Appendix 2 – FREE SWIMMING – ONE YEAR ON

Visitor Analysis

The three Leisure Centres recorded 131,619 free swims from April 09 to March 10 opposed to only 76,241 from the two age groups the year before. This was 49% of all swims opposed to 34% of all swims the year before



Total overall swims (including paid for swims from 17 - 59 age group) for the year were up to 271,931 from 225,316 the previous year. (21% increase)



The greatest increase was experienced in the 16s and under group up 77% from 58,817 swims in 2008/09 to 103,886 in 2009/10.

Swims by 60s and over went up by 63% to 28,255 swims.

The swims in the age group not receiving free swimming 17 to 59 year olds actually fell by 6% indicating that the volume of younger customers, queues and the new family friendly time table, may have put some off. However the total overall number of swims went up by 21%



National Position

All pools taking part in the free swimming initiative are required to provide their visits to Price Waterhouse, who produce a table including visit numbers and population figures quarterly.

The final quarter results for the first year should be available in May.

16s and Under

22nd out of 255 Local Authorities after the first 9 months. When population is taken into account we move above Manchester and Milton Keynes in Free swims per 1000 under 16 population.

60's and Over

87th out of 255 Local Authorities after the first 9 months. When looking at the swims per over 60's and over population we move up to 77th nationally

Total combined

26th out of 255 Local Authorities after the first 9 months. Again versus population we are performing better than may further up the list including Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds & Birmingham many of whom also have more swimming pools.

Looking at a straightforward population versus swims is very difficult due to tourist destinations like Isles of Scilly and Great Yarmouth recording very low resident populations of under 16's versus actual swims.

	Quarter	1	2	3	Total	Under 16s & 60+ LA population ('000)	
1	BIRMINGHAM	123,997	156,042	86,319	366,358	420	872.9
2	LEEDS	106,504	124,336	63,868	294,708	294	1,001.5
3	DONCASTER	91,927	133,777	67,345	293,049	127	2,306.7
4	WILTSHIRE	98,908	112,588	77,076	288,572	206	1,404.1
5	BRADFORD	96,927	120,541	62,902	280,370	212	1,320.5
6	DURHAM	75,581	97,072	49,010	221,663	217	1,022.2
7	SHROPSHIRE	68,253	88,122	42,257	198,632	137	1,448.2
8	LEICESTER UA	80,402	74,826	38,526	193,754	113	1,713.4
9	WAKEFIELD	61,345	82,888	36,605	180,838	137	1,323.7
10	WIRRAL	49,963	69,985	33,010	152,958	141	1,081.7
11	CHESHIRE EAST	53,211	61,195	36,779	151,185	162	932.8
12	MEDWAY UA	50,431	68,733	24,889	144,053	105	1,370.6
13	BARNSLEY	49,398	57,252	32,160	138,810	97	1,429.3
14	SEFTON	46,139	61,949	23,360	131,448	126	1,044.9
15	SUNDERLAND	50,765	53,314	24,790	128,869	116	1,107.9
16	WALSALL	42,381	53,093	28,524	123,998	116	1,073.2
17	MANCHESTER	34,199	54,156	33,043	121,398	160	758.9
18	LIVERPOOL	38,771	47,225	33,749	119,745	168	714.9
4.0	HEREFORDSHIR	00.400					
19	EUA	39,132	53,248	27,033	119,413	85	1,406.8
20	BURY	37,669	51,182	29,398	118,249	79	1,501.0
21	BRISTOL, CITY OF UA	41,874	45,696	27,428	114,998	149	769.5
	NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE						
22	UA	36,285	53,981	23,594	113,860	72	1,589.8
23	WANDSWORTH	40,146	53,904	18,220	112,270	83	1,350.7
24	TENDRING	38,097	46,224	22,806	107,127	77	1,393.4
25	SANDWELL	40,289	45,369	21,458	107,116	125	858.4
26	NORTHAMPTON	41,648	42,157	20,759	104,564	82	1,274.5
27	GATESHEAD	38,500	46,330	19,143	103,973	82	1,269.5
~~	MILTON KEYNES	40 507		45 770	400.440		4.4.7.0
28		42,597	44,747	15,772	103,116	90	1,147.0
29	CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE	29,779	46,788	23,980	100,547	106	952.7
30	WIGAN	34,658	44,947	19,727	99,332	131	757.3

After the first month (April 2009) we were actually 11th, however, we were unable to sustain this level without detrimentally affecting the customer experience and the business. We therefore introduced specific targeted sessions and reduced the pool capacity at Danes Camp

Registration For Scheme

- 35,443 Free Swimming Cards have been issued since March 2009
- 89% of these, 31,396 cards, were to juniors
- Only 1,052 cards (3%) were full Leisure Cards costing £6.50 the rest were issued free
- 11% of the total, 4047 cards, were issued to 60s and over
- 236 cards (6%) were full Leisure Cards costing £6.50 the rest were issued free

Of the **28,094** cards used to access free swimming the use of the pools was as follows



This indicates that out of the 35,443 cards issued only 28,094 cards were used to access free swimming. Some Leisure Cards may have been purchased for other purposes and some senior citizen casual user cards may have been issued for gym use. However, the vast majority of the 7,349 would have been Casual User Junior cards expressly issued for free swimming and to date have yet to be used.

Frequency

One of the unexpected results was although frequency seems to have been increased - for example at Danes Camp Customers coming once a month or more from the two target groups increased from 119 customers to 907 customers, the number of customers only taking advantage of the scheme once was high.

In terms of the total swimmers signed up 45% of those that swam at Danes Camp only swam once. Although it is hard to see if they used the other centres this does indicate that we may have to work hard to convert the customers that have already signed to paying the £2.00 administration charge.

A comparison of frequency across the sites reveals that Lings engendered the highest percentage of repeat customers, 25% coming every two months or more & 47% coming 3 times a year or more.

Danes as a Leisure Pool showed a higher percentage coming for only one or two visits a year, 13% coming every two months or more & only 35% coming 3 times a year or more

Postcode analysis

The following postcode analysis is based on customers who have used free swimming rather than cards issued



By far the greatest percentage came from within the Borough boundaries. 84% of customers came from NN1 to NN5 postcodes. Of the total visitors 2% actually came from outside Northamptonshire.