

**Statement: PS11.03**

**Cabinet – 8 February 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 11 - Leisure Facilities Investment and Procurement**

**Statement submitted by: Rachel Couzens**

I fiercely support the petition that Kingsdown Leisure Centre not be closed.

This is a vital community resource that supports local people to stay fit and healthy, including supporting their mental health, and helps keep young people off the streets. Closing the centre is completely counter-productive. The notion that the people who use Kingsdown Centre will be able to use an alternative leisure centre is naive at best.

People need a facility within walking distance of their home or school or workplace. It is a well documented fact that attendance at gyms drops dramatically with distance.

My 13 year son, along with his friends, is a regular attendee at Kingsdown. I'm sure like many, closing the facility will have a huge detrimental effect on his physical and mental health as other centres are too far for him to travel as a teenager.

I urge the council in the strongest terms to reconsider their proposals and ensure that Kingsdown Leisure facilities are not lost.