

Meeting	Full Council
Date	21 st March 2023
Report Title	Memory Café – Swimming at Hydrotherapy Pool
Agenda Reference	15
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Officer Recommendations:

1. To note the report
2. To note the insurance implications within the report.
3. To consider seeking further legal advice on progressing with the Memory Café swimming session at Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool.

Background/ Project Update

The Memory Café Co Ordinator has been researching the possibility of taking Memory Café attendees swimming and providing gentle exercise in the water at the Hydrotherapy Pool. This activity would be free of charge, in partnership with Orchid Care Home. The Memory Café Co Ordinator visited the hydrotherapy pool on 9th February 2023 with staff from Orchid Care Home, which informed the risk assessment for this activity.

A proposal was taken to Community Development Committee in February to proceed with the research stages. This report is now a recommendation for Full Council to consider.

Sessions

The sessions would take place at the Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool twice a month. The sessions are run by Orchid Care Home and the Memory Café attendees would be joining these. Orchid Care Home staff approached the Memory Café Co Ordinator to offer this opportunity, as sessions at the Hydrotherapy Pool are booked up very quickly. The Memory Café gaged reaction from attendees of the Memory Café who confirmed they would be interested in a trial run.

The staff of the pool would be on site for emergency problems as well as running the building. The Memory Café Co Ordinator would be present poolside for the activity, but would not join in. The likely impact on the Memory Café Co Ordinator's time would be two hours per session.

There is space for ten people to join in, five attendees and their carers/companions.

Memory Café participants would drive themselves to the sessions, there would be no impact on the community bus.

In the event of the session being cancelled the Memory Café Co Ordinator would contact the attendees herself at the earliest opportunity to advise them.

Insurance Impact

The Council's insurer has advised that it would need to seek legal advice, as this activity wouldn't be covered under the Council's current insurance policy. Orchid Care Home has confirmed that the Council's Memory Café patrons would not be covered under their insurance policy.

Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool has its own public liability insurance, but this only covers the facility, not the activities that are taking place in the water. There are no lifeguards on duty, and the pool is classified as a 'wading pool', because you can stand up in the whole of the pool due to the low water depth.

The Council's insurer has recommended that it seeks further legal advice on the issue of insurance. It may be possible to draw up a legal disclaimer, stating that the Council are not responsible for the patrons whilst they are at the pool. This would then have to be signed by those attending the swimming session to say they understand the activity is at their own risk.

The anticipated cost of this legal advice would be in the region of £2,500.00. The Council has budget assigned for legal advice, but this is to cover any unforeseen circumstances regarding land, leases, employment advice and for the exchange in contracts under the Grounds Maintenance Facility project.

Risk Assessment

A draft risk assessment document has been prepared in the eventuality that the Council would like to proceed with this activity.