

Report on	Leisure Disability Provision and Swimming Lesson Pilot
Date of Meeting	7th December 2022
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager Sean Cavlin, Leisure Business Development Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members on the current provision in leisure centres for those with additional needs and additionally on the progress of establishing a pilot programme offering swimming lessons to those with additional needs and requiring assistance to participate in water-based activities.
2.0	Background
2.1	Previously in October 2022, Members resolved to approve that a report be brought to a future committee meeting <i>"on what provision can be provided within our swimming pools and leisure centres for disabled persons"</i> and the discussion also focused on issues being raised about swimming lessons for those that need additional assistance.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Appendix A details existing provision within Councils leisure centres for those with additional needs along with programmes that focuses specifically on Inclusive Coordination.
3.2	Officers have also been exploring options for the issues being raised about swimming lessons for those that need additional assistance.
3.3	Teaching swimming to those with additional needs requires specialist skills, therefore Officers have proposed a pilot programme within Dungannon Leisure Centre and depending on the outcome, the intention would be to review the delivery model and where possible seek to also implement within Cookstown Leisure Centre and Greenvale Leisure Centre. Officers made an approach to Special Olympics Dungannon who are a specialist swimming club based in Dungannon Leisure Centre and have both experienced and appropriately qualified swimming instructors.
3.4	Discussions have taken place with representatives of Special Olympics Dungannon and a proposal presented. The proposal is to offer a pilot 12-week swimming programme commencing January 2023 and running until March 23, initially targeting younger children.
3.5	Based in Dungannon Leisure Centre, the pilot programme is not seen as a replacement for Special Olympics activities nor School Swimming programmes but as additional opportunity for those that require additional assistance to take part in water-based activity.
3.6	

