

Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Disability Leadership Group Meeting
20th January 2026 at 8pm

Present: Peter Winter (PW)	Disability Swimming Manager
Helen Stephens (HS)	East Region Director
Ann Byrne (AB)	Suffolk Representative
Anthony Moore (TM)	Norfolk Representative
Louise Hughes (LH)	Hertfordshire Representative
Gergely Kokas (GK)	Cambridgeshire Representative
Phil Pelling (PP)	Bedfordshire Representative

Also present: James Salmon (JSa), Regional Manager

26/01 Apologies

26/01.1 No apologies were received.

26/02 Declarations of conflict of interest

26/02.1 None declared.

26/03 Previous minutes

26/03.1 The minutes of the meeting on 18th November 2025 were circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed.

26/04 Matters arising

26/04.1 No matters arising.

26/05 Athlete recognition

26/05.1 Norfolk

AB advised that William Ellard (Norwich Swan and currently training at Manchester Aquatics Centre) competed at the Swim England Winter Short-Course Nationals in December 2025.

William achieved multiple world records during the competition, in 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 400m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke and 100m Butterfly.

Other Norfolk swimmers at the Winter Nationals were Jude Gunner (Norwich Swan), Lena Crisp (Norwich Swan) and Samuel Black (City of Norwich).

- 26/05.2 Hertfordshire
LH reported no confirmed record-breaking performances from Hertfordshire swimmers but advised that Louise Fiddes may have competed at the Winter Nationals.
- 26/05.3 Suffolk
AB reported that Corey Hare (Teamipswich) was the only Suffolk swimmer who competed at the Winter Nationals.
- 26/05.4 Bedfordshire
PP reported no specific athlete recognition updates at this time.
- 26/05.5 Cambridgeshire
GK advised that the county is currently rebuilding its disability programme, so he was unable to confirm individual athlete performances at regional or national level.
- 26/05.6 Essex
No athlete recognition reported.
- 26/05.7 AB reported that there were 66 para-swimmers in total at the Swim England Winter Nationals (34 female and 32 male). Swimmers from the East Region included William Ellard (Norfolk), Corey Hare (Suffolk), Ida Corcoran (Bedfordshire) and Elizabeth Gray (Essex).

26/07 County reports

- 26/07.1 Cambridgeshire
GK reported that Cambridgeshire is undergoing restructuring following changes in county roles. Paula Durrant has stepped down from the disability role.

Corey Dakin (City of Cambridge Swimming Club) is expected to join the Disability Leadership Group as Cambridgeshire's representative once onboarding is completed.

GK reported that Cambridgeshire County Championships currently have only three disability entries, and work is underway to identify and re-engage para-swimmers within the county.
- 26/07.2 Norfolk
AM confirmed that the Norfolk Swimability Meet is scheduled for 4th July 2026 and that the pool is booked.
- 26/07.3 Hertfordshire
LH reported an increase in para-swimmer entries at the Hertfordshire County Championships. This was welcomed as a positive development.
- 26/07.4 Bedfordshire
PP reported that the Disability Secretary role in Bedfordshire is currently vacant. PP is covering in the interim.

It was noted that para-swimmers are expected to participate in the Bedfordshire County Championships, with a separate medal system in place based on disability points. This has been approved by the County Executive.

26/07.5 Suffolk

AB confirmed that Corey Hare is the only para-swimmer entered into the Suffolk County Championships to date.

AB confirmed that the Suffolk Swimability Meet will take place on Saturday 11th April 2026 at Lowestoft. Entry forms are being distributed to clubs, with sponsorship confirmed.

26/07.6 Essex

HS reported that 12 para-swimmers have entered the Essex County Championships.

Action: PW asked county representatives to send Swimability and county event information to Emma Winter (EW) for circulation via the regional mailing list.

26/08 **2026 Budget and plan**

26/08.1 PW confirmed that the 2026 plan and budget have been approved.

26/08.2 PW advised that a potential budget variation may be required due to Swim England confirming only a £500 contribution towards classification costs at the Regional Para Meet, which does not fully cover venue and facility hire.

PW confirmed that further information is awaited from Swim England, after which the Group will be updated.

26/09 **Regional training sessions**

26/09.1 PW proposed Saturday 7th March 2026 for the next regional training session. The Perse School, Cambridge, was initially approached as a venue but there was no response. Newmarket is now being pursued as an alternative because of its central location and ease of access.

26/09.2 The session will be led by Louise King, with other county coaches encouraged to attend with swimmers.

PW outlined the structure of sessions, with approximately two hours of land-based training and two hours of pool-based training, typically attracting 15–20 swimmers.

PW highlighted the importance of these sessions for both swimmer development and parental support, particularly in relation to the classification process.

26/09.3 PP and GK asked for any correspondence to be sent to them as the county secretary until a representative is appointed.

Action: PW/EW to circulate confirmed venue, date and details once finalised.

26/10 Para-Swimming Championships 2026

- 26/10.1 PW confirmed that the Regional Para Meet will take place at Newmarket on the weekend of 26th–27th September 2026.
- Classification will take place on Saturday 26th September and on the morning of Sunday 27th September. Attendance will be invite-only via Aquatics GB for swimmers on classification or review lists.
- 26/10.2 PW proposed allowing swimmers with an Exception Certificate to compete for separate medals, based solely on times, rather than classification points, to improve financial viability and participation.
- 26/10.3 The Group agreed unanimously to allow swimmers with Exception Certificates to compete for separate medals, based on time-only rankings.

Action: PW to amend the event conditions accordingly and circulate updated documentation.

26/11 Any other business

- 26/11.1 No additional items were raised.

26/12 Confidential items

- 26/12.1 None raised.

26/13 Next meeting

- 26/13.1 The next meeting will take place on 28th April 2026 at 8.00pm
- 26/13.2 Further meetings scheduled for:
- 1st September 2026 (date adjusted)
 - 17th November 2026