

**Women's Football Taskforce**  
**Monday 20 April 10:30 - 11:30**  
**100 Parliament Street**

**Women's Football Taskforce - Attendees**

**Government**

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

**Women's Football Taskforce - members**

- Debbie Hewitt MBE, Chair, The FA
- Sue Day, Director of Women's Football, The FA
- Nikki Doucet, CEO, Women's Super League Football (WSLF)
- Holly Murdoch, COO, Women's Super League Football (WSLF)
- Ben Wright, Director of External Affairs, Professional Footballers' Association (PFA)
- Lynsey Tweddle, Strategic Lead for Governance, Sport England

**Independent Representatives**

- Karen Carney OBE, Former professional footballer and Chair of the Independent Review of Women's Football
- Jane Purdon, Director and Consultant in Football and Rugby

**Actions:**

- 1. FA Chair Debbie Hewitt MBE to follow up with the Minister for Sport on the outcomes of discussions with the FA Board regarding representation for women's football on the main FA Board.**
- 2. Sport England to commit £60k to support the development of a women's football workforce strategy.**

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Introductory remarks from Minister for Sport**

- The Minister for Sport welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their commitment to women's football.
- The Minister reflected on progress since the last meeting of the Taskforce, and highlighted the recent work on insurance products for female athletes led by Loughborough University that originated as an action item from the Women's Football Taskforce.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Representation of the women's game within FA governance structures**

- Nikki Doucet reflected that governance must reflect the game from the top level, as otherwise the women's game would inevitably be an afterthought. She clarified that WSLF intentions were not to remove power or dilute other stakeholders, but rather recognise that the ecosystem has changed. She committed to maintaining a solution-focused, collaborative, and pragmatic approach throughout this process.
- Debbie Hewitt outlined women and girls' representation in FA Governance over the last 4 years - including at FA Council, National League Pyramid Board, Professional

Game Board, National Game Board, and Football Community representation. Further proposals to change are in the pipeline in 2026.

- All acknowledged the complex ecosystem between FA board members, FA Council, shareholders, alongside meeting UK Sports Code of Governance regulations, recommendations of the Fan-led Review of Football Governance and Carney Review recommendations.
- Debbie Hewitt outlined the current board composition, and potential changes that would allow for representation of the women's game at the main FA Board. This included the addition of an Independent Non-Executive Director role and a main Board seat for WSLF.
- Attendees strongly encouraged Debbie Hewitt to present both options for the FA Council vote and were pragmatic regarding her proposed approach. The challenges inherent in implementing this change within football were also acknowledged.
- DCMS committed to keeping communication open, and requested that the FA keep the Minister updated on the progress of the proposals for change that Debbie outlined.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: Workforce**

- Sue Day reported that The FA's current workforce capacity is not keeping up with the growth of the game. She advised that work has started on the development of a women's football workforce plan. This work will seek to understand the current landscape, identify blockers and gaps, and then plan ahead to address future needs.
- DCMS noted that Recommendation 4 of the Carney Review spoke to this development of a women's football workforce strategy.
- Sport England confirmed that £60k funding would be available to support the development of a women's football workforce strategy.
- The Minister drew attention to the current Women and Equalities Committee inquiry, *Beyond participation: routes into sport for girls and women*, which is looking into ways for women and girls to be involved in the sport workforce. It was noted that this inquiry could be relevant for future workforce discussions once published.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: Closing remarks**

- The Minister for Sport thanked the room for today's approach to discussions and passion.