

Children's Services
Executive Director: Jo Fisher



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Councillor Kirsty Taylor-Moran
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My ref: TR/JD/30086
Your ref:
Date: 31 May 2024

Dear Cllr Taylor-Moran,

Re: Safeguarding Query

Thank you for your email dated 20 May 2024 and for your interest in the impact that the potential changes to the Lido may have on schools local to Ware.

There are many documents that schools can reference that provide guidance around offsite visits to swimming pools including those published by the NSPCC, The Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel and The Association for Physical Education; in addition, Hertfordshire County Council provide an Offsite Visit Risk Assessment Form specifically for swimming pools, and a Primary School Pool Checklist.

The overarching aspect is that schools are accountable for the safeguarding of their children and need to be satisfied that they have mitigated against any risk.

It would be ideal for schools to have sole use of a pool with single sex changing facilities however this is unfortunately often not possible. It does not preclude a school from using these facilities, but robust assessment needs to take place to satisfy the school that arrangements are effective in keeping children safe.

This may take the form of the school having a bespoke arrangement with a provider for when they are in attendance and/or for there to be appropriate staff monitoring the changing process.

In terms of LADO and Child Protection there is no specific guidance in addition to the above.

It would be beneficial if Ware Town Council contacted the Headteachers from the schools that currently use the pool to outline the proposal and gather feedback as to the potential consequences of a move to mixed-sex facilities. Schools would appreciate the

engagement and could hopefully be reassured that the Lido will remain a local facility available to them.

Hopefully this has answered your questions however if you would like any additional information, please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tania Rawle', followed by a small black dot.

Tania Rawle
Interim Director, Education