

## **WWISE Network presentation to Council Meeting – July 21<sup>st</sup> 2106**

**Why is the Council allowing the remodelling of both Bath & Keynsham Leisure Centres without provision for older children, young people & adults including the ever-increasing ageing population with the ailments this brings, so they can swim for leisure & recreation just because they need warmer water to do this?**

In 1996 the previous warm water pool was closed in favour of an Activity pool though the main pool was heated to 32°C one day a week until 2004 when the temperature was capped at 30°C to comply with industry guidelines. The Council formed the Remedial Swimming Consultative Group to look into the way forward & following this the WWISE Network was set up with financial support from the Active Lifestyles Team to establish the extent of the need & whether alternative provision could be made. It soon became evident there was a pressing need within various demographic groups & confirmed that catering for this within the current facilities was not possible.

In 2011 it was agreed by the Council that this should be given serious consideration when the time came to refurbish or rebuild the Leisure Centres. We met with the Cabinet Members for Neighbourhoods, & also Wellbeing who both agreed this would be a valuable asset to the community because of its many benefits.

2 years ago we again raised the issue when a new contract for the leisure facilities was being negotiated and there was overwhelming support from a number of Council committees that this should be included as part of the new contract. Since then we have met with the consultants & officers involved in negotiating the contract, & also GLL and all were supportive of including such a pool.

It is with dismay therefore that we find it is not in the plans for Bath Leisure Centre nor in the initial proposals for Keynsham. In Bath a second warm water teaching pool has been included but, at 60 – 90cm/2-3ft deep, it is too shallow for older children, young people & adults. An additional 30cm/1ft depth would make all the difference and this could be quite achievable in the space available in the Leisure Centre.

Because of the nature of their conditions maybe with accompanying pain & limited mobility, the exercise options open to these people are limited but swimming is one in which they can participate for leisure & recreation as well as to help them maintain their health & fitness and lead more active lifestyles, but for this they need warm water of a suitable depth in their local Leisure Centre so they can participate with the rest of the community.

**We feel the Council is not following a number of its own Strategies & Policies and failing to capitalise on this once in a lifetime opportunity to ensure a warm water pool suitable for everyone living with short & long term conditions is included in the remodelled Leisure Centres and we ask that the design as it is proposed is given further consideration by both the Council & Greenwich Leisure.**