



## Annual Governance Statement August 2021 to March 2022

### Introduction

At Think Active, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of governance to ensure transparency, accountability, and effectiveness in all our operations. Our Good Governance Statement for the year 1 August 2021 to 31 March 22 reflects our dedication to responsible and ethical management practices. This statement outlines our key principles, actions, and achievements in pursuit of good governance and demonstrates our compliance with Sport England's Tier 3 Code of Governance.

### Mission and Values:

Think Active's mission is to promote physical activity and well-being within our community. Our governance practices align with our core values of Appreciation, Kindness, Consideration, Acceptance, Integrity, and Passion.

### Leadership and Board Oversight:

Our Board of Trustees comprises dedicated individuals with diverse expertise who provide a robust check and challenge, strategic guidance, oversee organisational activities, and ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

The Audit, Governance and Finance Committee meet bimonthly to review and discuss all aspects organisational governance and financial reports.

### Ethical Conduct and Transparency:

Think Active maintains a Code of Conduct that all employees, volunteers, and board members are expected to adhere to. We believe in open and honest communication and actively encourage reporting of any unethical conduct. Financial transparency is paramount, and our financial statements and accounts were independently examined for the 2021 – 22 year.

### Audit, Governance and Finance Committee

The Audit, Governance and Finance Committee provide a detailed check on governance, risk and finance. They also provide support on ad-hoc projects and contracts where necessary. They are ultimately accountable to the Board and provide a summary of discussions that have taken place to the full Board meeting. The A, G & F Committee held 5 full meetings with ad-hoc meetings scheduled to support procurement practice and the award of contracts during the year.

#### Financial Stewardship:

We are committed to responsible financial management. Our budgeting, financial planning, and allocation of resources are conducted with the utmost care to ensure efficient use of funds and sustainability. In 2021-22, we achieved a balanced budget while continuing to deliver our strategy and provide vital services to the communities we serve.

#### Risk Management:

We identify and assess risks regularly to mitigate potential threats to the organisation. A organisational risk register is in place to identify and address both internal and external risks. This was refreshed for 2021 – 22 and recommended to Board for approval in June 2022. This plan ensures our operations are aware, resilient, and adaptable.

### Inclusivity and Diversity:

Think Active is dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusivity in all aspects of our work. We actively seek to involve individuals from a range of backgrounds and abilities in our programs, services, and governance structures. We are passionate about reducing inequalities in our communities and providing everyone with an equal opportunity to take part in sport and physical activity. In 2021 – 22 we updated our EDI plan and policy to reflect our change of entity. We recognise that we still have much to do in this area and look forward to the continuation of working on our Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.

### Stakeholder Engagement:

We value the input and feedback of our stakeholders, including service users, partners, and the broader community. Regular engagement activities and surveys have helped us tailor our programs and services to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

### Compliance and Accountability:

Think Active complies with all relevant laws, regulations, and best practices. We have introduced new and maintained a robust system of internal controls and accountability mechanisms to ensure that resources are used for their intended purposes and that our operations remain compliant with Tier 3 Code of Governance.

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**Continuous Improvement:**

We are committed to ongoing improvement in our governance practices. An internal evaluation and assessment was conducted to identify any gaps in year 1 of our independent operation and areas for enhancement and innovation, ensuring that our first year of operating as a Charity sets the highest possible standards of good governance.

**Board Updates**

Helen Varah completed her term and stepped down from the Board in December 2021.

Board Member	Full Board meetings (Attended / Eligible to attend)	Audit, Governance and Finance Committee (Attended / Eligible to attend)
Sharon Lea	6/6	
Paul Joyner	6/6	
Denise Finney	5/6	5/5
Helen Varah	3/6	
Graham Nicoll	3/6	3/5
Liam Hope	4/6	
Junaid		

**Strategy**

Between January and March 2022 Think Active were working on refreshing the strategy. The Active Communities strategy would be refreshed from 1 April 2022.

This strategy refresh was developed over a 6-month period and includes collaboration and consultation with many of our partners from across the area.

This year we have progressed in achieving our vision, more information on our achievements will be available in the Annual Accounts and Impact Report.

**Conclusion:**

Think Active's commitment to good governance in 2021-22 has been unwavering. We are proud of our achievements in upholding ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability in all our activities. We look forward to building on these principles in the coming year to better serve our community and fulfil our mission.



Vicky Joel  
Director

April 2022

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