

Subject:	SportsAble Service Level Agreement – SLA year 3 part-year progress update to the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Reason for briefing note:	This is a progress update from SportsAble following their presentation to the Panel in February 2020, when they gave an end of year 2 SLA progress report.
Responsible officer(s):	David Scott, Head of Communities
Senior leader sponsor:	Russell O’Keefe – Executive Director Place
Date:	3 September 2020

www.rbwm.gov.uk



SUMMARY

This agenda item is a report from SportsAble in connection with their activity under the Service Level Agreement (SLA) from RBWM and which provides financial support to SportsAble.

The current SLA began with effect from January 2018, for a three year fixed term period, with an annual value of £50,000, and will run until end of December 2020.

As this is the final year of their SLA, SportsAble asked when they presented in February, if they could come back to the Panel later in the year (2020) to report on progress and activity under the SLA.

This was however before COVID19 took effect and the club, like many organisations, was severely impacted by the government restrictions that related to lock down, and to help infection control of COVID 19 on a national basis.

SportsAble have said that they would still like to update to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and have prepared a report to the panel which is included in Appendix 1.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A brief background to SportsAble as an organisation is set out in their annual report. The club has operated in Maidenhead since 1975.
- 1.2 The core of SLA, which is based upon the standard SLA format used, is shown in Appendix 1 to this covering report. This SLA is made up of the core SLA terms and conditions and a series of four Annex’s specific to the SportsAble SLA. These details were provided in the February report to Panel.

- 1.3 The relatively recently appointed Chair and Vice Chair of the Trustees of SportsAble will be attending the Panel meeting to give their update and respond to questions from the panel.

2 KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 As the club was closed with effect from 21 March 2020 due to the government guidance and restrictions, it has been a very disrupted year. The Trustees have however made use of the closed period and will explain how the time has been used to make some infrastructure improvement at the premises located in Braywick Park sports ground.

3 DETAILS

- 3.1 The dedicated clubhouse for the organisation is located at Braywick Park, off the Braywick Road, Maidenhead. It is one of several clubs based within the park.
- 3.2 The report from the club which is provided in Appendix 1 includes some analysis of their membership base and the address summary of their Members, a point that the Panel have asked for at the last meeting.

4 RISKS

- 4.1 The Panel will need to consider the details of the report and decide if the Club is delivering the intended outcomes of the specification and if the reporting format provides the Panel with the essential data it requires to understand fully the impact of the funding provided under the SLA.

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead: Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel

SportsAble - Service Level Agreement (SLA) Update Report August 2020

Asgar Majeed, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

INTRODUCTION:

On 18 February 2020 SportsAble presented a Progress Report to the Panel Members. This was the second annual progress report against the terms of the three-year Service Level Agreement (SLA). During the course of the discussion the Panel Members requested that SportsAble should present an update report to the Panel in six months i.e. in August/September 2020 with the following information:

- Provide base data for sports sessions and outreach from 2017 onwards
- Show the breakdown of where SportsAble members are based with postcodes
- Work with RBWM to identify groups that could offer support for outreach facilities
- Provide Panel Members with a redacted version of the Charity Commission report.

Less than a month after the Panel meeting SportsAble was forced to suspend sports sessions and social activities for members, staff were furloughed, and the doors of the clubhouse at Braywick Sports Ground were closed. At the time of writing this report the SportsAble staff are still furloughed and the clubhouse remains closed.

No organisation or individual has escaped the impact of Covid-19 and just like many other charities SportsAble is struggling to keep going. The Trustees have made use of every funding opportunity open to the charity and are extremely grateful to RBWM for the receipt of the two latest instalments of the SLA grant for April and July 2020. The charity owns the clubhouse building and still has to pay the running costs even when the building is closed. During closure the Trustees have made good use of the time to refurbish the clubhouse, making repairs and repainting, using their own resources as much as possible.

Very recently it has been possible to restart some outdoor sports – Archery restarted in late July 2020 with restricted numbers and sully in line with the safety guidelines and risk assessments provided by the sport National Governing Body, and it is hoped that it will be possible for Canoeing and Kayaking to restart on Taplow Lake from mid-August (27 members have said they are keen to get back on the water) and including two after-school sessions for our junior members. This is subject to the stringent risk assessments and safety guidelines developed by British Canoeing which is the governing body for canoeing and kayaking.

The Trustees are hopeful that it will be possible to restart some indoor sports sessions in the clubhouse from mid to late September but this is dependent on a number of factors not least of which is how confident our members feel about coming out of shielding. Many SportsAble members have both a disability and also underlying or associated health conditions. Lockdown has been hard on them increasing feelings of vulnerability and isolation. Many of them are very keen to get back to their sport and meet up with their friends but after so long spent shielding in their homes they are understandably anxious. We can and will do all we can to encourage and protect them and are already exploring other ways we can help them re-engage with sport and their friends using technology for live online exercise classes to help them prepare and get fitter. One of our volunteers has been running classes independently from SportsAble during lockdown and has gained some expertise and a loyal following. This is something we can develop and roll out under the SportsAble brand.

We know we will have to change and adapt our services to meet the changed circumstances we all find ourselves in. Certainly in the short term there are restrictions on the number of people we can accommodate in each of our sports halls at any one time. This impacts the type of sports sessions we can run. We face massively increased cleaning costs (£14,500 per annum compared with £3,800 before Covid-19) – and our room hirings income stream has been hit very hard. Just a few months ago the charity was able to rent out space for weddings, christenings, parties of all types, meetings, seminars, and team building sessions. Some of our regular clients were RBWM and the NHS – and now these clients use Zoom or similar and have found it is cheap and convenient so we can't assume they will come back to us.

Finally – we have been able to report on most of the questions raised by Panel Members in February 2020 but unfortunately some information is not available because the relevant member of staff has been furloughed. We apologise and will ensure that any missing information is included in the final annual progress report against the terms of the three-year Service Level Agreement (SLA) which is due to be delivered in early 2021.

2017 BASE DATA:

The Performance Report included in the 2019 Annual Progress Report against the terms of the SLA compared the numbers of sports and outreach sessions and participants to 2018 data. The Panel Members requested that the base data for 2017 should be provided.

The Trustees apologise but it is has not been possible to collate the requested data for 2017 owing to the fact that Niall McCaffrey, the Sport Development Officer who has access to the raw data, is currently furloughed. The data has not previously been collated and is not stored electronically. However we will ensure that this information is included in the final annual progress report against the terms of the three-year Service Level Agreement (SLA) which is due to be delivered in early 2021.

SUPPORT FOR OUTREACH:

The original expectation was that SportsAble would collaborate with RBWM staff to develop stronger relationships and partnerships in support of the outreach services provided by the charity. Largely owing to Covid-19 this hasn't happened. However, through engagement with Our Community Enterprise (OCE) based at Norden Farm the charity is exploring new grant funding opportunities and as a consequence we have identified locally based groups and organisations with whom we would like to start developing productive and mutually beneficial partnerships. If RBWM can help us with this – or suggest additional opportunities – then we would be most grateful.

These are some of our prospective partners:

People to Places - This local community transport provider is part of the Thames Valley Community Transport Operators Forum. They have said they will be available to transport more people to our Centre as needed.

Slough Community Voluntary Service - This CVS is our local co-ordinator of volunteers and support. They have offered to promote our service so we can reach more disabled people.

The East Berkshire Social Prescribing Team - Back in February 2020 we told the Panel about our Sport Prescription idea. This was not something we could progress with the NHS during the last few months but we remain committed to the idea and plan to invite the Social Prescribing Team to a dedicated session on site so they can get to know us, see our facilities and participate in taster activities so they can feel what it's like to be in our care. On returning to their GP surgeries they will be able to describe first-hand how beneficial our services are and feel confident about promoting our services to patients.

REDACTED CHARITY COMMISSION REPORTS:

Redacted copies of two documents were provided to the RBWM Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 8 July 2020. These were the Interim Action Plan sent to SportsAble by the Charity Commission in February 2020, which had been referred to at the Scrutiny Panel meeting in February 2020, and the Closing Letter from the Charity Commission dated May 2020 in which the Charity Commission case officer concluded that:

“... there have been serious failings by trustees with evidence of trustee mismanagement and misconduct and these should not be underestimated. However, during the course of our engagement it has been clear that you are committed to taking appropriate steps to put matters right and have already taken significant steps to do so.”

The Charity Commission set out a number of actions for SportsAble to undertake in order to remedy the failings that had been identified and set dates for further reports. SportsAble submitted an update report on the Action Plan to the Charity Commission in mid-June 2020 and a final report is due by October 2020.

Note: the Charity Commission documents were redacted to remove individuals' names but were otherwise complete. SportsAble requested that these documents should not be included in the Public Reports Pack as they contained sensitive material.

SPORTSABLE: MEMBERSHIP POSTCODE ANALYSIS:

Personal Data is defined in the General Data Protection Regulation as “information that relates to an individual who can be identified or is identifiable either directly or indirectly from one or more identifiers or from factors specific to the individual”.

SportsAble legitimately holds personal data – including post code – about its members which it keeps for the purposes of managing all aspects of their membership of the charity. The full post code represents a street, part of a street, or a single dwelling. Providing data analysis of membership by the full postcode to a third party would be a breach of GDPR in that the full post code could lead to the identification of an individual by virtue of their disability combined with where they live. Therefore the post code analysis provided is based on the letters and numbers which represent area and district only giving only a high level view of where SportsAble members live.

The total membership on 1 August 2020 was 252. Membership renewals due over the last 4 months have been slower than usual – which is only to be expected as our members have been concerned about when – or even if – they will be able to return to their sports and social activities in the SportsAble clubhouse, and have held off on renewing their membership. The charity has members in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire and even a few from much further afield - Bath, Bristol, Taunton, Pontardawe, and even one member in Greece. However the great majority of members are based in the immediate area: Maidenhead, Windsor, Burnham, Slough, Warfield, Bracknell, Reading, and Marlow (188 or 75% of members out of the total 252).

The full breakdown by partial postcode is shown below.

Table 1: Membership by Postcode

Postcode	Place	Number of Members
SL6	Maidenhead	99
SL1	Burnham	22
SL4	Windsor	22
SL2	Slough	19
RG42	Warfield	8
RG12	Bracknell	7
RG1	Reading	6
HP11	High Wycombe	5
SL7	Marlow	5
RG10	Wargrave	4
RG9	Henley on Thames	4
HP10	Beaconsfield	3
HP15	Holmer Green	3
RG4	Sonning	3
RG40	Wokingham	3
RG6	Earley	3
TW15	Ashford	3
HP19	Aylesbury	2
OX10	Wallingford	2
OX13	Abingdon	2
OX26	Bicester	2
RG8	Pangbourne	2
SL3	Datchet	2
SL5	Ascot	2
SL8	Wooburn Green	2
TA3	Taunton	2
BA1	Bath	1
BS9	Bristol	1
GU15	Camberley	1
HP27	Princes Risborough	1
HP6	Amersham	1

HP7	Great Missenden	1
HP8	Chalfont St Giles	1
HP9	Beaconsfield	1
KT13	Weybridge	1
OX49	Watlington	1
PC 123 51	Greece	1
RG5	Woodley	1
RG7	Aldermaston	1
SA8	Pontardawe	1
TW5	Hounslow	1
	TOTAL:	252