

Swim England North East Region Ltd

Independent Director

Job Description & Person Specification

The role of the Director:

Directors of Swim England NE Region (SENER) bring with them their personal and professional knowledge, expertise and experience in order to support SENER to achieve its key objective to engage people to be more active and fulfil their potential within the aquatic disciplines. Each Director brings a fresh perspective and objectivity to SENER which seeks to encourage and foster a strong organisational performance, based on innovation, creativity and equality.

Main Responsibilities:

Individual Directors of SENER have the following responsibilities:

1. **Developing Strategy and Policy:** to actively and constructively contribute to and challenge the development of strategy and policy in the region
2. **Risk:** to be satisfied that financial information is accurate and that systems of risk management are robust and defensible
3. **Delegated authority:** ensuring that Directors operate within the limits of its delegated authority.
4. **Monitoring performance:** overseeing the work of SENER and monitoring the performance of planned areas of work against the agreed objectives and targets
5. **Investment:** to contribute to collective decisions on recommendations to Sport England in relation to investment into the North East region.
6. **Advocacy:** to be an advocate for sport and the work of SENER across the region at all times
7. **Individual skills, knowledge and experience:** Directors are drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds, including voluntary sector sport, local government, health, education, safer/stronger communities, private sector and others. They should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to promote sport, improve SENER's networks and help the board reach sound decisions
8. **Specialist skills, knowledge and experience:** Each Director will have a specific area of expertise and support role to the staff of SENER e.g. Finance, which will be highlighted in the individual person specification below.

Person Specification - **Director**

Person Specification	Description
1. Experience	
<i>Essential</i>	- A proven track record gained in a relevant field of work. In particular, experience which demonstrates a knowledge and awareness of sports contribution to at least one of the following areas: <i>Voluntary sector sport and national governing bodies of sport; local government leisure and sport; education; health; safer/stronger communities; private/commercial sector business;</i> - An involvement with and a passion for sport, coupled with a belief in the role sport can play in improving the quality of people's lives across the North East region
<i>Desirable</i>	- Previous experience of board/committee membership and/or Director role, owning and committing to shared goals and responsibilities and understanding and valuing roles and contributions from all members - Experience of dealing with the media – TV, radio or the press
2. Knowledge	
<i>Essential</i>	- A good overview of at least one geographic area of the North East region and the key issues faced within it - A good working knowledge of sport and the voluntary sport sector in the sub region and some of the key issues facing voluntary sector sport
<i>Desirable</i>	- An awareness of the role of local government within the sub region (<i>and some experience of working with local government</i>) - Some awareness and understanding of regional and national sports policy and a commitment to improve and develop knowledge and awareness around sub regional, regional and national sports policy

3. Skills and Abilities	
<i>Essential</i>	• Good communication and interpersonal skills at all levels with ability to motivate / enthuse / persuade, negotiate and influence verbally and in writing at all levels • The ability to contribute objectively and consistently to discussion and debate within a board environment • The ability to problem solve, make decisions and prioritise • The ability and willingness to act as an advocate for sport to a broad audience
4. Other Considerations	
<i>Essential</i>	• An understanding and commitment to equal opportunities and the achievement of sports equality issues • An understanding of the needs of under-represented groups in sport • Ability to attend and represent SENER on up to 8 days per annum • The commitment and time to prepare for board meetings by reading and understanding board papers

Contacts and Relationships:

Directors will have some engagement with and responsibility for a range of external contacts across the region and beyond. These may include:

- SENER Directors who will come from a range of backgrounds, including local government, voluntary sector sport, health, education etc
- Sport England – the strategic lead agency for sport in the Region and key funder of SENER
- Local Government members/Councillors and officers from partner authorities
- Other key external partner organisations such as the Swim England, Youth Sport Trust, UK Coaching, UK Sport etc
- Board members/Director from the other Swim England Regions
- SENER Chair and core team members