

READING & GLL PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure
Committee

Wednesday 21 February 2024

Craig Woodward, Partnership Manager – Reading
Steph Smith, Healthy Community Manager – Reading

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 25 year contract – commenced 1st July 2021
- Operation of 4 leisure centres (Meadway, South Reading, Palmer Park, Rivermead)
- A modern new replacement for Rivermead
- A new 6 lane community pool at Palmer Park
- £40M investment over 25 years of contract

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PALMER PARK

Opened on 19 December 2022, offering fantastic facilities to the local community.

Works Completed

- New 6 lane 25m Community Pool with village changing area and Changing Places area.
- 100 station Gym with views overlooking the Park.
- Café open to the community.
- Children's Softplay.
- Studio & Group Cycle Studio refreshed.
- New Studio & functional equipment.

During the first 12 months of being open we have seen over 300,000 visits to the new centre.



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RIVERMEAD LEISURE CENTRE

Opened on 18 July 2023 with the Swimming Pool due in Summer 2024. The centre has seen a large increase in footfall since opening.

Works Completed

- 8 lane 25m Competition Pool, with viewing balcony and village change & Changing Places area.
- Diving/Teaching Pool with moveable floor, with 2 x 1m, 3m boards and 5m platform.
- Splashpad area.
- Large 120 station gym 6 Court Sports Hall.
- Café & Softplay area.
- 2 x Studio & Group Cycle Studio.

During the first 6 months of opening there have been over 250,000 visits.



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MEADWAY & SOUTH READING

Meadway

- Improvement works completed on wet side changing room, to provide a modern environment for the swimmers.
- Developed an accessible changing room for pool customers as part of the refurbishment.
- Improvement works to the Sports Hall took place in the past 12 months, resurfacing the floor.

South Reading

- Planned remedial works to the pool tank to support the future of the swimming pool provision at South Reading.
- Changing Room refurbishment is also underway as part of the pool closure, improving the environment for the customers.



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USAGE STATS

Throughout 2023 we have seen positive movement on usage stats across all centres which have put us back in line with pre-Covid levels:

- Total usage throughout 2023 now exceeds 900,000 with the target for 2024 to go past 1 million visits.
- Over 6,000 Free Swims offered to Reading Residents as part of the YRP Concession Scheme.
- 6,989 Pre-Paid Memberships, with all centres are at highest position.
- Pay & Play Memberships figures are now at 2,946
- These figures are achieved with various service disruptions across the centres in 2023 with 2 New Builds and closure for refurbishment works at Meadway & South Reading.

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PEOPLE

- GLL continues to hold Real Living Wage Accreditation.
- Total Staff Completing National Pool Lifeguard Qualifications is 27 in 2023
- 14 New Swimming Teachers introduced throughout 2023.
- Over 650 e-learning modules completed to cover a wide range of courses which include Equality & Diversity, Disability Awareness, Safeguarding & Health & Safety.
- Continue with Reward & Recognition work to ensure all staff are valued, including Staff Member of the Month and Annual Staff Awards.
- 7 Apprenticeships started throughout 2023, with a further 3 due to start in the new year.
- Supporting young people in education with 22 work experience placements in the past 12 months.
- The workforce is made up of 203 members of staff, with over 85% being Reading Residents.
- Investors in People Gold Award.

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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENTS

- Two new centres built to BREEAM Excellent standard
- £1.6M initial investment into energy efficient schemes, to include
 - Poolside climate controls
 - Sports hall climate controls
 - Pool covers for heat retention
 - Energy efficient lighting upgrades and controls
- A further £1m investment has been made to support Carbon Reduction including
 - Installation of Air Source Heat Pumps
 - Solar Panels
- Application submitted for Swimming Pool Support Fund for further improvements to Meadway & South Reading.

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HEALTHWISE

- A healthy lifestyle programme – introducing individuals with medical conditions or other specialist requirements to the benefits of physical activity
- A referral scheme for Reading Residents and/or those registered with a GP in Reading
- Common reasons for referral: High blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, circulatory and respiratory disease, depression, anxiety, arthritis and weight management
- 2023: GP Referral, Cardiac Rehab and Adult Weight Management



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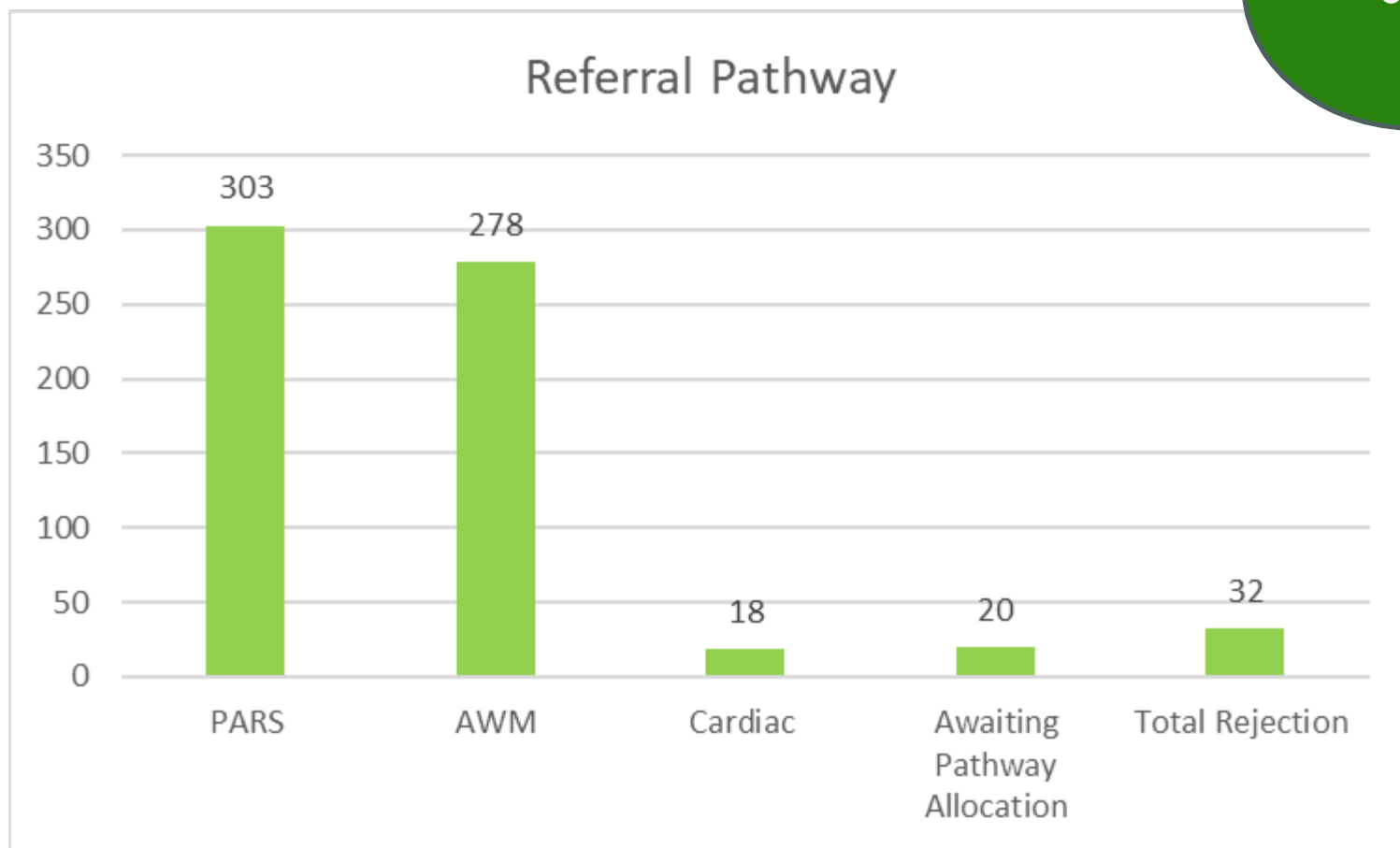


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HEALTHWISE

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HEALTHWISE

- PARS and Cardiac
 - o >50% completion rate, with most completers participating in +150minutes of PA per week
 - o 36% lost >3% body fat
 - o 64% self-reported an improvement in overall health
- Adult Weight Management
 - o 10 courses delivered in 2023, evening courses introduced
 - o 65% completion rate, with 83% of completers losing >3% body fat
 - o 93% of completers reporting an improvement in overall health



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HEALTHWISE

- Staff recruitment & upskilling
- MECC training delivered
- Outreach completed with GP Surgeries, Royal Berkshire Hospital and Social Prescribers
- 12 Health Promotions supported
- 7 Health MOT events
- Co-located Health programmes: Smoking Cessation, NDPP & Pulmonary Rehab
- Dementia Supervised Gym



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COMMUNITY

- Refugee and Community memberships
- GLL Sport Foundation – Supporting 28 local athletes who were successful for awards/funding.
- Introduction of Inclusive Swimming and SEND soft play sessions at Palmer Park
- Over 20 Work Experience Placements
- Partnership working with local organisations and clubs



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COMMUNITY

- Celebration events, community schemes and awareness days
- Offline manual
- Warm Spaces
- Programmable gym at Palmer Park
- Senior activities developed at Meadway and Rivermead (and senior badminton tournament)
- Kids for a quid swimming during school holidays



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HEALTH AND COMMUNITY NEXT STEPS

- Healthwise: Introduction of new pathways
- Reading FC Community Trust
- South Reading Community Engagement
- Continuing open days and events

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

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