

Public Affairs & Commercial / Financial Board Member Positions

Active Gwent

Candidate Information Pack

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Letter From The Chair

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in becoming an independent board member of Active Gwent. This recruitment is for two roles, we would welcome all applications, but are especially interested in individuals with backgrounds in: Public Affairs and Commercial / Financial Expertise.

As a new organisation we are looking to make a significant difference to the lives of Gwent residents by promoting community sport and physical activity.

As an innovative sports partnership we have the opportunity to reshape how sport and physical activity is delivered and promoted across Gwent . We will be working with the five local authorities, Sport Wales and key stakeholders within the region, introducing new ways of working.

As an independent board member you will contribute by shaping our vision and strategy, working closely with the Chair and the other board members. We want to work collaboratively and to access best practice wherever it exists and promulgate it across Gwent.

We are looking for individuals who share our passion for creating healthy lives and who can help us turn our vision into tangible outcomes. We want to address the significant inequalities that exist in Gwent and to work with partners to address this.

We are particularly interested in candidates who can help us in promoting our vision through their communication skills and networks and who are used to working across multiple agencies.

The board will be composed of five local authority representatives , five independent board members and an independent chair .

There is already excellent collaboration at the grassroots sports level, but we are keen to increase our reach beyond that and to engage with other bodies. We will also be looking to diversify our funding sources and to access funds that promote healthier lives and community cohesion.

As Chair I am passionate about the difference we can make, particularly in the underserved areas of Gwent – being physically active brings so many benefits to wellbeing and mental health, community cohesion and addresses many of the key issues facing our region.

I look forward to working with our new board members and bringing our vision to implementation.

Kevin Bounds

Overview

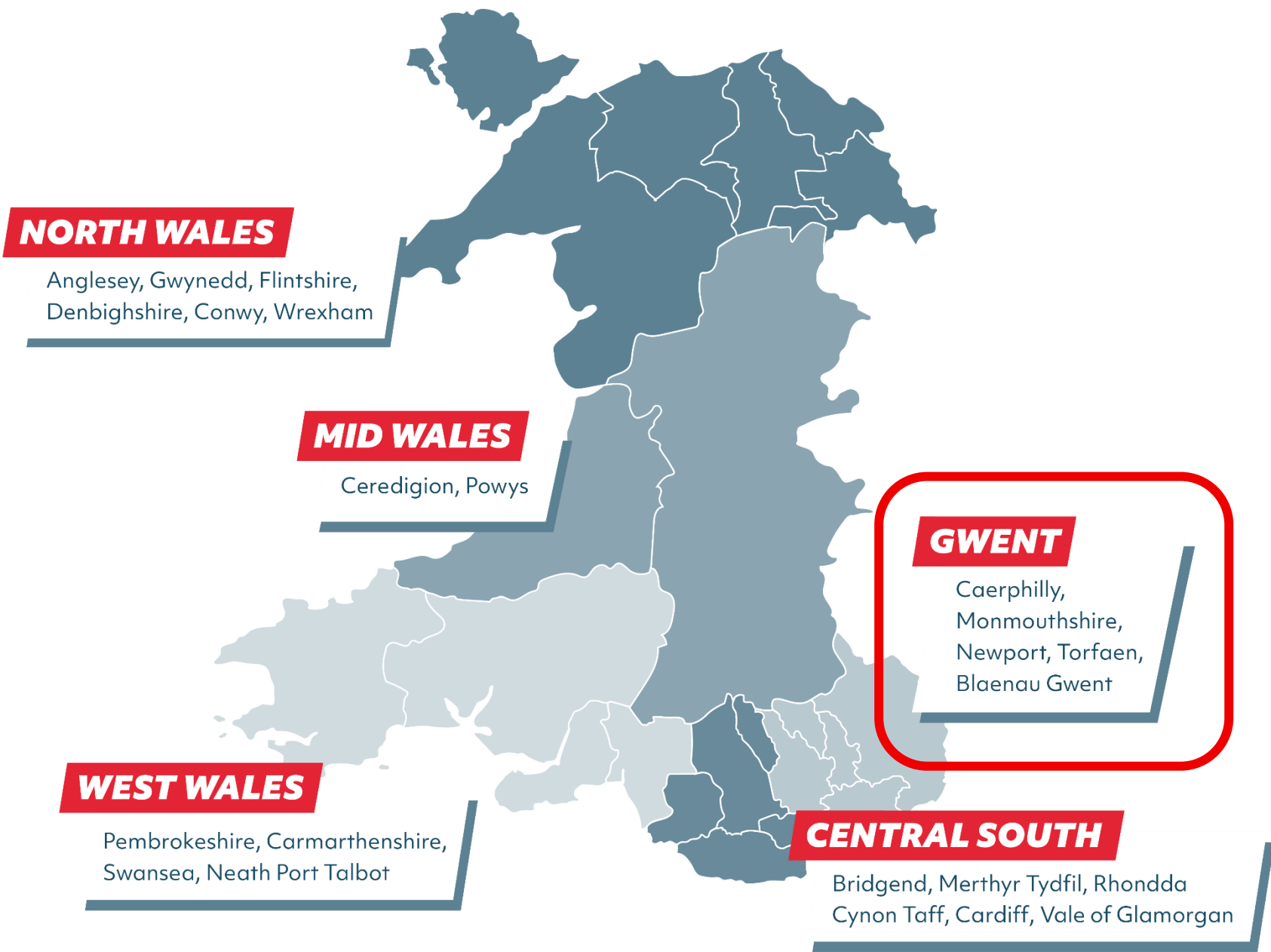
Sport Wales is on a journey to change the community sport landscape across Wales and how sport and physical activity is delivered. Creating a step change in sport and physical activity levels among people in Wales. Together we are committed to getting more people active through sport and physical activity.

Our Partnership will bring together key stakeholders across Gwent who understand the importance and have a focus on delivering the benefits of sport and physical activity. Together, we will develop a strategic vision to guide our collective work across the region, contributing to the Vision for Sport in Wales.

Our Partnership will be led by insight and be person-centred in its approach, providing strategic leadership, planning, and commissioning at a regional level, with a common purpose delivered at a local level, ensuring that everyone has equal access to sport and physical activity through a range of opportunities that best meet their needs. We are keen to introduce new ways of working, maximising the potential for a regional approach to delivery, whilst also creating a compelling vision which will foster new strategic relationships with a wide number of organisations and partners across all industries.

Active Gwent will operate as a hosted model (with Newport City Council as host), with a robust and transparent governance framework.

At its heart will be a balanced, inclusive, diverse, and skilled board which shall be focused on our strategic direction. The board reflects both the interests of the sport and physical activity sector and the skills and expertise required to deliver the ambition of Gwent.



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Emerging Vision for Gwent



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‘Everyone in Gwent can lead an active, healthy life’

Our vision is to bring Gwent communities together by fostering wellbeing and sport. We are dedicated to building a brighter, healthier future for the region by focusing on collaboration and collective action.

Our vision is built on 3 pillars:-

Healthier Gwent:

We strive for a brighter, healthier Gwent, where improved wellbeing is at the heart of all we do. By championing active lifestyles, we support both the physical and mental health of individuals.

Uniting People through Sport and Physical Activity

Our aim is to bring people together through sport and physical activity. By encouraging participation, we support the wellbeing of all residents, helping to create stronger connections and a sense of belonging.

Active and Healthy Lifestyles for Everyone

We are committed to ensuring that everyone in Gwent has the opportunity to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle. We work to remove barriers and create inclusive environments where all individuals can benefit from engagement in sport and physical activity.

Emerging Approaches

Promoting Wellbeing through Sport and Physical Activity

The wellbeing agenda is central to our approach, positioning sport, and physical activity as core drivers for improved health outcomes. We emphasise active wellbeing, recognising the importance of both physical and mental health in our programmes and initiatives.

Shared Outcomes and Community Focus

Achieving shared outcomes is fundamental to our methodology. By working collaboratively and connecting within the communities of Gwent, we prioritise community-focused efforts. Our aim is to widen participation in sport and physical activity, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from improved wellbeing.

Leveraging Partnerships and Resources

Expanding our network of partners enables us to deliver more effectively within Gwent's communities. By joining up resources and fostering partnerships, we can make a more substantial and sustainable impact. Collaboration and connection remain at the heart of our strategy, driving us to work flexibly, innovatively, and with agility.

Place-Based Approach and Localisation

Our approach is rooted in the local context, using data and insights to identify areas of commonality and specific regional needs. We take a place-based approach to working in communities, ensuring our activities are relevant and responsive to local priorities. Maintaining a consciousness of language and communication further strengthens our localisation efforts.

Defining Sport and Widening Participation

The focus extends beyond traditional sport to encompass community sport and wellbeing, with an emphasis on early prevention and widening participation.

Impact and Sustainability

Our partnership aims to encourage, influence, enable, and inspire communities. We are committed to sustainable impact, striving for continuous, long-term improvements rather than short-term interventions.



Public Affairs Speciality

The Public Affairs Board Member will provide strategic advice, challenge and support to help Active Gwent build strong relationships with public bodies, elected representatives, community partners and wider stakeholders. The role will help ensure that Active Gwent's work is visible, credible and aligned with regional and national priorities for sport, physical activity, health, wellbeing and reducing inequalities.

Core Responsibilities:

- Provide strategic public affairs insight to support the development and delivery of Active Gwent's regional vision, priorities and strategic plan.
- Advise the Board on policy developments, political context and stakeholder priorities across Gwent, Wales and the wider UK where relevant.
- Support Active Gwent to build and maintain constructive relationships with local authorities, Welsh Government, Sport Wales, health partners, education partners, the third sector, community organisations and other key stakeholders.
- Champion Active Gwent's ambition to increase participation in sport and physical activity, remove barriers to participation and reduce inequalities across communities.
- Help identify opportunities to influence policy, secure support and strengthen Active Gwent's profile as a trusted regional partnership.
- Contribute to effective governance by offering independent judgement, constructive challenge and evidence-informed advice at Board meetings.
- Support clear and consistent messaging about Active Gwent's purpose, impact and value to communities, partners and decision-makers.
- Act as an ambassador for Active Gwent, promoting collaboration, inclusion and the benefits of active lifestyles across the region.
- Uphold the Nolan Principles of public life, including integrity, accountability, openness and objectivity within the board.



Public Affairs Speciality

Key Skills and Experience Required:

- Significant experience in public affairs, policy, stakeholder engagement, communications, public service, local government, sport, health, education, community development or a related field.
- Strong understanding of the public policy environment in Wales, including the roles of local authorities, Welsh Government, public bodies and regional partnerships.
- Knowledge of the social, economic and health inequalities affecting communities across Gwent, and the role that sport and physical activity can play in improving wellbeing.
- Excellent communication and influencing skills, with the ability to build trusted relationships with senior stakeholders, elected representatives, partners and community organisations.
- Ability to interpret policy, political and stakeholder developments and translate them into practical strategic advice for the Board.
- Sound judgement, integrity and independence, with confidence to provide constructive challenge and support collective decision-making.
- Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and to ensuring that under-represented voices and communities are considered in strategic decisions.
- Ability to act as a credible ambassador for Active Gwent, promoting its purpose, values and contribution to healthier, more active communities.
- Experience of governance, board membership, committee work or strategic leadership is desirable but not essential.
- An understanding of the sport, physical activity, health or wellbeing sectors would be beneficial.



Commercial and Financial Responsibility

The purpose of this role is to provide independent commercial and financial insight, oversight and challenge to support the Active Gwent Board in making informed, sustainable and well-governed decisions. The role will help strengthen Active Gwent's financial resilience, identify opportunities for growth and partnership, and ensure that resources are used effectively to deliver the Active Gwent strategy and wider community impact.

Core Responsibilities:

- Provide strategic oversight and constructive challenge on financial planning to support the Active Gwent Board in achieving its strategic objectives.
- Support the Active Gwent Board in identifying and developing commercial opportunities and partnerships that contribute to the delivery of the Active Gwent strategy.
- Provide oversight of financial risk, ensuring that key risks are identified, understood and appropriately managed.
- Help ensure that Active Gwent remains financially sustainable, resilient and well governed.
- Promote high standards of financial governance, assurance and transparent decision-making.
- Bring at least five years' senior commercial and financial management experience.
- Demonstrate a strong track record of achievement, within or beyond the sport sector, in environments such as regional or collaborative agencies, charities, corporate organisations, health, housing, education, equalities or professional services.
- Demonstrate the ability to act with professionalism, integrity and sound judgement, alongside a strong commitment to equity, inclusion and diversity.
- Bring experience of leading or advising through organisational change.
- Offer previous board-level or senior management experience, including contribution to strategic planning and oversight.
- Have credibility within, and knowledge of, the Welsh commercial and sporting landscape.
- Corporate governance experience would be advantageous.



Commercial and Financial Responsibility

Key Skills and Experience:

- Senior commercial and financial management experience, with the ability to interpret financial information, assess risk and provide clear strategic advice.
- Strong understanding of financial governance, assurance, budgeting and sustainability in a partnership, public, charitable or not-for-profit context.
- Experience of identifying and developing commercial opportunities, partnerships or income-generating approaches that support strategic objectives.
- Ability to provide independent, constructive challenge while working collaboratively with Board members, senior leaders and partners.
- Sound judgement, integrity and professionalism, with the confidence to contribute to complex decisions and hold others appropriately to account.
- Experience of strategic planning, organisational change or improvement, preferably at board, committee or senior leadership level.
- Strong communication and influencing skills, with the ability to explain commercial and financial matters clearly to non-specialist audiences.
- Commitment to equity, inclusion and diversity, and to improving opportunities for people and communities across Gwent.
- Knowledge of, or strong interest in the Welsh, Gwent sporting, physical activity, public sector or community landscape.



Additional General Responsibilities aligned to the Roles of Public Affairs and Commercial & Financial Board Members

- Providing efficient and effective strategic leadership of Active Gwent
- Upholding and working towards the vision, mission, values, behaviours, and objectives of Active Gwent and ensuring the organisation continues to work towards these.
- Leveraging of networks to support fundraising, organisational and business development.
- Always acting at in the interests of Active Gwent in relation to assets, property, statutory obligations and management requirements.
- Ensuring Active Gwent complies with relevant legal and governance requirements.
- Promoting prudent and effective management of organisational resources (Financial and human).
- Ensuring there are strategies and policies in place that will support the objectives of Active Gwent.
- Developing and monitoring effective risk management strategies for Active Gwent.
- Developing and monitoring internal controls and systems that are transparent and accountable to stakeholders.
- Creating and maintaining positive and productive relationships with stakeholders.
- At all times, acting with integrity and upholding the interests of Active Gwent.
- Championing the work of Active Gwent and acting as a spokesperson for Active Gwent where required.
- Proactively promote Active Gwent and be an excellent ambassador for it.



Recruitment Process



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Thank you for your interest in the Board Member positions.

Remuneration:

Voluntary Board role.

Term and Commitment:

The term of office is 3 years. No Board Member shall serve more than two consecutive terms of 3 years in office.

The Active Gwent Board currently meets on a monthly basis with a hybrid option available.

Application Deadline: Sunday 16th August

Interviews: To be agreed with the shortlisted candidates.

How to apply:

As part of your application, please submit the following:

- Your **up-to-date CV** detailing your professional experience, educational background and any other relevant information that supports your application.
- A **letter of application** (max 2 pages of A4), highlighting your suitability for the role referencing the requirements found in the person specification. Please outline relevant experience and your vision for contributing to the success of Active Gwent.

Both your CV and letter of application should be emailed to us via one of our partners, : human.resources@newportlive.co.uk

Please use the subject line:

Active Gwent Board Member Application and [Your Full Name]

Inquiries and Further Information:

For further details about the role or to discuss your application, please contact Jon Morgan via email at: jon@sinsir.wales