

Access for People with Disabilities

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline arrangements for ensuring that less-abled / disabled people have access to all facilities within Swallows Leisure Centre during the current enhancement programme.

We are committed to ensuring that the buildings and facilities are both inclusive and accessible for all individuals.

In any future development or refurbishment projects, we will work with Swale Community Leisure Limited and Swale Borough Council to ensure that the needs of disabled people are incorporated into the design and arrangements of the scheme and that the relevant Building Regulations and British Standards have been complied with. Access Statements will be prepared accordingly.

Building Access

The Centre has been adapted to enable access for all individuals including those using a wheelchair. However, further assistance will be provided by staff should this be necessary.

A lift is available for access to the basement and first floor. This will be checked and maintained on a regular basis.

Changing Room / Toilet Access

The changing rooms and toilets in the wet change area are currently under refurbishment and as such there is currently no provision at basement level for a fully accessible changing area / fully accessible WC.

Less-abled / Disabled customers are invited to use the dry change area for showering and changing.

Alternative fully accessible WC's are available in either Isospa or the Wyvern Hall.

Support is available from members of the team should this be necessary.

Swimming Pool Access

Access to the main pool during the enhancement works will be via the yellow double doors adjacent to the flume pit.

Customers requiring assistance to access the pool can do so by taking the lift to the ground floor and accessing pool side via the access ramp that runs alongside the group exercise studio and accessing the shallow beached area or pool hoist from there.

A pool chair is available in the pool hall to assist disabled swimmers into the Main Pool, via the beach area.

The main Pool and teaching pool have a ramp entry point. Access cannot be gained to the Main Pool from the Teaching Pool.

The pool hoist is not available for use in the Teaching Pool. The Teaching Pool does not have ramp access; shallow steps lead into the pool. Lifeguards will provide assistance to individuals who wish to use the Teaching Pool when necessary. A minimum of two lifeguards will assist the individual to get in and out of the pool.

All lifeguards will be trained in the use of the pool hoist and manual handling training will also cover assisting individuals into and out of the training pool.