

# READING & GLL PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure  
Committee

Wednesday 9 July 2025

Craig Woodward, Partnership Manager – Reading  
Steph Smith, Area Community Sport Manager – Reading

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# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 25-year contract – commenced 1 July 2021
- Operation of 4 leisure centres
  - Meadway Sports Centre
  - Palmer Park Leisure Centre
  - Rivermead Leisure Centre
  - South Reading Leisure Centre
- Previous Update included
  - Opening of Palmer Park Leisure Centre
  - Opening of Rivermead (Dryside Only)
  - Refurbishment to Meadway & South Reading



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# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout 2024 we have had a number of highlights which include the following

- Rivermead Simming Pool Opening
  - 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.
- South Reading Swimming Pool Reopen following Structural Works.
- South Reading Swimming Pool Change Refurbishment.
- Rivermead AWP Pitch Replacement.
- Quest Assessment for Rivermead and Palmer Park – "Very Good"



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# USAGE STATS

Throughout 2024 we have seen positive movement on usage stats across all centres particularly when compared to previous years.

- Total usage throughout 2024 now exceeds 1 million visits with the target to see further increases in 2025.
- Over 6,000 Free Swims offered to Reading Residents as part of the continuation of the YRP Concession Scheme, a similar figure to previous years.
- Over 9,000 Pre-Paid Memberships, with all centres at the highest position and an increase from 7,000 members the previous year.
- Pay & Play Memberships figures are now at 2,946
- 2,500 on the Learn to Swim Programme attending each week, again an increase from 2,000 the previous year.

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# PEOPLE

- GLL continues to hold Real Living Wage Accreditation.
- Total Staff Completing National Pool Lifeguard Qualifications is 21 in 2024
- 15 New Swimming Teachers introduced throughout 2024.
- Over 500 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.
- 4 Apprenticeships started throughout 2024, with 3 due to complete the scheme in early 2025.
- Supporting young people in education with 27 work experience placements in the past 12 months.
- The workforce is made up of 183 members of staff, with over 85% being Reading Residents.
- Investors in People Gold Award.

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# HEALTHWISE 2024

- 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: Obesity, Anxiety & Depression, High blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, circulatory and respiratory disease.
- Pathways delivered in 2024: Adult Weight Management, GP Referral and Cardiac Rehab
- 2025 Launch: Cancer Rehab & Better Balance.



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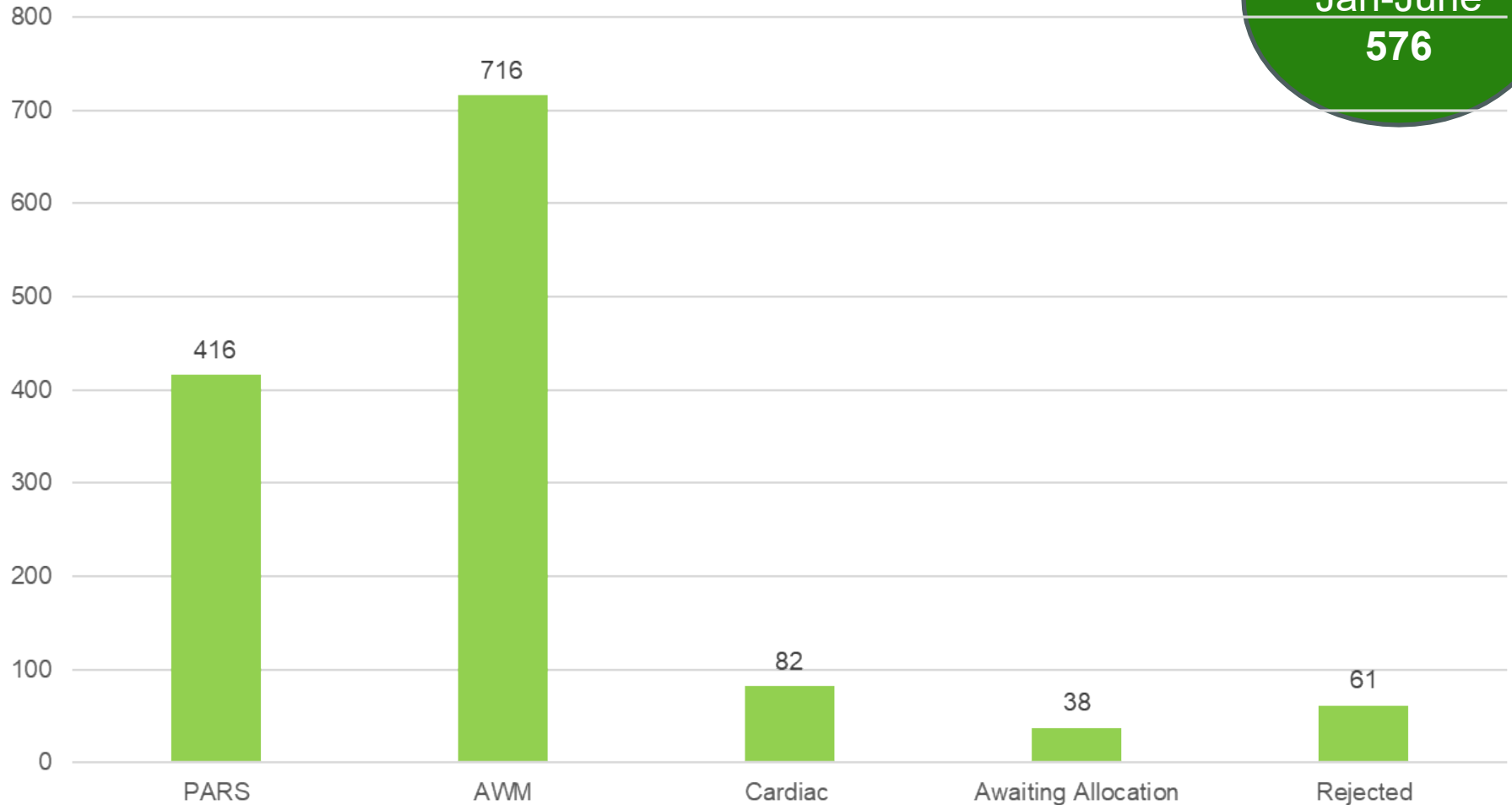


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# HEALTHWISE 2024

2025  
Jan-June  
**576**



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# HEALTHWISE 2024

- PARS and Cardiac
  - o 41% completion rate, with most completers participating in +150minutes of PA per week
  - o 35% lost >3% body fat, 86% lost body fat
  - o 92% self-reported an improvement in overall health
- Adult Weight Management
  - o 17 courses delivered in 2024, with 141 booked on.
  - o 67% completion rate, with 94% of completers losing body fat
  - o 95% of completers reporting an improvement in overall health



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# HEALTHWISE 2024-25

- Staff recruitment & upskilling
- Outreach completed with GP Surgeries, Royal Berkshire Hospital and Social Prescribers
- 12 Health Promotions supported
- NHS Partnerships; Check You Out
- Co-located Health programmes: NDPP & Pulmonary Rehab
- Menopause training completed for 2025



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# COMMUNITY 2024

- GLL Supported Membership Scheme
- GLL Sport Foundation – 51 Athletes
- Work Experience Placements
- Palmer Park Festival of Inclusivity
- South Reading holiday programme
- Pickleball – a new sport for Reading residents
- Partnership working, awareness days and national events
- Royal Berkshire Hospital support
- Quest – Tackling Inequalities



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# COMMUNITY 2025

- Quest Excellent (Exercise Referral Standard)
- Work Experience Placements & new partnerships
- Give it a Go success
- Festival of Inclusivity – Bigger and Better!
- Meadway Senior Session development
- Dementia Friends Training
- Free swimming for Foster Families & Water Safety awareness
- GLL Sport Foundation
- National Open Weekend; 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July



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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

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