



21 December 2023

Dear Members,

The Trustees met on Thursday 14 December 2023 in its now bi-monthly slot. The Trustees were delighted to welcome Paul Lucherini to his first meeting after confirmation of his co-opt to the Board.

The Board received a presentation from Andrew Rose-Cook as to a proposed framework to guide the creation of the CFAs new business plan. Andrew outlined a framework that confirmed safeguarding, football development, service excellence, equality, diversity and inclusion as well as sustainability as the key strategic themes that would run through the business plan. Furthermore, the Board debated the planned stakeholder engagement process that would start in January 2024, with a view to gaining as much insight and opinion as possible from the participants we serve.

The Board considered the CFAs plans to lead on the establishment of a CFA run disability league/provision. Andrew informed the Board of the progress the CFA had made up to now and detailed the recent festival day which had taken place as a starting point for this work. Andrew noted the potential human and financial resource that the provision would require however the Board were adamant it was the correct route for football and therefore the resource would be made available.

I provided the Board with an update as to the first Football Advisory Board meeting which had taken place in November 2023. I noted how pleased I had been with the level of engagement from the group, and hoped this would continue under the leadership of Steven Sheil whom had been elected as the group's first Chair. Andrew furthered that he still wished to see a growth in the membership of the group with a view to increasing female representation on the group however Andrew was pleased with the diversity of experience, age and role that the current group created.

Following on from the Inclusion Advisory Board meeting in November 2023, the Board discussed potential changes to the CFAs Benevolent Fund with a view to implementing a new 'Community Fund' that merge all current benevolent projects and hopefully better service the remit of the charity.

We noted the recent visit of Tim Foster (Head of Operations, The FA) to present the CFA with its accolade in achieving The FA's Code of Governance for County FAs. Finally, we recognised the CFAs recent success in the Positive Football Environment category at the County FA Recognition Awards at Wembley Stadium for its Respect & Reward project.

Steve

Steve Ord
Chair
Northumberland Football Association Limited