, the Board agreed that National Council should consider this with respect to nominations to the Council. However, it will be the responsibility of us all not to engage in, or align ourselves with, any unjustifiable negativity.
6. We will invite some of those who criticise us to join us on a virtual call so that we can better understand and respond to their concerns.
7. Our communications team will monitor social media sites and report those who make personal and threatening messages and are empowered to correct any factual inaccuracies.
8. We need to better inform our sport about the roles and responsibilities of EA and UKA in order to avoid receiving criticism on matters for which EA has no jurisdiction.
9. We will continue to inform UKA where EA has received communications which are critical of UKA, yet EA have suffered the consequences. We do not expect the new joint UKA Standards, Ethics and Rules committee (SERC), which has representation from EA, to respond to the recent criticisms but the SERC committee will remain a referral option in the future.
10. The EA Board will utilise EA email addresses for all correspondence associated with EA. This will also be discussed with the Regional Councils with a view to extending this facility to all councillors.
11. The EA executive will explore software to facilitate a more efficient process for on-line voting in the future. The Board will need assurance that the system of choice meets the highest standards.
12. The Board agreed that it would be beneficial to clarify, for its members, the purpose and role of the AGM and the way in which correct use of the system can be used to raise genuine concerns.