



**Swim England East Region**  
**Minutes of the Disability Leadership Group Meeting**  
**28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 8pm**

<b>Present:</b> Peter Winter (PW)	Disability Swimming Manager
Helen Stephens (HS)	East Region Director
Ann Byrne (AB)	Suffolk Representative
Cory Dakin (CD)	Cambridgeshire Representative
Louise Hughes (LH)	Hertfordshire Representative
Anthony Moore (TM)	Norfolk Representative
Chris Pagan (CP)	Essex Representative
Phil Pelling (PP)	Bedfordshire Representative

Also present: James Salmon (JSa), Regional Manager

**26/14 Apologies**

26/14.1 Apologies were received from Lisa Richbell (LR) (Bedfordshire). Phil Pelling (PP) attended as her substitute.

**26/15 Declarations of conflict of interest**

26/15.1 No declarations of conflict of interest were made.

**26/16 Previous minutes**

26/16.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2026 were circulated in advance and were agreed as an accurate record.

**26/17 Matters arising**

26/17.1 There were no matters arising, other than those covered on the agenda.

**26/18 Athlete recognition**

26/18.1 Essex

CP reported that several Essex swimmers competed at the recent Aquatics GB Swimming Championships, with Rowan Brennan representing Essex and reaching finals.



26/18.2 **Norfolk**

Nothing to report

26/18.3 **Suffolk**

AB reported that Corey Hare competed at both the Aquatics GB Swimming Championships and the recent regional swimming championships, achieving medals at the regional meet. Corey remains Suffolk's only classified para-swimmer currently competing at this level.

26/18.4 **Bedfordshire**

PP reported that Bedfordshire swimmers competed at the Swim England East Region Swimming Championships, including Florence Richbell and Ida Corcoran. Continued progress was noted in classification and engagement.

26/18.5 **Hertfordshire**

LH advised that Grace Harvey competed at the Aquatics GB Swimming Championships. Imogen Brown (Potters Bar) competed at regional level.

26/18.6 **Cambridgeshire**

CD reported that four Cambridgeshire swimmers competed at the recent regional swimming championships, with notable performances including:

- Julian Aldred – Silver (50m backstroke)
- Anton Klyaznik – Gold (50m backstroke)

**26/19 County reports**

26/19.1 **Essex**

CP confirmed that the Essex Swimability Meet will take place on 5th September 2026.

**Action:** CP to provide event details to Emma Winter (EW) for regional circulation

26/19.2 **Norfolk**

AM reported no new county developments. The Norfolk Swimability Meet will be held on 4th July 2026, with entry information already sent to EW.

26/19.3 **Bedfordshire**

PP confirmed that LR has been appointed as Bedfordshire Disability Secretary.

Para-swimmers were successfully incorporated into the Bedfordshire County Swimming Championships using points-based results. This worked well.

26/19.4 **Hertfordshire**

LH reported no additional updates during this period.

26/19.5 **Suffolk**

AB reported that the Suffolk Swimability Meet attracted lower entries (38 swimmers from five clubs), largely due to school holidays and calendar positioning. Despite this, the event was positive and well supported by volunteers.

No date has yet been set for 2027.



26/19.6 **Cambridgeshire**

CD reported on a recent county development camp, which included a para-section and provided valuable long-course experience. Communication across the county was identified as an area for improvement, to ensure wider awareness and participation.

**26/20 2026 Budget and plan**

26/20.1 PW confirmed that the disability plan and budget remain on track for 2026.

26/20.2 The recent regional development day at Mildenhall attracted 11–12 swimmers and broadly broke even because of reasonable facility costs.

PW advised that it is too early to project full-year outcomes, with the Regional Para Meet in September remaining the primary income-generating activity.

**26/21 Regional training sessions**

26/21.1 The next regional training session will take place on 7th June 2026 at Grange Paddocks, 12.30pm–4pm.

26/21.2 The session will focus on starts, turns and finishes, particularly supporting swimmers preparing for junior and Next Generation national competitions.

26/21.3 LH offered access to backstroke ledges if required. PW advised these may be sourced through the regional equipment store.

**26/22 Para-Swimming Championships 2026**

26/22.1 PW confirmed that the Regional Para Meet will take place on Sunday 27th September 2026 at Newmarket.

Classification will be delivered by Aquatics GB, led by Sue Purchase.

26/22.2 Warm-up will commence at 3.30pm, with racing from 4pm.

Volunteer coordination will be led by HS, and David Metcalf will act as Lead Technical Director.

26/22.3 A full risk assessment has been circulated. Members were invited to raise any queries directly with PW.

No questions were raised.

**26/23 Any other business**

26/23.1 AB queried the junior para meet scheduled for June. PW confirmed that this is expected to take place in Coventry.

26/23.2 PW advised that there is currently no national para-swimming lead within Swim England, following staffing changes. Regional work continues regardless, with strong county support acknowledged.

**26/24 Confidential items**

26/24.1 No confidential items were raised.



**26/25**                      **Next meeting**

26/25.1    The next meeting will take place on 1st September 2026 at 8pm.

26/25.2    Further meetings are scheduled for:

- 17th November 2026

DRAFT