

My name is Iain Pring, I am the Chair of the local Bath & District Branch of the MS Society. We have 180 members out of nearly 500 persons with multiple sclerosis in the BANES area.

As a society we actively promote and provide subsidised exercise and physiotherapy to our members and work hard to raise funds to be able to do so. We strongly believe, and the evidence supports us, that exercise and maintaining general fitness is very important in helping to combat the effect of fatigue and general tiredness that is unfortunately part of having MS. Improved fitness also means less demand, and therefore savings to the NHS and social services.

We would willingly do the same for swimming but at present are unable to promote it due to the lack of suitable facilities available in BANES area.

Hydrotherapy pools are too hot for most persons with MS who need a more comfortable 32 degrees. A dedicated warm water pool is an exciting prospect. I can only echo others in asking for such a facility.

You are no doubt aware of the specification for the warm water pool drawn up but WWISE. We fully support the specification especially the need for a fully accessible changing facility. This would be expensive as a separate facility. If however planned as part of the rebuild of existing sports centres it could be incorporated as part of the overall design. Whilst adding to the cost it would be of enormous benefit to the many people with disabilities in the area

I appreciate that there are many conflicting demands on finances. However I think it should be possible and I very much hope that it will come about.

Thank you.

IAIN PRING

Chair – MS Society Bath & District Branch