

Mandy Weir

From: Charles Walker
Sent: 13 November 2008 15:02
To: 'Julie Rook'
Cc: Roger Walton
Subject: (1) DCMS free swimming initiative (2) Audit report on Vista Leisure
Attachments: logo.jpg

Julie

Free swimming

It occurs to me that I should keep you advised of matters such as this (please see the email below).....no action needed but you may find the information useful.

Audit report

Similarly I should acquaint you with the recent Audit report on Vista and our working relationship with them. In particular I need to let you have sight of the "management response" that I intend writing and forwarding to Audit tomorrow. May I ask whether you are at the offices tomorrow? If not I can email and/or discuss the "management response" with you on the telephone. In the meantime I'll forward the report and also Audit's extract to you by separate emails.

Do please contact me if you require further information.



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From: Charles Walker
Sent: 07 November 2008 13:16
To: Roger Walton
Cc: 'Kevin Fordham'
Subject: DCMS free swimming initiative

Roger

The situation re participation in the DCMS scheme by (the ECKPCT) local authorities is as follows:

	Ashford	Swale	Thanet	Shepway*	Canterbury	Dover
60 and over	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
16 and under	no	no	yes	yes	no	no

* Shepway's main pool at the FSC is owned by the Trust so is, I am informed, ineligible for DCMS funding. However the intention is to offer limited free swimming at this pool by using some of the PCT funding.

It is difficult to asses how concerned we should be that two of our closest neighbours have opted into both "pots". The extent of the possible migration by swimmers to Thanet is impossible to accurately calculate. I'm less concerned about a loss of

07/05/2009

business to Shepway because the offer at the Folkestone Centre will be limited and the Hythe pool is a relatively small facility.

I've spoken again with Lottie at DCMS who despite wanting to be helpful has clearly been instructed not to give out much information. What she did say was that the 16 and under (pot 2) take-up by LAs had been LESS than for the 60 and overs age group but MORE than they had expected. She also stated that:

- i. Latecomers to the Pot 2 were still being accepted at present
- ii. The Sec of State was still considering how to distribute those funds that were available because of a less than 100% opting in by LAs to pot 2. It was possible additional funding would be made available to encourage participation by some of the opting out LAs but equally it was possible that the funds would be distributed as reward to those LAs that had already opted in. My strong impression is that Dover is not on the list of LAs where the gap between original funding offered and loss of income is small - in other words DCMS perceive other LAs as being easier to "convert".

Vista have revisited their calculations this lunchtime and whilst Michelle is on leave today Kevin is confident that the figures are accurate to within say 5%.

With the information available my view remains that it would be high risk to opt into pot 2. There are however a number of unknowns to this scenario and whilst it would be entirely appropriate on this occasion I shall resist the temptation to quote Mr Rumsfeld !

I hope the above is helpful.

Charles



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