

Question: PQ23.03

Cabinet – 1 September 2020

Re: Agenda item 23 – Hengrove PFI Leisure Centre

Question submitted by: Amanda Brett

Question:

Within the report on Hengrove Leisure Centre in relation to the Council's contractual obligation under the PFI contract, why does the Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Public Health consider opening Hengrove but closing Jubilee Pool will result with no negative impact for equalities groups 'as this proposal will allow for the service to resume and access to physical activity opportunities increase'?

Background:

The 'Corporate Strategy Alignment' indicates wellbeing, improvement to physical, mental health & wellbeing and to reduce health inequalities and supporting preventative interventions & opportunities, not re-opening Jubilee Pool will most definitely result in a negative impact for equalities groups as this proposal does not allow a large proportion of the elderly and those with physical/mental health problems unable to get to Hengrove to resume wellbeing services at Jubilee Pool. Clearly this will significantly impact and be to the detriment of the more vulnerable residents in the surrounding area who are already disadvantaged:-

Fact

- Jubilee Pool is used for hydrotherapy for enduring debilitating chronic pain. There are users who cannot bus or walk to Hengrove. Jubilee Pool is listed on the NHS Central Chronic Pain Clinic's list as one of the better pools to use for hydrotherapy exercises due to its warmer water (32 degrees). A family member uses Jubilee for hydrotherapy; prior to using Jubilee Pool this person was using the pool within the Central NHS Central Chronic Pain Clinic. They are therefore no longer burdening the NHS but using their own resources to better their health.
- Friends and users who have had knee/hip replacement use Jubilee for hydro exercises due to the warmer water; they are no longer a burden on the NHS.
- My daughter uses womens only swim. It is essential for her trauma recovery. Hengrove is too intimidating due to its noise and size and her high social anxiety.
- The elderly use Jubilee, not just for swimming but to promote wellness with physical problems (again the warmer water), as a regular group who walk to and meet at the pool it also alleviates their loneliness (which we know as a society we must address due to increasing figures for depression from loneliness in the elderly).
- Those with mental or physical ailments, the elderly are generally on a low income, do not drive and if they do, cannot afford parking at Hengrove.

The items outlines in the Corporate Strategy Alignment show that these people will undoubtedly be EXCLUDED and will disallow them their current well-being regimes resulting in impacting their own mental/physical health thus resulting in them returning and burdening the local NHS Crisis Team, GPs etc.