

Annual Governance Statement 2025/26



Introduction

As one of 43 Active Partnerships (APs) across England, Active Partners Trust (APT), working in Derbyshire and Notts, teams up with local councils, community groups, businesses, healthcare organisations, charities, schools and more to find out what's needed. That means asking questions, making suggestions, sharing our knowledge, finding the right partners, and spotting opportunities, all to make movement part of everyday life. Because when we all work together, we can better understand, reach, and support the people who need it most.

Making our Move - [Our shared vision for Uniting the Movement in Notts and Derbyshire](#) is a plan to guide our and partners' work over the next 10 years - where we work and how we work. This plan was developed with partners during 2020 and 2021, being published autumn 2021. Following a review of the progress we have made to date, the impact we have had and the challenges that still exist, we started work to refresh this plan in 2025. Most of the 2021 plan is still very relevant. What we all want to achieve and how we all want to work is still the same but we did rewrite our priorities to reflect what emerged from this review.

At the same time Sport England was going through a similar process with its strategic document 'Uniting the Movement'. The Sport England strategy provides the overarching framework and funding for our work hence a decision was made to hold back on publishing our refresh until the Sport England review was finalised to check that our priorities were still in alignment with theirs.

Through the two teams: Active Derbyshire and Active Notts, APT aims to address inequality and empower everyone to be active in a way that works for them.

Our refreshed priorities:

- Enabling children and young people to have positive experiences of being active throughout their childhood.
- Working with people and communities who experience the greatest inequality.
- Health and care systems and services recognise, support and prioritise moving more
- Creating accessible, safe, and inclusive places and environments for physical activity.

Structure

The structure set up in 2022 to allow the board to better meet the requirements of the new revised Code for Sport Governance continues to work well with 3 board sub committees:

- Finance, Risk and Audit committee (FAR)
- People and Resources committee
- Nominations committee

activepartnerstrust.org.uk



Both county panels continued to regularly meet and expanded their membership. Their role is as advisory, consultative bodies.

This committee structure is working well and more details of membership and responsibilities are provided in the summary below.

Board member details and their membership of the individual committees can be found [here](#)

Details of the members of both panels can be found [here](#)

The following is a summary of APT's governance structure:

APT BOARD COMPOSITION (Non-Executive Directors/Trustees)

- 1 x Chair of the Board of Directors
- 1 x Resident Director from Derbyshire
(who chairs the Active Derbyshire Panel)
- 1 x Resident Director from Nottinghamshire
(who chairs the Active Notts Panel)
- 1 x Local Authority Funding Partner Director *
(who is a councillor or officer of a Local Authority Funding Partner in Derbyshire)
- 1 x Resident Director from Nottinghamshire
- 1 x Resident Director from Derbyshire
- 1 x Resident Director from Nottinghamshire
- Up to 5 x Directors who may be resident or non-resident in the counties

1. All Board Directors are non-executive, are openly recruited on a skills and experience basis, and are appointed by the Board of Active Partners Trust as the legal entity.
2. "Resident" is defined as meaning resident in the relevant county by reason of domicile, business, or employment.
3. * All Board Directors are independent except for the Local Authority Funding Partner Director. A person is independent if they are free from any close connection to APT and if from the perspective of an objective outsider, they would be viewed as independent.

APT BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The APT Board of Directors/Trustees has strategic management and oversight responsibility for the whole company, which is the Active Partnership for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. This includes:

- Setting, in conformity with the charitable objects of the company, the shared legal entity's overall:
 - vision
 - strategy
 - risk tolerance
- Reviewing and approving the charitable company's overall:
 - policies
 - strategic plans
 - long term finances
 - business plans
 - annual budgets
 - Annual Report & Financial Statements

APT BOARD COMMITTEES

The APT Board of Directors/Trustees is supported by the three following Board Committees, which have relevant delegated authority for decision-taking within their respective remits:

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance, Audit, & Risk Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with a remit to oversee financial and non-financial controls, governance, internal and external audit, and risk management matters |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominations Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with a remit to lead the processes for APT Board Trustee/Director and Chief Executive recruitment and to recommend appointments |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People & Resources Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with a remit to oversee the development and implementation of APT's people and employment related matters including monitoring progress against the Diversity & Inclusion action plan |

APT COUNTY PANELS

The two following County Panels act as advisory and consultative bodies and provide input to the APT Board of Directors/Trustees and to the APT Executive Staff Team.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Panels support the work of the APT Board by: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feeding up insight, knowledge, views of what is happening in the county to inform Board discussions and decisions; and • considering specific questions asked by the Board; • regularly reviewing specific risks on the APT Risk Register and feeding through any comments to the APT Finance, Audit, & Risk Committee. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Panels support work of the APT Executive Staff Team by: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being advisors in their own areas of expertise; |

	• sharing insight from their areas of expertise including lived experience and resident voice; • drawing attention to “Making our Move” within their own communities, organisations, and networks. • signposting and opening doors to new individuals and organisations with shared agendas that align with “Making our Move”; • being critical friends, supporting the APT Staff Team to reflect, review, and learn.
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ACTIVE DERBYSHIRE PANEL	ACTIVE NOTTS PANEL
• 1 x Resident Board Director from Derbyshire (<i>as the Panel Chair</i>) • 1 x Local Authority Funding Partner Board Director from Derbyshire • Up to 10 x Panel Members resident in Derbyshire	• 1 x Resident Board Director from Nottinghamshire (<i>as the Panel Chair</i>) • 1 x Resident Board Director from Nottinghamshire • Up to 10 x Panel Members resident in Nottinghamshire.

People

The board continues to consider the diversity of background, thought, independence, skills and experience of the board itself, the panels and the staff team.

In 2025/26 four long-standing board members stood down, two as they had been on the board for the maximum term of nine years and two for personal reasons.

Louise Bainbridge
 Danny Bouckley
 Sarah Fowler
 Carol Hart

We are sorry to see them all go and were grateful for the contribution they had made.

Four new board members have been recruited with the support of a recruitment agency Peridot who we appointed to help us widen the net. The People and Resources/Nomination committee agreed the board requirements in terms of our actions in the Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) to widen the diversity of board and any gaps evidenced by our trustees’ knowledge and experience matrix.

Jo Bishton
Garry Campbell
Janak Gunatilleke
Gemma Poulter

Induction conversations and sessions have been attended by all and all have now attended at least two board meetings.

Communication

APT strives to be transparent and accountable in all that we do.

Our Making our Move website includes a section on how APT is [governed](#).

This statement is published on the website alongside details of:

- board and panel members
- Articles of Association
- Terms of reference for the board, committees and panels
- Annual Trustee Report and Financial Statements
- Annual Reviews
- Minutes of board meetings (once approved)
- Specific policies and processes that may be of interest or required by partners, stakeholders, members of the public.

Other key documents which are published on the Making our Move website include

- People Plan. A detailed review of progress against actions was completed Spring 2026. The findings of this were reviewed by the People and Resources committee and reported by the Board at the June 2026 meeting. The board were happy with the progress being made. In addition to this the board annually considers the results of APT's annual staff survey.
- Diversity and Inclusion action plan. Progress against actions in this plan are reviewed regularly by the People and Resources committee and reported back to board. Progress reports are published on the Making our Move website.
- Environmental Sustainability statement and action plan. Both these documents have been updated during 2025/26.
- Safeguarding policies and reporting processes for both children and adults. The policies are currently being updated. The safeguarding pages on the website to support clubs, organisations and partners have been updated during the year.

Stakeholder engagement is regularly discussed at board meetings, including a review of the results of our annual stakeholder survey and more detailed reviews of specific activities e.g. who is attending our events. All feedback received is regularly reviewed with the board, the team and individual stakeholders when they have made a comment (positive or negative) that we believe will be of value to explore more.

Standards and Conduct

An externally facilitated evaluation of the board took place summer 2021 and another is taking place September 2026. A process was put in place to carry out individual board member appraisals

and these appraisals took place summer 2022 and autumn 2024 and the feedback was reviewed by the full board in their annual away days.

The Board Code of Conduct, Conflicts of Interest policy and Anti-Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption policy are in place. Board members all completed their annual Fit for Purpose, Declaration of Interests and Skills/Experience matrix forms.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee have the responsibility to monitor the financial position of APT and to report back the current position and future projections to the board at every board meeting.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee also reviewed the following documents during the year before recommending Board approval:

- 2024/25 Audit Report and Management Issues
- Reserves Policy including re-classification of historical restricted funding pots
- Investment Policy and investment proposals
- Business Continuity Policy - annual review
- Risk Management Policy - annual review
- Risk Register
- Draft Procurement Policy

Meetings

In 2022/23 the following meetings were held. All meetings were recorded and copies of minutes of the board meetings are published on the [website](#).

Minutes of committee and panel meetings can be shared on request.

APT Board	Finance, Audit & Risk	People & Resources	Nominations	Active Derbyshire Panel	Active Notts Panel
18/03/25	03/03/25	04/03/25	18/01/24	03/03/25	04/03/25
18/06/25	02/06/25			03/06/25	03/06/25
24/09/25	08/09/25	19/08/25	19/08/25	15/09/25	
09/12/25	24/11/25			01/12/25	25/11/25
18/03/26	04/03/26			09/03/26	10/03/26

APT company registration number: 10876876

APT charity registration number: 1180787