

National Council Briefing

Areas and Local Organising Groups

Background

Table Tennis United was launched in October 2022 with 4 Pledges, with Pledge 1 being “**Table tennis will be a thriving community - a sport for everyone with no barriers to taking part**”. Sat under that were a number of Key Objectives and one of these was to “**Establish the Area network**”.

As a result on 1st February 2023 the Areas were officially launched with an Area Manager starting in position to manage each of those, overseen by a Senior Area Manager. The team sits in the Development team but will work with all departments in Table Tennis England to ensure there is local integration across the organisation, which provides a local view.

The 10 Regions will be disbanded after the Inter-Regional competition this year. The Areas will then come into place. They won't be a like for like replacement and will have different priorities, linked to the implementation of Table Tennis United.

Organisation of Areas

Area Manager – the Area Managers are employed by Table Tennis England and will be responsible for the management and development of their Areas. This will include the establishment of the Local Organising Groups, the development and delivery of the Local Delivery Plan and working with local table tennis clubs, leagues and volunteers as well as external partners.

Local Organising Group – these will be led by the Area Managers with a Chair in each Local Organising Group leading the group and supporting the Area Manager. The groups will be made up of people from that local Area who will be a mix of table tennis community and non-table tennis partners and organisations (e.g. education, local authority, charitable sector etc). The make up will be determined by the skill set and knowledge required by that Area and this could look different across the Areas. It's about local flexibility to meet local needs.

Local Delivery Plans – these are the plans that will be developed by each Area Manager with the support of the Local Organising Groups and will prioritise the work of the Area Manager and Local Organising Groups and how local budgets will be spent. They will be focused and will be expected to deliver results in those focused areas of work. They will be informed by the mapping and insight we have.

Community Table Tennis Partnerships – these will be ultra-local and focused areas around a town, towns or locality where there is a good club infrastructure and strong partner engagement and investment. They will be local places where we can grow and enhance the sport at pace.

What's been achieved to date

The following things have been achieved to date:

1. Area Managers and Senior Area Manager recruited and all seven are now in place
2. Key Priority Activities have been identified which is the framework for the priority work to take place – this will be formalised in the Local Delivery Plans for each Area
3. Local Organising Group Chair position is now out for advert with a closing date of 5th May

What's next to do

1. Appoint the Local Organising Group Chairs
2. Develop the Local Delivery Plans
3. Recruit Local Organising Group members

4. Allocate the budget for each Area

There is a target that all the above should be in place by December 2023 ready to become fully active for the 2024/2025 year.

The Local Organising Groups

Local Organising Groups will represent their local Area which will mean they look and feel different across each Area and the skills on the groups may look different as they align to their local priorities.

They will be a **local and knowledgeable group**.

Local Organising Groups will be expected to use local evidence and data and use the TTE mapping tools to consider the priorities for the Area. This will allow us to invest where impact is the biggest. This is driven by Table Tennis United and TTE's implementation plan but the Local Delivery Plan will look at how this is done locally following the evidence.

They will **inform, advocate and drive** table tennis.

The Local Organising Group will be made up of a range of table tennis and non-table tennis people and organisations and this membership will be partly determined on the local priorities. For example if working with schools and developing more coaches is the focus then representation from education and Active Partnerships may be crucial.

Their **representation maps the priorities**.

It will not be possible to make a big impact across the whole geographical Area due to the size and scale of the Areas. So the development of Community Table Tennis Partnerships will be identified through the mapping and insight and work with local partners and these will see investment to provide thriving table tennis communities. It won't preclude work being done by Area Managers on supporting the wider club, playing, coaching and officiating membership and this will still happen but their time will be focussed on making the biggest impact through these partnerships. These CTPs will be supported by Local Organising Groups.

Community Table Tennis Partnerships will enable greater investment and better impact.

Local Delivery Plans and their principles

The Local Delivery Plans will be the conduit and focus on where and how the Areas will be developed and will be owned by the Local Organising Groups and led by the Area Managers.

Community Table Tennis Partnerships will be a key part of the plans and will focus the priorities around these.

All will be evidence based and work from ours and partner mapping and insight.

Each Local Delivery Plan will look different across each Area as all Areas in England are different in themselves.

Partnerships and relationships are crucial and vital to making these work and this will be fundamental to the plans – how can our partners grow our capacity to deliver and increase resources.

Local Organising Group members will be expected to contribute and support the plans.

Andrew Wilesmith – Head of Development (22/4/2023)