



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

Present:	Peter Winter (PW)	Disability Swimming Manager
	Helen Stephens (HS)	Swim England 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
	Lisa Richbell (LR)	Bedfordshire Representative

26/26 Apologies

- 26/26.1 Apologies were received from James Salmon (JSa), Regional Manager, who was on annual leave.

26/27 Declarations of conflict of interest

- 26/27.1 No declarations of conflict of interest were made.

26/28 Previous minutes

- 26/28.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2026 were circulated in advance and were agreed as an accurate record, with no objections or queries raised.

26/29 Matters arising

- 26/29.1 There were no matters arising, other than those covered on the agenda.

26/30 Athlete recognition

26/30.1 Essex

No individual athlete performances were reported under this item.

26/30.2 Norfolk

AM reported that Norfolk swimmers performed strongly at the Summer Championships, with Sam recording a number of first-place finishes. TM also highlighted Jude Gunner's outstanding performance in Berlin, where he won ten medals - nine gold and one bronze.



- 26/30.3 **Suffolk**
AB reported on Suffolk swimmers' performances at recent regional and national competitions, including the Junior Para Championships and the Summer Nationals.
- 26/30.4 **Bedfordshire**
LR reported on Bedfordshire swimmers' success at the Junior Para Championships and the Summer Nationals.
- 26/30.5 **Hertfordshire**
LH reported that Hertfordshire swimmers had competed at the Regional Open Water Championships.
- 26/30.6 **Cambridgeshire**
CD had no individual athlete performances to report.
- 26/31 County reports**
- 26/31.1 **Essex**
CP and HS reported on the second Essex Swimability Gala, which attracted 51 participants from a number of clubs. The event was praised for giving swimmers a positive, first competition experience and for building their confidence.
- 26/31.2 **Norfolk**
TM reported that the Norfolk Swimability Gala, held in July, saw increased participation with 45 swimmers, including 21 from Colchester Phoenix. TM advised that plans are in place to hold a further event next July, subject to approval.
- 26/31.3 **Suffolk**
AB reported that the Suffolk Swimability Meet is scheduled for 10th April 2027. Concerns were raised regarding the timing of the event, given the potential for it to clash with school holidays and other competing events.
- 26/31.4 **Bedfordshire**
No county update was given.
- 26/31.5 **Hertfordshire**
LH advised that she intends to adjust the date of Hitchin SC's club championships next year to avoid clashing with the Regional Para Meet, once the date is confirmed.
Action: LH to adjust the date of Hitchin SC's club championships for next year to avoid clashing with the Regional Para Meet, once the date is confirmed
- 26/31.6 **Cambridgeshire**
No county update was given.
- 26/32 Plan and budget 2026**
- 26/32.1 PW reported that overall meet attendance across the year was slightly down on the previous year. Entries from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk remained strong, while Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire recorded a lower turnout.



- 26/32.2 PW confirmed that talent sessions continue to perform well and that development days are successfully serving their purpose as an initial step towards classification.
- 26/32.3 PW presented the regional budget and current entry numbers for the Regional Para Meet, noting a slight dip in entries compared with the previous year but overall positive engagement.

26/33 Regional training sessions

- 26/33.1 The Group discussed venue options for the 2026 Regional Training Camp. Bishop's Stortford, Newhall, Oundle School, Haberdashers' Boys School and Abbey Pool were all suggested, with accessibility, pool facilities, land-training space, parking and room sizes identified as key considerations.
- 26/33.2 PW asked the Group for their preference, noting that a central location would help minimise travel time, particularly for Norfolk-based swimmers. No firm decision was reached at the meeting.

Action: PW to consider and book a venue for the 2026 Regional Training Camp, aiming for a central location, and to announce the decision at the Regional Para Meet

26/34 Regional Para Meet 2026

- 26/34.1 PW confirmed that current entries for the Regional Para Meet stand at 29, the same as last year.
- 26/34.2 PW explained that although entries are relatively low, officials were essential to enable the meet to proceed.

Action: CP, LR, LH, TM, AB, CD to contact clubs and officials in their counties to recruit officials for the Regional Para Meet

- 26/34.3 HS offered to assist with officiating and marshalling, and CP also offered his support. Volunteer requirements were discussed, including door management, announcing and marshalling. PW confirmed that he would handle announcing, with Emma Winter managing results in the technical room.

Action: HS to contact Corey Hare's mother to request her assistance as a volunteer at the Regional Para Meet

- 26/34.4 It was confirmed that there are no parking restrictions at Newmarket Leisure Centre during the event weekend.
- 26/34.5 Risk assessment: No further risk assessment matters were raised under this item.
- 26/34.6 There was suggestion of a return to in-person Continuing Professional Development (CPD) official's training on the same day as the Para Meet.

Action: PW to discuss with David Metcalf the possibility of reinstating the format of holding CPD training for officials in the morning of the Para Meet.

26/35 Any other business

26/35.1 Terms of Reference

The Group briefly reviewed the Terms of Reference. HS raised a number of concerns regarding the current document and agreed to identify her specific points for further consideration.



Action: HS to send her list of concerns regarding the Terms of Reference to PW, highlighting the specific issues

Action: PW to raise HS's concerns about the Terms of Reference with JSa upon his return from annual leave.

26/35.2 The Group discussed planning for forthcoming events, taking into account events already in the calendar. PW agreed to confirm the date of next year's event once available.

26/35.3 **Action:** PW to explore the possibility of developing an application to automate the checking of para-swimming records

26/36 Confidential items

26/36.1 No confidential items were raised.

26/37 Next meeting

26/37.1 The next meeting will take place on 17th November 2026 at 8pm.