

**Present:**

Scrutiny Panel Members: Madi Hamblin (MH), Sam Hadley (SH), Sukhdip Nagra (SN)

Officers: Cat Hardiman, Sports Officer (CH)

**In Attendance:**

Core Staff: Jane Baston (Senior Voice Coordinator, Minute-Taker)

**Apologies:**

Anastasis Mauriac (AM), Anamika Varghese (AH)

**Trigger/Content Warnings:**

Time	Discussion	Notes
16:00	Introductions	<p>The Panel introduced themselves and welcomed CH to the meeting.</p> <p>CH introduced herself.</p> <p>MH outlined how the session was going to run, starting with a general overview and then questions from the Panel.</p> <p>MH noted that there were no student questions submitted.</p> <p>MH noted that she would then give CH space to ask any questions.</p> <p>MH handed over to SN.</p>
16:05	Scrutiny Panel Feedback	<p>SN commended CH on her role as Sports Officer.</p> <p>SN noted the launch of the Sports Fund reflecting CHs commitment to breaking down financial barriers to sport.</p> <p>SN noted the role that CH holds as BUCS West Midlands Chair which shows strategic leadership and allows student</p>

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		<p>concerns to directly influence regional meetings and decisions.</p> <p>SN noted that improvement to communication channels with UB Sport. In particular the success in facilitating feedback sessions between UB Sport and Sports Clubs.</p>
16:08	Scrutiny Panel Questions	<p>SN asked if CH could provide some examples of how the Sports Access Fund.</p> <p>CH mentioned that it's currently difficult to note examples of the impact as the awards have just been given out.</p> <p>CH noted that the information provided in the form show the need for the Sports Fund. The plan is to ask recipients to complete a survey at the end at the year to show how the funding has impacted them.</p> <p>CH mentioned that this can also be used to demonstrate the impact that the funding has had.</p> <p>CH noted that they are asking for proof of purchase receipts to be able to ensure that the money is spent on what was requested. This is unlike the Guild Hardship fund which requires bank statements but still maintains the trust given.</p> <p>SN asked about the work being done to increase participation in sport by making it cheaper on campus.</p> <p>CH mentioned that this has been a frustration. Many students have mentioned that sports at Birmingham are very expensive, especially compared to other Universities.</p> <p>CH has a group chat with other Sports Officers across the country and has been part of collating together information on different prices of Sports across the country. There is a quite a variation in what Sports Clubs have to pay to access facilities and play games.</p>

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		<p>CH has brought this up with the UB Sport Senior Management. There have also been various meetings to try to understand why it's so expensive.</p> <p>CH noted that there are financial reasons behind why this may not happen.</p> <p>CH has been working on making different types of support available. Pay as You Go Sports have been implemented. There have also been conversations around inter-accommodation sport which should be much easier to access.</p> <p>CH has been involved in ongoing conversations about making participation cheaper. There is work ongoing to bring together a piece of work to be able to provide reasoning for reducing the cost to the University,</p> <p>CH mentioned expecting this to be something that will be picked up by the next Sports Officer. It's unlikely to happen at scale for a while.</p> <p>SN asked how CH uses her role as West Mid Vice-Chair to ensure that student views are represented and addressed in regional meetings.</p> <p>CH sits in the agenda setting meetings as the Vice-Chair. This is where the agenda is decided. When doing this there are regular topics. During the meetings CH can raise student views and feedback within those items.</p> <p>CH mentioned that Birmingham has been looking to improve in the rankings.</p> <p>CH noted that they tend to be collaborative meetings which allow her to bring items to the agenda and then have a discussion with the students on them.</p> <p>CH noted that the next meeting is tomorrow.</p>

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		<p>SN asked for some examples of what CH has put on the agenda.</p> <p>CH has put the Cost of Living and how we can make sport more accessible. There is an ongoing conversation about BUCS TV that broadcasted sports activities however it no longer exists. There was a conversation around how we can promote student sport without this.</p> <p>CH noted that being able to see other students doing sport can help students want to get involved with sport as well., particularly if they see themselves reflected in that.</p> <p>CH noted that part of the discussion was about how students can be involved in this promotion and what universities are doing to promote participation in sport.</p> <p>CH mentioned that there was a presentation from an Aston Staff Member about their international engagement in sport.</p> <p>SN passed over to SH.</p> <p>SH mentioned that CH has already talked about the inter-accommodation sport a little.</p> <p>SH asked if CH could expand on her plans for this and how she's planning to ensure that these are inclusive and successful.</p> <p>CH has meet with the Active Residences Lead who oversees social sport and the campus league. There was a discussion about how inter-accommodation sport can fit in to that.</p> <p>CH wanted this to be regular, about once a month, to encourage association with halls. There isn't really a sense of identity around halls at the moment.</p> <p>CH noted that this wasn't something that she was heavily focusing on at the start of her term due to the focus of Sport Access Fund.</p>

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		<p>CH noted that the plan is to get this ready to launch for the start of Welcome next year.</p> <p>CH noted that a lot of the sports we do are mainly associated with British culture like hockey or netball. This can be a barrier to people getting involved.</p> <p>CH is planning to use a diverse range of sports that don't require a huge amount of knowledge to get involved, like badminton.</p> <p>CH is looking at making sure that the sports are accessible including things like ensuring step-free access. She will be working with AOD on this.</p> <p>SH noted that they spoke to AOD yesterday and that she would likely be keen to collaborate.</p> <p>SH asked what progress CH has made in implementing inter-accommodation sport. What are the plans to measure success of this?</p> <p>SH noted that this has mostly been covered already.</p> <p>CH noted that to measure success this will likely be done through engagement stats via MSL. We can get data from people attending events.</p> <p>CH mentioned that attendance from different groups of students can be looked at through this data to see if tailored activity needs to be done.</p> <p>CH noted that this can then be used to improve the events the following time.</p> <p>CH mentioned that student feedback is also really important throughout the process as well to help improve events.</p>

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		<p>SH asked if CH could share the outcomes of the Swap Shop. Are there any strategies in place for encouraging engagement in another event?</p> <p>CH noted that there were 53 pieces of clothes handed in. The premise was that students could hand a piece of Sports Kit in, get a voucher, and then use voucher to get another piece of kit.</p> <p>CH had put a box out in the reception area and there was lots of things donated.</p> <p>CH had lots of positive feedback from the event with students commenting on how much they like it.</p> <p>CH had some students who commented that they wanted to pick something up from the swap shop but didn't have anything to donate. The focus is on trying to encourage recyclable fashion so there might be something to consider on this.</p> <p>CH is considering a space to allow anything left to be given away.</p> <p>CH noted that there needs to be a longer donation period and more drop-off points. There needs to be someone managing the drop-off points which makes it more difficult.</p> <p>CH is planning another one at the end of Feb, with a third towards the end of the year.</p> <p>CH noted the support from Comms and Marketing in promoting the event.</p> <p>CH mentioned that the first one was tied to Go Green Week so there will need to be considering of how to promote the next one.</p> <p>SH commended CH's work on promoting the event and Go Green Week. It was noticeable that it was being promoted.</p>

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		<p>SH asked what happened to the surplus of clothes.</p> <p>CH updated that she still has them, and they will be used in Feb.</p> <p>SH asked how the feedback sessions and forums have improved communication between Sports Clubs and UB Sport. How have they aided development of Clubs?</p> <p>CH mentioned that there were some concerns from the staff about the sessions but felt that it was important to do it. There was a request for topic areas beforehand which didn't get much engagement.</p> <p>CH noted that there was about 25-30 people at the session. Feedback has said that it was really engaging, and club member really enjoyed it.</p> <p>CH mentioned that Sports Clubs were able to interact and discuss with each other which was valuable.</p> <p>CH has had comments from students that they really valued being able to give feedback to UB Sport.</p> <p>CH noted that the feedback has been collected. They are going through and giving answers to any questions. UB Sport are also looking at the ideas put forward.</p> <p>CH noted that this will feed into the Sport Forum Session. It's a chance for Clubs to work through some of the problems raised and create solutions. Club staff will also be able to give updates if needed.</p> <p>CH is hoping to have more feedback sessions as the year goes on.</p> <p>CH noted that she really enjoyed the session and found it really valuable.</p>

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		<p>SH noted that this sounded like a really effective space for feedback.</p> <p>SH asked what specific actions or ideas emerged from the feedback session – how will these inform the upcoming Forum session?</p> <p>CH noted that one of the themes was about initiations and the sense of hierarchy within some Sports Clubs.</p> <p>CH noted that initiations can be intimidating. There has also been concerns about behaviour at Sports Night and at Sports matches.</p> <p>CH noted that this will be discussed at the forum. There will be discussions around how to make clubs more welcoming and inclusive.</p> <p>CH mentioned that there are also conversations around social media training.</p> <p>CH noted that there is a behaviour charter that is being written and Sports Clubs will be asked to sign it.</p> <p>CH has Facebook groups with Sports Clubs and Presidents which can be useful for quick feedback.</p> <p>CH has been looking at setting up WhatsApp groups for a similar purpose.</p> <p>CH noted that the other issue raised was about having more student DJs at Sports Night.</p> <p>CH has meet with the Venues Manager about having more student DJs. There are concerns about the commitment that students can make to doing this regularly</p> <p>CH is continuing to have talks around providing the space for students to develop their skills. There are likely to be developments around this, but they are currently confidential.</p>



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		<p>CH noted that it would be good to do a public update on what is being discussed.</p> <p>SH passed over to MH.</p> <p>MH noted that CH takes a well-rounded approach to her role.</p> <p>MH asked if CH could provide some more information about the response from the student body about student DJs.</p> <p>CH noted that students are really keen to have student DJs as they don't like the resident DJ at Sports Night.</p> <p>CH noted that student DJs want a space to perform and practice their skills. Space has been provided in Mermaid Bar before and that has been popular.</p> <p>CH noted that providing a space like Mermaid Bar may be a good way to provide that.</p> <p>CH noted that there has been a lack of engagement with student DJs in the past. However, this could be due to the location of where they were located in the building.</p> <p>CH has been raising the student voice on this and continuing to push for a space for student DJs.</p> <p>MH asked how she would ensure that student DJs would be paid and recruited fairly.</p> <p>CH expressed a preference for them to be paid. It may also be something that some students are not concerned about being paid for as they want to gain experience.</p> <p>CH mentioned that there could be open-deck type of events that allow students to do that.</p> <p>CH noted that the culture tends to be that student DJ want to do it for practice and experience.</p>

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		<p>MH mentioned that they had a question about CH would diversify the music selection, but this was already covered.</p> <p>MH asked if there was any update on the reusable cups?</p> <p>CH noted that the previous Activities and Employability Officer &amp; Sports Officer had pushed this last year, but it wasn't feasible at the time.</p> <p>CH mentioned that there as a possibility of a new option that could be looked at. She's not had time to pick this up yet but will look into it.</p> <p>CH noted that we could look at having designs on the cups and running a competition for it to encourage student engagement. This was a plan that CH wanted to do but hasn't go to it yet.</p> <p>CH would want to get HB involved with this too.</p> <p>MH commended the number of times that CH has gone to Sports Night as Rory the Lion. Has this helped contribute to a specific identify for Sports Night? How has CH been working to make this more sustainable a less reliant on CH attending Sports Night.</p> <p>CH originally spoke to the Director of Engagement who was supportive of this happening.</p> <p>CH noted that is generally relies on her to do. When CH is not there to do it there hasn't been capacity for the Guild to do it.</p> <p>CH is looking to start conversations about making it a sustainable long-term project in the new year.</p> <p>CH would expect that the student staff would be paid.</p>

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		<p>CH noted that students really enjoy it. There is lots of positive engagement and photos with Rory. It has brought about a sense of cohesiveness within Sports Night</p> <p>CH noted that UB Sport has rebranded in line with the new University brand with a change from red. As part of this the Lion is being removed which impacts this.</p> <p>CH noted that there was no student consultation involved in this. It wasn't until the feedback session that CH was informed of this change which was frustrating.</p> <p>CH has had feedback from students that they don't like this change. It impacts the sense of belonging at University.</p> <p>CH is meeting with the Head of Sport Development to get some more information and to find out what it means. She will be raising student concerns there.</p> <p>MH asked if CH could provide more details on the Movember Charity Sports Night. What activities were planned and what is the expected impact on the charity and student engagement?</p> <p>CH noted that this happened last week. People were given the option to wear a moustache if they wanted to. When tickets were brought, a donation could be made at the same time. It was based on giving people space to engage if they wanted to without forcing them.</p> <p>CH is waiting on the details from Movember to send the money over.</p> <p>CH can check the exact amount of that was raised.</p> <p>CH noted that it was really successful and enjoyed by Sports Clubs.</p>

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		<p>CH noted that the Old Joe clock face was lit up blue for the event. It is hoped that there can be a moustache on it for next year.</p> <p>MH asked about the initiative for postgraduate and international sport activities. How has CH been working to address low engagement of postgraduates and international students in sport.</p> <p>CH noted that postgraduates don't tend to engage that much with sport. Postgraduate Taught students are only here for a year so don't tend to want to get involved with a Sports Clubs or more formalised sports.</p> <p>CH noted that they would be continuing to keep data on which students do engage and tracking postgraduate engagement.</p> <p>CH mentioned that the plan is to do specific classes aimed at postgraduate and international students rather than sports team.</p> <p>CH noted that they'd already been in touch with Pole Fitness about doing a session already.</p> <p>CH has also been in touch with a Yoga and Zumba instructor who might be able to run a session. There also a possibility of doing a cheerleading session too.</p> <p>CH noted that once these events have started, she will ask students for feedback as they go along and adapt them.</p> <p>CH noted that international students are usually here over Easter and Christmas as well. There is a plan to do some activities for them over that period.</p> <p>MH noted that this sounds like a good idea.</p>

Time	Discussion	Notes
17:05	Student Submitted Questions	MH noted that there were no student submitted questions.
17:05	Questions from Officer	<p>MH asked if CH had any feedback for the session.</p> <p>CH noted that is been a good session.</p> <p>CH asked if there was anything that the Panel would suggest CH look at or think about doing differently.</p> <p>MH noted that CH is already doing a lot of what the Panel would expect.</p> <p>MH noted that this is the first session and therefore a lot of things are currently in progress.</p>
17:10	Session Closed	MH closed the session.