

Women's Sport Taskforce
Saturday 6 September 2pm
Brighton

Women's Sport Taskforce - Attendees

Government

- Stephanie Peacock MP, Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth

Women's Sport Taskforce - members

- Chris Boardman (Sport England, Chair)
- Sally Munday (UK Sport, CEO)
- Alex Teasdale (RFU, Executive Director Women's Game)
- Ali Donnelly (RFU, Executive Director Corporate Affairs)
- Sarah Massey (Managing Director Women's Rugby World Cup)
- Clare Connor (ECB, Deputy CEO and Managing Director England Women)
- Kelly Gordon (England Netball, Executive Lead for NETBALLHer)
- Sue Day (The FA, Director of Women's Football)
- Dr Verity Postlethwaite (Loughborough University, Lecturer in Strategic Event Management)
- Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson (Sport Wales, Chair/ House of Lords)
- Jonathan Hirshler (CEO and Co-Founder of Signify Group)
- Vicky Williams (LTA, People Director)

Actions:

1. **Action:** England Netball launched a Female Athlete Health NGB Collective across Netball, Rugby, Cricket and Football to bring together female health leads across the National Governing Bodies to share best practice, tackle common challenges and provide a united voice to drive progress in female athlete health.
2. **Action:** To support the work of the Female Athlete Health NGB Collective and the wider sector, DCMS announced it would conduct a gap analysis on the current landscape of women's sport research across UK institutions to identify breadth of work, and opportunities in this space.
3. **Action:** DCMS will commit to holding a roundtable on online abuse of female athletes to explore the issue in more detail.

Meeting Minutes

AGENDA ITEM 1: Introductory remarks from Minister for Sport

- The Minister for Sport welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and commitment to women's sport.
- The Minister noted the continued importance of the Taskforce and highlighted the spotlight on women's sport this summer and a focus on creating a ten year strategy to create a decade of change in women's sport
- The Minister acknowledged ongoing challenges and barriers facing women's sport and the need to identify future themes to 'deep dive' into in specific subjects.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Female Athlete Health

- Loughborough University provided a presentation on work they are undertaking to investigate tailored insurance products for female athletes. All members of the Taskforce were invited to join the insurance working group.
- England Netball announced the launch of a cross sector Female Athlete Health NGB Collective as a knowledge and best practice forum which will report back into the Women's Sport Taskforce.
- The collective will initially focus on three priority workstreams: Cross-Sport campaigns and education; Research Consolidation and Knowledge Dissemination; Championing puberty support for girls in education.
- DCMS announced an intention to conduct a gap analysis on the research landscape across the UK to share with Taskforce members.
- **Action 1: England Netball launched a Female Athlete Health NGB Collective across Netball, Rugby, Cricket and Football to bring together female health leads across the National Governing Bodies to share best practice, tackle common challenges, and provide a united voice to drive progress in female athlete health.**
- **Action 2: To support the work of the Female Athlete Health NGB Collective and the wider sector, DCMS announced it would conduct a gap analysis on the current landscape of women's sport research across UK institutions to identify breadth of work, and opportunities in this space.**

AGENDA ITEM 3: Online abuse of female athletes

- Signify, a data science company leading in protecting athletes from online abuse, presented a deep dive into online abuse of female athletes and the work undertaken together with various sporting organisations nationally and internationally including World Rugby.
- Sport England outlined plans to meet with Ofcom shortly regarding online abuse of female athletes and codes of practice, and committed to feeding back the outcome of that conversation to the Women's Sport Taskforce
- **Action: DCMS will commit to holding a roundtable on online abuse of female athletes to explore the issue in more detail.**

AGENDA ITEM 4: Future themes for the Women's Sport Taskforce

- There was a discussion surrounding future themes including broadcast and visibility, wider women's sport strategy, leadership and facilities.
- Within broadcast and visibility, the possibility of exploring broadcast tax credits for women's sport was suggested.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Closing Remarks

- The Minister for Sport closed the discussion by thanking attendees for their continued commitment to supporting and developing women's sport.