



High Suffolk Children's Centre
Gracechurch Street
Debenham
IP14 6BL

01728 862900

02.05.2013

Dear Sacha

As a Children's Centre we are writing to offer our support with regards to the Community Swimming Pool.

In Mid Suffolk, the current % of children in reception who are obese is 7.2%. Despite this being lower than the Suffolk and National figures, it is rising. We have seen an increase since 2006/7 where the rate was 6.1%. High Suffolk Children's Centre is dedicated to work with families, providing them with positive opportunities to ensure that all children receive the best start in life.

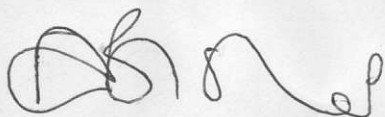
At our sister centre, based at Eye, we are currently offering families a Free Family Swim at their nearest pool, which last year saw 152 adults and 145 children enjoy this provision. It was our most successful activity in engaging fathers. Despite this success only 4% of families accessing this were from the Debenham reach area and we believe this is due to rural isolation and poor transport links.

We are committed to being able to offer families opportunities to have fun, play safely and lead healthy lifestyles. We would be keen to not only use the pool and signpost families, but we would look to duplicate the service we offer in Starbroke and fund a weekly session to allow families, in particular those vulnerable groups to access this provision for free.

Swimming supports a child's physical, personal, social, communication and language development. For our more vulnerable children and families it provides opportunities to build confidence, self esteem and learn a new skill. It offers them time as a family, a new experience that many take for granted and can positively impact them both physically and emotionally. Most importantly, it can be a way for vulnerable families to engage in the community.

This is an exciting opportunity for the families of Debenham and surrounding villages and as a team we are all committed to support your campaign. Please feel free to contact me should you need any further support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fran Bishop', with a stylized, cursive script.

Fran Bishop

Children's Centre Manager
High Suffolk Children's Centres
07917084836