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## **Presentation to B&NES Cabinet meeting – July 16th 2014**

### **Susan Charles, Chair Warm Water Inclusive Swimming & Exercise Network.**

You will have already heard from us at the Council meeting last week about the need for fully accessible warm water pools to be included in the contract currently being negotiated for a large leisure provider to run the B&NES leisure facilities for up to 30 years. We are here at this meeting because you are the decision-makers – you can decide what goes in that contract.

It is absolutely vital that an integral part of that contract is the provision of fully accessible warm water pools at 32°C, with changing facilities suitable for all ages and all levels of disability. Such pools fit well within your Vision as a Council. They will also assist in the delivery of your Health & Wellbeing Strategy, your Children and Young People's Plan and now your Fit for Life Strategy. Furthermore they will have the potential of enormous savings to the NHS & Social Service budgets, and ~~will~~ finally they will ensure that at long last B&NES has leisure facilities which are truly inclusive and available to all members of the community.

Let's remind ourselves of who will benefit

- Disabled children and young people who can't go swimming at the moment once they are too old for learner pools and can't stand or be lifted & changed on the floor
- Severely disabled young people & adults who've had the benefit of exercise in warm water at special schools. Their exercise opportunities are limited so without access to suitable pools they are more likely to deteriorate & need more support from Social Services
- People who've had hydrotherapy but are unable to continue exercising in warm water to maintain the benefits. They recycle through the NHS needing more treatment & lose their independence so are likely to need more social Service support.
- People recovering from illness or injury including injured servicemen. Exercising in warm water on a regular basis would greatly aid their long term recovery.
- People with long term health conditions who need water at 32°C to relieve pain & to keep warm enough to be able to exercise & swim. Without the opportunity to exercise they lose their mobility & their independence and again need more NHS treatment & Social Services support
- The increasing number of elderly who are struggling to maintain their independence in their later years. Regular access to warm water would help them maintain their mobility, improving their quality of life and reducing their isolation.

All these people would have the chance to become healthier & fitter, manage their own conditions and stay independent, thus improving their quality of life and saving enormous amounts of the NHS & Social Services budget.

They need to know there will be no compromise. Warm water pools at 32°C with changing facilities to suit all ages and all levels of disability need to be available to them on a regular basis at an affordable price in their local community

We cannot afford to stand by & see yet another generation, or even more, deprived of the opportunity to fully participate in their local community.