

Pure Gym abandons stock market plans

Humphrey Cobbold, CEO of Pure Gym, has confirmed to *Leisure Opportunities* that the company has “withdrawn” plans for an initial public offering (IPO), saying: “Given the challenging IPO market conditions, the board has decided not to proceed with a listing, despite the strong interest shown by potential investors.”

According to investor sources, Pure may not have created a strong enough story for investors around why it needed the funds and what it planned to do with them, with its relatively inexperienced management team and Cobbold's lack of operating experience in the health club sector also being contributory factors.

In addition, there are questions about whether the IPO came too soon after Pure Gym's acquisition of rival health club chain LA Fitness and before Cobbold had



Pure Gym CEO Humphrey Cobbold confirmed the company would not float its stock

made a clear enough statement about the progress of that integration.

City investors have long memories and there are still those who remember the 90s when health club operators overextended themselves. While there is no suggestion that

Pure is in this position, many investors lack knowledge of the sector and simply see a company which has made a series of big deals.

However, a source close to Pure Gym highlighted the “general poor conditions” for an IPO in the light of Britain leaving the European Union, the rhetoric around ‘Bad Brexit’ and the value of the pound plummeting.

Pure Gym's budget rival the Gym Group completed its own IPO last year, and initially experienced strong trading. But since mid-September its shares

fell from 226p to 188p in mid-October, with the dip partially influencing the decision of Pure Gym.

“The company had two options: drop the price of the shares, or walk away from the deal,” said the source.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=x9h6U_O

Cities asked to bid for FA's Parklife funding

The Football Association (FA) is in talks to bring its ambitious grassroots Parklife project to Southampton – and will encourage bids from other cities from this month.

Kelly Simmons, the FA's director of participation and development, said there had been discussions about partnering with the city's council to build football hubs as part of its strategy to revolutionise grassroots football facilities in England. If talks are successful, Southampton will be one of four set to benefit.

Continued on back cover

‘Super-efficient’ centre gets approval

A proposal for a “super-efficient” multi-million pound leisure centre with health and spa facilities has been approved by Exeter City Council.

The facility – which is expected to cost in the region of £26.5m – will be developed on the site of the Devon town's bus station and funded entirely by the local authority.

St Sidwell's Point Leisure Complex will include an eight-lane main pool, a learner pool with moveable floors, a 150-station gym, a soft play area, a cafe and a creche.

The centre will also be the UK's first to be built to super-efficient low energy Passivhaus standard, saving “70 per cent on fuel costs”.



The centre has been proposed for the land currently occupied by Exeter bus station

Work on the centre is expected to begin in spring 2017, with an opening set for 2018.

Phil Bialyk, lead councillor for the redevelopment, said: “There is still a lot of work to do, but we are a step closer to creating these exciting developments, which will be a major asset to Exeter city centre.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=H8j3y_O

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SPORT

Scottish Rugby 'may sell clubs'

Glasgow Warriors and Edinburgh Rugby may be sold by rugby's governing body in Scotland to raise money for the grassroots game.

Scottish Rugby will ask member clubs across the country whether they approve of a move to sell off the nation's two professional clubs as the body attempts to "insulate core domestic rugby and national team activities from the rising costs of the professional game".

"It has been well documented that we face an increasing challenge to compete in this rising market," said Scottish Rugby chief executive Mark Dodson. "At this year's AGM I outlined that change would be necessary and I want us to be proactive and early to market in order to attract potential investors."

"We have developed two strong clubs in Glasgow and Edinburgh that still have plenty of scope to grow and be more successful, which can only be attractive to outside investment."

Members will be asked to give Scottish Rugby a mandate for the sales during a



Edinburgh Rugby may be sold to raise money for the grassroots game

special general meeting on 28 October. Any proposed investment would need approval from the Scottish Rugby Board.

Rob Flockhart, Scottish Rugby Union president, added: "It is increasingly clear that we must look at all options in order to attract more external funding."

The Board, Council and I now all seek the support of our members to proceed to help us look to secure further investment in our great sport."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=f7V2A_O

Birmingham joins race for 2026

Venues such as Villa Park, the Alexander Stadium and the NEC Arena could host Commonwealth Games events, if Birmingham wins its bid to organise the 2026 competition.

The 'second city' has officially entered the race to host the Games in a decade's time, and will now commission a feasibility study to work out the details for staging the event.

Birmingham City Council, the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP, the West Midlands Combined Authority and Midlands Engine have supported the bid.

It is estimated that the Commonwealth Games would generate "in excess of £390m in gross value added" for the economy of Birmingham and its surrounding area.

John Clancy, leader of Birmingham City Council, said Birmingham was a "fantastic sporting city", and the bid team is likely to put the vast number of venues it homes at the forefront of any bid.



Council leader Clancy: Games would deliver positive economic impact

Facilities in the local area include Edgbaston Cricket Ground, the Genting Arena, the Barclaycard Arena and St Andrew's Football Club. Closeby Coventry also has the Ricoh Arena, which has hosted rugby, football, netball, darts and weightlifting.

Clancy added: "In addition to the huge economic impact of the Games, these events showcase the very best of our city and wider region to the world."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=m4Y5K_O

Physical activity pilot launches

Sport England and Public Health England (PHE) have partnered up to fund a new pilot aimed at upskilling healthcare professionals to embed physical activity in clinical care.

The Education Cascade Model has been developed to help physiotherapists, midwives and mental health nurses encourage their patients use activity as a preventative measure.

Nicola Blackwood, a minister at the Department of Health (DoH), made the announcement during a session in Westminster on 11 October.

The Sport England and PHE partnership began last month and will continue until February 2017. According to a PHE spokeswoman the pair are “working together to develop a wider programme”.

She also revealed that the government would be launching a pilot for “21 clinical nurse champions projects” which emphasise the importance of physical activity for practicing



Physios, nurses and mental health professionals will be trained

nurses. The pilot will be delivered alongside the Burdett Trust for Nursing.

However, Blackwood stressed the initiatives would not be compulsory, and it was “up to local areas to make sure they make the most of the programmes”.

The move reinforces the notion of several government departments working together to stress the benefits of physical activity during a time of increased childhood obesity.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=P6P6F_O

Legal challenge for Cornwall stadium

Plans to build a £10m Stadium for Cornwall have been thrown into doubt following a legal challenge made by a London-based property firm.

Helical, which has plans to develop a retail park near Truro, has called for a judicial review into the building of a rival retail park which is being created to fund the stadium's construction.

Planning permission for the development – which is being proposed by Inox Group and Henry Boot – had been granted by Cornwall Council in July.

Rob Saltmarsh, managing director of Inox Group, said he was “deeply disappointed” by the turn of events, highlighting the “importance of the stadium for many thousands of people in Cornwall”.

“We are confident that our retail application has been soundly determined by the council and that the council will robustly defend its decision-making process,” he added.

Inox and Henry Boot are working with Truro and Penwith College and the Cornish Pirates rugby team on the stadium, which is scheduled to be based at Threemilestone.



The stadium was approved by Cornwall Council in July

The stadium has been designed to be a multi-use sports and education facility that will be the permanent home for the Pirates.

“The Stadium for Cornwall has massive public support and is pivotal to our future plans for the club and our ambitions to bring Premiership rugby to Cornwall,” said Cornish Pirates interim chief executive Peter Child.

“At a time when we’ve attracted new investment, it would disappoint the whole community to see the stadium delayed.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=5Y3U5_O

London Sport develops funding identification tool

Sport organisations in London can search through millions of pounds of grant opportunities via a funding identification tool developed by London Sport.

The London Sport Funding Search Tool is the “first digital platform” that focuses on growing the physical activity and sport sector in the capital by providing a “direct route” to investment.

At launch, the platform has more than 350 individual grants listed which are valued at around £17m. The launch of the tool follows a six-week “soft-launch” period.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=V4T4J_O



The first ever day/night Test Match was staged in Adelaide in November last year (2015)

Edgbaston to host first day/night Test Match

Edgbaston in Birmingham has been selected by cricket's governing body to host the first ever day/night Test Match in England.

The match against the West Indies – which will be the 50th Test Match to take place at the ground – will take place from 17-21 August 2017, and is being billed as an opportunity to attract “different fans and families to Test cricket”.

“It’s a great opportunity to attract more fans to the game and see how staging Test cricket in the afternoon and evening fits with working patterns and modern lifestyles, while maintaining the deep tradition of Test match cricket,” said the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Tom Harrison.

Played between the hours of 2pm and 9pm, the matches will use a pink ball.

Neil Snowball, CEO of Warwickshire County Cricket Club, said he was “thrilled” that Edgbaston had been chosen as the first venue to host the new format.

The first ever day/night Test Match was contested by Australia and New Zealand in Adelaide in November 2015.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=t8J5B_O

Surge in member numbers boosts SLT's turnover

An increase in the number of people attending classes and gyms resulted in Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) boosting its 2015-16 turnover by £3.3m.

Across SLT's nine sport and leisure centres the number of visits grew by 26,085 to 1.83m, with the number of people visiting fitness classes and the gym mushrooming by 19 per cent and three per cent respectively. Overall membership surged by 21 per cent year-on-year by 8,500 to almost 50,000. Its free swimming initiative for children and over-60s has seen the number of youngster and OAPs that visit the centres increase by 29 per cent and 47 per cent respectively. Details: http://lei.sr?a=g4y3t_O



Lutalo Muhammad opened the facility

'Ninja obstacle course' opens in London

London's first permanent 'ninja run' obstacle course has been established in a new leisure centre in Waltham Forest as part of the council's £30m upgrade plan.

The course at the Waltham Forest Feel Good Centre includes vertical and horizontal climbing walls, hang tough and a battle beam. However, the ninja course is not the only new attraction that has been built within the centre.

It also boasts 10m climbing walls, a mini trampoline park, a multi-challenge sport and adventure zone, a 25m eight-lane swimming pool, a four-court sports hall, dance studio, a gym, diving board and an artificial pitch.

GLL will operate the centre, which was the final part of the investment programme which has seen a number of sport and leisure facilities in the local area upgraded.

The site was opened by Olympic silver medallist Lutalo Muhammad.

Mark Sesnan, managing director of GLL, said the facilities were "fit for any future Olympian and for family fun".

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y9Q7x_O

Nuffield invests in emotional fitness

Nuffield Health has acquired cognitive behavioural therapy business CBT Services, enabling the not-for-profit healthcare organisation to add an emotional wellbeing provision to its growing list of health services.

Launching initially to businesses for employee support, the emotional wellbeing service – comprising cognitive behavioural therapy, counselling and general psychological therapies – will then roll out to Nuffield Health's 112 consumer fitness and wellbeing gyms and 31 hospitals over the next few months.

The services – designed to provide coping skills and support for stress, anxiety and depression – will be available to all, regardless of a gym membership.

Nuffield Health CEO Steve Gray said that, in the fitness sector, "few people do emotional wellbeing very well", adding: "You need to bring fitness, nutrition and emotional wellbeing together to create a bespoke response for the individual. That sort of personalised, holistic approach is, I believe, the biggest opportunity in the health and fitness market at the moment."

And the acquisition is a particularly timely one, coming off the back of last week's



Nuffield CEO Steve Gray wants a holistic approach to wellness

Commons Public Accounts Committee report which found that, while one in four adults has a mental illness at some point in their lives, just a quarter get the help they need.

Speaking to *Leisure Opportunities* about the decision to acquire CBT Services, Gray said: "This acquisition provides a missing piece of the jigsaw in our health and wellbeing proposition. Emotional health is just as important as our physical health – it's a vital service. We hope to normalise and remove the stigma associated with asking for emotional health support and enable people to feel good."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=G9U2x_O

OFT helps gym users save £37m

Around 750,000 gym users have saved £37m as a consequence of interventions by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

Investigations by the arms-length body have led to almost 30 gyms reviewing their terms and conditions, thus benefitting several members. In 2011, the OFT urged all gyms to check their contract terms were "fair and lawful" after the High Court ordered Ashbourne Management Services not to use "unfair terms" following complaints by customers they had signed long contracts they could not cancel.

Two years later, six other gym operators agreed to give members better cancellation rights and make their contracts "easier to understand". A further 20 were asked to review their terms subsequently.

The OFT's interventions have been followed by a number of chains launching pay-as-you-go packages. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has since taken on some of the OFT's consumer enforcement powers, and evaluated its work.



Around 750,000 people saved money due to altered terms

"Our evaluation has shown that the approach taken by the OFT has secured lasting change in the health and fitness sector, brought benefits to consumers and can be applied to future work by the CMA," said CMA senior director John Kirkpatrick.

"These consumer benefits were worth around £37m over three years in the gyms investigated by the OFT alone, and we think there are wider benefits to gym users."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=V3t7x_O



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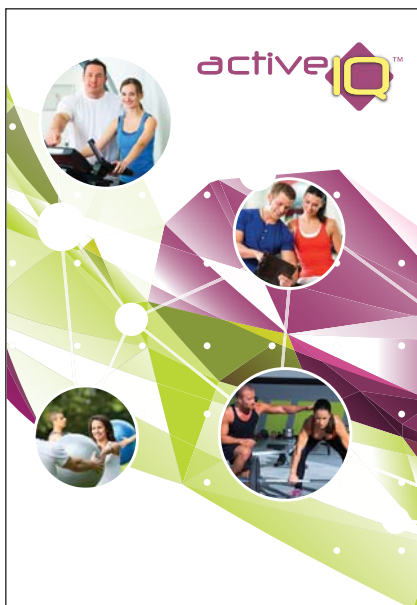
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HEALTH & FITNESS

Oxygen teams up with Bear Grylls

Trampoline chain Oxygen Freejumping and intrepid explorer Bear Grylls have teamed up to launch a "high intensity" indoor fitness programme.

Bear Grylls Fitness – which combines studio work with obstacle course fitness – will feature in Oxygen's Manchester site, before rolling out at other chains. The programme will feature a "multi-storey" assault course aimed at challenging users to practice moves and techniques used by Grylls in the wild.

Grylls said the training was "functional and very dynamic", adding: "This is the way that I build fitness for all my adventures, and Oxygen Freejumping provides the perfect venue and culture to train hard in this style."

David Stalker, Oxygen Freejumping's chief executive, said the partnership demonstrated that Oxygen Freejumping sites are about 'more than just trampolining'.



Grylls said the high intensity course was based on his own fitness routine

"This obstacle course concept is the logical step and I can't wait for all of our freejumpers to get fit and try to overcome the same type of obstacles that Bear regularly encounters in the wild," he added.

Oxygen Freejumping has five trading parks and a further four under construction. The company is aiming to open 30 parks by 2018. Details: http://lei.sr?a=H2P6h_O

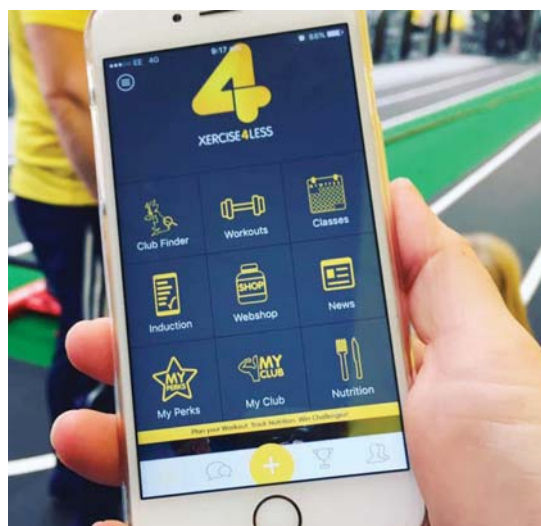
Xercise4Less launches member app

UK-based budget health club operator Xercise4Less has partnered with app provider Virtuagym to create a fitness, nutrition and support-based platform for its members.

The app, which was officially established on 30 September, will allow the chain's 285,000 members to plan their activity with a "customised calendar", downloadable workout programmes with 3D demos and access to all class timetables. It will also allow members to communicate with their personal trainers, with PTs able to load client workout plans.

Jon Wright, chief executive of Xercise4Less, said the app was "easily the most complete and best solution on the market".

"The solution is perfectly customisable to our business model," he added. "Automated coaching for members, combined with upsell opportunity of all-digital products or personal training. We are eager to make



The app will help members monitor their nutrition and gym habits

our cooperation a success, showing other gym businesses in the UK that innovation and a mobile app with Virtuagym does not cost money, but generates additional revenues via integrated business models," said Virtuagym chief executive Hugo Braam. Details: http://lei.sr?a=f4k3R_O

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Take stock of the situation



JO GOODMAN

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So you have the salon you've always wanted, with fantastic staff and a strong client base. What could possibly stop you going from strength to strength? You've cracked it. Well, perhaps not. It's time to take stock, literally.

Even the most well-established salons and spas can run into trouble if they fail to grasp the basics of stock control. Maintaining optimum stock levels is vital, but how do you decide what products to buy in and, most importantly, in what quantity? Failure to address these questions properly leads to costly waste, cashflow problems and lost sales. But these and other pitfalls can be avoided with an effective stock-control system.

That may sound a daunting prospect to some, but most of the measures boil down to little more than common sense.

Investment in stock-control computer software is obviously helpful, but the same principles apply whether you use old-fashioned pen and paper or the latest IT. Even the most sophisticated software is only as good as the data you enter.

It should come as no surprise, therefore, that your starting point should be the creation of simple and accurate stock lists, setting aside time to update them regularly. But there are ways to make this easier. For instance, you can save much time and effort if you store and display stock in the same order it appears on your stock lists.

Many businesses perform stock checks at the end of each month to help with their accounts, but keep your finger on the pulse with intermittent checks, particularly before placing orders.

It may be quicker to count only unopened treatment stock, but inclusion of partially used stock can add up to significant sums for larger businesses.

But whatever approach you decide to take, you won't go far wrong keeping it simple and consistent.

SPA & WELLNESS

Gainsborough spa expands offering

The Gainsborough Bath Spa in Bath, England has launched a new range of spa day packages, opening its natural thermal water spa to guests outside the hotel for the first time.

Packages are available from Monday to Friday and range in price from £140 for one person to £280 for two.

The spa days feature a spa treatment; access to the health club; a two-course spa lunch; a bath house circuit that features three natural, mineral-rich pools of varying temperatures; a probiotic welcome drink and post-treatment herbal tea; a personalised aromatherapy blending session; aromatic steam room, ice room, infrared and traditional saunas.

"As the only hotel with access to Bath's unique, naturally warm waters, we are delighted to be able to extend a welcome to all guests," said Peter Rollins, marketing and communications director for The Gainsborough Bath Spa.



The Spa Village is described as a modern-day Roman Bath circuit

"We receive many, many enquiries about access, so it's wonderful to be in a position to provide this now to everyone."

The Spa Village is described as a modern-day Roman Bath circuit, in which guests can wander from one room to another and take the waters in luxury, much as the Romans and Georgians did in Bath.

Spa consultant Sylvia Sepielli worked on the new spa at Gainsborough, which is the first UK hotel to be owned and operated by YTL Hotels and which opened last year. Details: http://lei.sr?a=j4w8w_O

GSN names sustainability winners

The Green Spa Network (GSN) named the winners in its Sustainability Awards during the 2016 Congress Gala Banquet held at the Devil's Thumb Ranch in Colorado.

Actor Robert Redford was awarded the GSN Visionary Award.

The Spa at Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, New York, was given the Sustainable Spa Award for a Resort or Destination Spa, and Naturopathica Chelsea in New York was awarded for Day Spa.

Natural Body Spa and Shop – a company operating spas in California, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington – won the award for Multi-Location Spa, and Pharmaca was presented with the Sustainable Retailer award.

The Sustainable Skincare Award went to Shankara, and The Allison Inn & Spa in Newburg, Oregon, won the Green Building Award. Meadowood Napa Valley in St. Helena, California, took home the honours for Culinary Experience.

"This year's GSN Awards are a true celebration of individuals, companies and



Naturopathica Chelsea was awarded the award for Day Spa

destinations who dedicate their time and talents towards creating more sustainable and responsible practices for the spa and wellness industry," said GSN board vice president Bonnie Baker.

Additionally, the Tara Grodjesk Dedicated Contributor Award, which recognises volunteers who contribute to the growth and success of the Green Spa Network, was given to Bill Barczy, Jim Chenevey, Cici Coffee, Kelley Filbin, and Rianna Riego.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=3b8C9_O

St Pierre Park Hotel invests in spa

The St Pierre Park Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort on the Channel Island of Guernsey has redeveloped its spa and fitness centre to the tune of £2.5m.

Owned and operated by Hand Picked Hotels – which bought the property last year – the spa includes a new indoor pool and wet area with mood LED lighting, an infinity wall, and floor-to-ceiling windows.

A two-tier volcanic stone sauna with views through privacy glass across the lake and grounds has been created poolside, and the spa also features a steam room, two shell-shaped experience shower cocoons and an outdoor deck with a hot tub and room for yoga sessions, as well as al fresco dining.

The health club – the first in the UK and Channel Islands to offer Matrix In-Trinity board classes – has added a cardio gym with a stretch area overlooking the lake and a virtual active workout option with a range of locations to choose from.



The spa includes a new indoor pool and wet area with mood lighting

The club and spa cater to hotel guests as well as Guernsey locals, with a popular health club membership model, but to keep the spa and health club as two separate experiences, separate changing areas are offered for each.

“I think the demand now is for far more of an experience,” Julia Hands, CEO of Hand Picked Hotels, said. “I think that you have far more of a retreat, not a spa experience that’s intermingled with the energy of a health club.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=K7W5k_O

YTL expands portfolio in the UK

Malaysian conglomerate YTL Hotels, which owns the newly opened Gainsborough Bath Spa – the only hotel in the UK with direct access to natural thermal waters – is expanding its luxury portfolio with the acquisition of three properties in Edinburgh, Berkshire and London.

Dato Mark Yeoh, executive director of YTL Hotels, said the company will be undertaking “exciting enhancements” at each property.

“Our core philosophy of not just building properties, but crafting inspired experiences for guests, will guide us

in our enhancement and development plans for these newly acquired properties,” he said.

The three new hotels include The Glasshouse Hotel in Edinburgh, a part of Marriott’s Autograph collection that was once the Lady Glenorchy Church, built in the mid-19th century.

Monkey Island, a centuries-old retreat in Bray-on-Thames, Berkshire, is nestled on an island in the River Thames surrounded by gardens and accessible only by a footbridge or boat. The hotel will be redesigned by New



YTL owns the Gainsborough Bath Spa, which opened last year

York-based Champalimaud Design, who also worked on The Gainsborough.

The Academy Hotel comprises a collection of five restored Georgian townhouses combined into one hotel located in London’s West End.

These latest acquisitions mark YTL Hotel’s global expansion to a total of 29 properties across Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, China, France, Spain and the UK.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=k7J8M>



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Rollercoasters – unlikely cure for kidney stones?

New research has found an unconventional solution to clearing painful kidney stones – riding Disney World's Big Thunder Mountain Railroad.

The study, published in the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association, found that a ride on the rollercoaster at the Florida theme park had astounding results for those suffering with kidney stones, with multiple accounts of the ride curing them of their ailment.

The study, published 26 September, said that several patients had reported passing kidney stones after riding Thunder Mountain, with one man noted as having passed a stone after three consecutive rides.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=n6w8N_O



The designation of 'Major Partner Museum' will be dropped as they join the national portfolio

ACE unveils expanded funding structure

Arts Council England (ACE) has announced "ambitious" investment plans for 2018-2022, totaling £622m a year for its three main funding streams, with the organisation also planning to change its finance structure to allow more organisations to benefit from its funding.

Covering its National Portfolio, Grants for Arts and Culture, and strategic funds, a record £409m will be designated to the National Portfolio, £10m to the Grants for Arts and Culture fund and £125m to the strategic fund. The expanded fund aims to significantly boost regional funding outside of London, with £37m earmarked to increasing the proportion of the NPO budget spent outside London by four percentage points, as well as the integration of museums and libraries activity, plans to bring in new, small and diverse organisations into the ACE portfolio.

ACE also said that in a shakeup to its funding policies that the designation of "Major Partner Museum" (MPM) will be dropped as these organisation join the national portfolio.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=a3j7P_O

'Engage or become obsolete'

Linda Conlon, CEO of Newcastle's International Centre for Life, has said science centres need to engage with more diverse audiences, particularly refugee and migrant groups.

Echoing some of the sentiments of Elizabeth Rasekoala, who said during her keynote speech at this year's Ecsite conference that 'Eurocentric' science centres were hindering education in STEM for black youths, Conlon said that science centres need to engage with different groups or risk becoming "obsolete".

Speaking on the UK's recent decision to leave the European Union, Conlon said that although economics was undoubtedly an important factor in the Brexit vote, the most disruptive element will not be the free movement of goods, but that of people.

"Migration of people in and out of countries has produced an emotional backlash against immigration, refugees and indeed the entire idea of globalisation. Starkly put, economic issues affect the head, identity issues hit the heart," said Conlon, speaking at the Association of Science and Technology Centres (ASTC) annual conference in Tampa, Florida.

"Even before the Brexit vote, many of us were aware of the current refugee crisis in Europe which has provoked a palette of



Linda Conlon spoke at the recent ASTC conference

reactions in public opinion, ranging from unconditional solidarity to pure xenophobia."

Conlon went on to highlight work already being done to address the issue, including German lessons offered to migrants at the Deutsches Museum in Munich; dialogues started with immigrant groups by the Explora science centre in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and the Immigration Museum in São Paulo, which is working with overseas immigrants in the state.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=G4j3D_O

Merlin reports boost in revenue

Merlin Entertainments enjoyed an 11 per cent revenue increase over the past year despite last year's Smiler crash and the "incredibly difficult" trading conditions of its midway attractions following a string of terrorist attacks in Europe.

Merlin has benefitted from a sharp decline in the pound – a result of Brexit – with growth at actual exchange rates 10.6 per cent higher compared to 2015. Looking at a constant currency basis, the figures were slightly less impressive, with a 3.7 per cent rise on the previous year's figures.

The company – which last month was fined £5m for breaching health and safety regulations in relation to the Smiler incident – said that although visitor numbers at Alton Towers were still "some way off" its 2014 figures, trading at the theme park and resort was improving with hopes of a full recovery by 2018. In addition to the £5m fine handed out, Merlin's earnings took an estimated £40m hit as a result of the crash last year.



The Alton Towers Smiler crash has cost Merlin more than £40m

Merlin's midway attractions, which include the likes of Madame Tussauds, Dungeons and the London Eye – saw a 0.4 per cent decrease in revenues, which Merlin chief executive Nick Varney attributed to recent terrorist attacks, adding that bookings "fell across Europe".

"We remain pleased with progress in Legoland Parks and Resort Theme Parks and expect continued growth in these two operating groups, reflecting strong product momentum," said a company statement.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=r9Z5G_O

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TOURISM

Heritage worth £21.7bn to tourism

England's heritage sector has been valued at £21.7bn, generating £18.4bn in tourism expenditure annually for the UK.

Heritage and the Economy 2016 – an annual study by Historic England – collates data from a number of studies on heritage and economic activity. The study also introduces the Heritage Economic Impact Indicator Workbook (HEII) – an Excel-based interactive workbook that estimates national and regional economic impact of the heritage sector.

According to the study, in 2013, heritage directly generated £10bn (US\$13bn, €11.6bn) in gross value added (GVA) in England. Using the HEII, estimated heritage contribution to GVA increases to £21.7bn.

As the value of the heritage sector in England has increased, so has the workforce. According to the HEII, the number of direct heritage jobs in England has increased from 164,100 in 2013 to



Heritage-related visits generate £18.4bn in expenditure in England

328,700 in 2016. Following GVA trends, the south also supports a larger heritage workforce, with 66,300 employed in London compared to 18,700 in the North East.

In total, domestic and international heritage-related visits generate £18.4bn in expenditure in England, contributing £11bn in GDP and supporting 285,700 jobs.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=qgE7t_O

Devolution could help local tourism

Handing responsibilities for tourism to local governments could help English tourism soar, according to new research.

The devolution process – the statutory delegation of powers from the central government to a regional level – would give local governments the power to make tourism legislation relevant to each area and region.

According to the study by the Local Government Association (LGA), domestic tourism is predicted to grow 2.9 per cent every year over the next decade, which is more than the overall economy (2.5 per cent). Therefore, says the LGA, devolution could help local areas become thriving tourism hotspots for both the growing staycation market and for overseas visitors.

Latest industry figures suggest that there were 103 million overnight trips in England in 2015, an 11 per cent increase on 2014.

“The LGA is urging the Government to keep up the momentum on agreeing devolution proposals to further boost tourism-led growth,” said the study. “The



Handing responsibility to local governments could help tourism

recently announced *Tourism Action Plan* is a step in the right direction, but much more could be done to put the levers of growth in the hands of local leaders.”

The LGA also suggests that by putting a local focus on improving transport, infrastructure, skills and business support, combined authorities and other similar arrangements can help to maximise tourist revenue, while also enhancing the distinctiveness of destinations.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=E6K5F_O

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The 274 acre park formed the centerpiece for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

London Olympic Park wins landscape prize

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London has won the Rosa Barba International Landscape Prize; a leading award for landscape architects.

The park's designers, Hargreaves Associates, were named the winners of the €15,000 accolade, which is organised by the Architects' Association of Catalonia and the Catalan University as part of the ninth Barcelona International Biennial of Landscape Architecture.

Three hundred projects were considered for the prize, with the judges whittling submissions down to a final shortlist of 10. The runners-up included Sydney's Goods Line park by Sacha Coles and Aspect Studio, and the urban reforestation of Bangkok by Tawatchai Kobkaikit and Wannapin Boontarika.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=y5z6Z_O

HLF grants £5m to restore historic Victorian baths

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has granted £5m to restore and redevelop the surviving Victorian public baths in Ireland.

The project, which in total will cost £16.8m, will not only restore the original features of the Templemore Baths in east Belfast, but will transform the partially dilapidated building into a commercially sustainable business, providing the local community with a new 25m (82ft) pool and state-of-the-art gym.

The investment is part of wider £105m (US\$129m, €116m) plans by Belfast City Council to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community by creating welcoming, quality facilities across the city with a wider regeneration impact.

Templemore Baths was the last in a series of public baths opened throughout Belfast in the late 19th century.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y7t3t_O

Big names line up for Old Oak

Some of the biggest names in design, architecture and construction are in the running to masterplan the UK's largest regeneration programme at Old Oak Common in West London.

Seven shortlisted teams have been issued with invitations to tender for the project, with Arup, Grimshaw, AECOM, Allies & Morrison and Hawkins Brown among the team leaders in contention.

More than 70 architecture, design, engineering, communication and landscaping firms have contributed to the competing design teams – with BIG, Wilkinson Eyre, Gustafson Porter, Agence Ter and Mott MacDonald just some of the studios involved.

At the present time, Old Oak consists of 140 hectares of industrial and railway land.

However, the opening of a super-hub interchange train station for the High Speed 2 and Elizabeth rail networks by 2026 will kick start the regeneration of the area. An entire new town will be created, with a



More than 70 property firms are still in contention for the project

number of culture, sport and leisure facilities being planned for community use.

The Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC), which is overseeing the project, has called for the competing design teams to present a "compelling, design-led spatial strategy alongside a clear delivery strategy to fully unlock this opportunity."

OPDC hopes to appoint the masterplanning team early next year to commence work by February 2017.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=5Q2q4_O

Newport Street Gallery wins Stirling

Newport Street Gallery – Caruso St John Architects' conversion of almost an entire street of listed industrial buildings in south London into a free public gallery for artist Damien Hirst's private art collection – has won the 2016 RIBA Stirling Prize for the UK's best new building.

The presentation of the prestigious trophy took place at a special ceremony on 6 October at the headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in central London.

Newport Street Gallery is formed from three Victorian industrial buildings, which were formerly carpentry and scenery painting workshops for West End theatres. These were remodelled by Caruso St John and flanked at either end by entirely new pale red buildings, including one with a spiky saw-tooth roof.

The ground and upper floors within the five buildings are continuous, with new spiral staircases on their side, to create flexible



The Newport Street Gallery is this year's Stirling Prize winner

spaces able to accommodate everything from individual works to larger shows.

"This gallery has realised my ambition to create an unobtrusive and beautiful series of buildings that work perfectly as a space to exhibit great art," said Hirst, commenting on the Stirling win. "I wanted to stay true to the history and roots of the building and Caruso St John understood that from the start."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=T2G9b_O

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BOROUGH OF POOLE

Concession Opportunity - Market Sounding

Miniature Railway, Poole Park Parkstone, Poole, BH15 2SE

Borough of Poole is inviting proposals that seek to modernise and develop the miniature railway concession, supplying a service and facilities that supplement activity provision within the park.

Situated in Poole Park with an estimated 0.5 million visitors every year. Other attractions include two cafes – one with indoor ice rink and soft play area, boating lake, tennis courts, putting-green and a series of outdoor gym facilities. The Park is well visited by local people and has a significant foot-fall especially in the summer months and at school holiday time.

The Council welcomes proposals from suitably experienced and competent providers that integrate a value-for-money outcome for Borough of Poole in terms of investment and revenue, in addition to applying a willingness to develop the services for the potential local and day visitor markets.

We encourage engagement from appropriate parties that consider how the concession can be managed to maximise usage whilst sympathetically improving the site. The Council is seeking to evaluate the market's capacity and capability to deliver this service and appetite of the market to compete for these options.

To receive a market sounding information pack, please contact the **Recreation Development Team** on 01202 261333 or recreation.development@poole.gov.uk



Dr Theresa Donaldson
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www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

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The Council wishes to conduct a market sounding exercise to explore commercial options in relation to a gym facility at Lough Moss Leisure Centre, Carryduff

Full details can be viewed on the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council website www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk under Current Tender opportunities

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Self improvement should never stop



TARA DILLON
is chief executive
of CIMSPA

The benefits of continuing professional development (CPD) for our sector simply can't be overstated.

Moving away from a 'qualify once, practice forever' habit to accepting the principles of continuous improvement as adopted by other similar chartered institutes is the surest way of building confidence and credibility in sport, leisure, fitness and physical activity professionals. It ensures that our sector produces individuals equipped with the skills to perform, it helps improve staff morale and creates a motivated workforce.

Most CIMSPA members are required to carry out a defined amount of CPD per year, at a level appropriate for their category. To meet this need, we are offering a record number of CPD workshops throughout the UK to help employees meet the challenges they face in their day to day work.

Workshops range from health and safety 'must-haves' for sport, fitness and activity businesses to measuring and managing customer experience to providing the fundamental skills required for effective leadership in the sector.

Starting from as little as £25 and in some cases entirely free, the courses ensure that all professionals, from frontline staff to middle and senior management, have access to continuous learning in their own region or nation.

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TRAINING

Transformers scheme extended

The Museums Association (MA) is bringing back its Transformers programme – a training scheme designed to help people change the way they work for the better – for the third consecutive year.

Aimed at mid-career museum professionals, the scheme is designed to support individual change, and to encourage healthier, more resilient, diverse and adaptable organisations.

Thanks to support from sector bodies in England, Wales, Scotland and now Northern Ireland, the programme will be available across the UK for the first time.

The programme is made up of three separate strands – the first of which looks at a radical change project over 12 months, focusing on new ideas, innovation and problem solving.

The second strand focuses on partnership working and "change management", while the third provides museum professionals personal development programmes.

In partnership with the MA, 166 places funded by Arts Council England (ACE) are available in England, while seven places – funded by Museums Galleries Scotland – are available in Scotland. National Museums Northern Ireland is offering five places in



The scheme is designed to support individual change

Northern Ireland and 13 places, funded by the Welsh Museums Federation, are available for Welsh organisations.

"We are absolutely delighted that the Transformers programme will be offering opportunities to museum professionals across all four nations in 2017," said Jess Turtle, Transformers project coordinator.

"We want to ensure that mid-career professionals across the UK are empowered to make a change for themselves."

Applications to the Transformers 2016 programme will open in November.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=d6z6b_O

Lifetime opens flagship academy

Training provider Lifetime Training has opened its flagship beauty academy near Manchester, England.

Lifetime provides a Beauty Therapy Diploma with a range of options, with online learning as well as practical sessions and assessments, so that students can carry out their education at their own pace.

"At Lifetime, we have a vision to create an innovative, flexible learning experience for our students," said Mike Jones, commercial director.

"We are using technology to bring this to fruition, putting the quality of the learner's educational experience at the forefront of all our course development.

"By using flexible learning, we can open up beauty therapy training to people who cannot commit to full or traditional part-time training, those in full employment, or who struggle with childcare, without compromising the quality of education provided."

The diploma includes traditional modules on facial skincare, manicure and pedicure, waxing and makeup, as well as body and Indian head



Lifetime provides a Beauty Therapy Diploma with a range of options, with online learning as well as practical sessions

massage, stone therapy massage, aromatherapy, self-tanning and microdermabrasion.

These training modules are presented alongside business-based skills, such as working in a beauty-related business, reception duties, health and safety practices, and value-added modules on gel manicures and intimate waxing.

Level 3 Beauty Therapy Diplomas are being offered initially, with a range of accredited qualifications for therapists to follow.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=E7q8b_O



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This fixed term post will be based at West Kirby Concourse and will be expected to lead, manage and develop a small team across all Leisure services setting up sales and retention processes across a number of facilities. You must therefore have experience of recruiting and managing staff, working to tight deadlines and financial targets, training and development of staff, producing accurate management and financial reports in a timely manner and be able to identify sales leads and opportunities.

If you would like further information, please contact **Simon Bellamy, Leisure Operations Manager 0151 929 7846** for an informal discussion. Applications returnable by **Friday 28 October 2016**. Please quote reference number: **SR/01/034**

Application packs for the above posts are available from Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources, Resources Team, Cheshire Lines Building, Canning Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 1ND (0151 606 2040); email resources@wirral.gov.uk or apply online at www.wirral.gov.uk

For more details on the following jobs
visit www.leisureopportunities.co.uk
or to advertise call +44 (0)1462 431385



Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Sales Representative

Company: Sports and Play Ltd
Location: Midlands, UK

Lifeguards

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group
Location: Various locations, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Soho Gyms
Location: London, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Hart, Fleet, UK

Tutor/Assesor/IQA

Company: The Fitness Collective
Location: Uk and Middle East based.

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Marketing Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Worcester, UK

Membership Advisor

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Cardiff, UK

Female Fitness Managers

Company: SportsJobs4Women
Location: Arabia

Business Dev Manager

Company: HaB International Ltd
Location: South / South East, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Leicestershire, UK

Personal Trainer Career Package

Company: Amac Training Ltd
Location: London area, UK

Front of House Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Spelthorne, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: Benfield School
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Lifeguard/s

Company: Stowe School
Location: Stowe, Buckingham, UK

Active Leisure Apprenticeships

Company: Babcock International Group
Location: Nationwide, UK

Duty Manager - The Dome

Company: Culture and Leisure Trust
Location: Doncaster, UK

Fitness Manager

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Brackley

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Kent, UK

Fitness Apprentice

Company: énergie group
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Trainee Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: North Solihull, UK

Level 2 Yoga Instructor

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stowmarket, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: North Solihull, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Brackley, UK

Swim Lesson Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Zumba Instructor

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stowmarket, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Swim Teacher

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Gym Instructor

Company: Ilkley Lawn Tennis Club
Location: Ilkley, West Yorkshire, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: Rush Fitness
Location: Various locations, UK

School Games Officer

Company: Camden Council
Location: Camden, London, UK

Recreation Assistant Lifeguard

Company: GLL
Location: Various locations, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Rotherham, UK

Health and Fitness Manager

Company: Bay Leisure Limited
Location: Swansea, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: Enable Leisure and Culture
Location: London, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Southam, UK

Lifeguards

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bedworth, UK

Tennis Development Officer

Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Bristol, UK

Team leaders (Wet)

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Cotswold, UK

Membership Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Stockwell, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Newport, Wales, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Ipswich Borough Council
Location: Ipswich, UK

Gym Consultant / Sales

Company: GYMetrix Ltd
Location: London / South

Lifeguard

Company: Ipswich Borough Council
Location: Ipswich, UK

Health and Fitness Supervisor

Company: University of Essex
Location: Colchester, UK

Sports Supervisor

Company: University of Essex
Location: Colchester, UK

Class Instructor

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Barnstaple, UK

Sport & Physical Activity Officer

Company: Enable Leisure and Culture
Location: London, UK

Contract Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Thetford, UK

Swim Instructor

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Barnstaple, UK

Customer Service Manager

Company: Quest NBS
Location: Hemel Hempstead

Commercial Director

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Central London, UK

Sports Centre Duty Officer

Company: Latymer Upper School
Location: Hammersmith, London, UK

General Manager

Company: énergie group
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Sports Assistants

Company: Enable Leisure and Culture
Location: London, UK

Retention Manager

Company: Enable Leisure and Culture
Location: London, UK

Sway Dance Teacher

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Maidenhead, UK

Marketing Account Executive

Company: Everybody Sport
Location: Cheshire, UK

Gym/Fitness Instructor

Company: Castle Point Borough Council
Location: Essex, UK

Club Manager

Company: Letchworth Sports Club
Location: Letchworth Garden City

Assistant Manager

Company: Derby City Council
Location: Derby Arena, UK

Fitness Motivator Apprentice

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sunbury-on-Thames, UK

Assistant Duty Managers

Company: University of Leeds
Location: Leeds, UK

Snr Sports Facilities Assistant

Company: New Hall School
Location: Chelmsford, UK

Assistant Pool Manager

Company: SnowDome
Location: Tamworth, UK

Fitness Advisor (Holiday Cover)

Company: énergie group
Location: Dundee, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Watford, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Yately, UK

Gym Supervisor

Company: LSE Students' Union
Location: London

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Leisure Centre Manager

Company: Volair Limited
Location: Knowsley, UK

Trainee Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford-on-Avon, UK

Leisure Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: Belfast, UK

General Manager

Company: énergie group
Location: Long Eaton, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stowmarket, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Massage Therapist

Company: Equinox
Location: London, UK

Aqua Fit Instructor

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Studley Leisure Centre, UK

Shop Associate

Company: Equinox
Location: London, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Hounslow, UK

General Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol, UK

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Bracknell (maternity cover)

General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Southfields, UK

Lifeguards

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Southam, UK

Area Sales Manager

Company: TechnoSport
Location: Nationwide, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Sidcup, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: énergie group
Location: Dundee, UK

Sports Development Officer

Company: Rugby Borough Council
Location: Rugby, UK

Club Promoter

Company: énergie group
Location: Forest Hill, UK

Crew Member

Company: énergie group
Location: Bethnal Green, UK

Football Coaches

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Washington & Sunderland, UK

Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group
Location: Old Street, London, UK

Court Manager

Company: Jump Arena
Location: Leeds, UK

Attention Personal Trainers

Company: Club Training
Location: Nationwide Opportunities

Front of House Receptionist

Company: Charing Cross Sports Club
Location: London, UK

National Franchise Manager

Company: truGym
Location: Nationwide, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Reading, UK

Senior Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: Tower Hamlets, London, UK

Sales Consultant

Company: énergie group
Location: Forest Hill, UK

Activity Marketing Manager

Company: Castle Point Borough Council
Location: Essex, UK

Recreation Assistants

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Front of House Team Leader

Company: 360 Play
Location: Stevenage, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group
Location: Bethnal Green, UK

Telesales Professional

Company: eGym
Location: London, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Waterloo, UK

Leisure Centre Attendants

Company: Warwick District Council
Location: Warwickshire, UK

Fitness class instructors

Company: The American School London
Location: London, UK

Personal trainers

Company: The American School London
Location: London, UK

Recreation Assistants

Company: The American School London
Location: London, UK

Lifeguards

Company: The American School London
Location: London, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: Warwick District Council
Location: Warwickshire, UK

Golf Operations Manager

Company: Glendale Golf
Location: Richmond, UK

Golf Services Assistant

Company: Glendale Golf
Location: Sheen, UK

Area Sales Manager

Company: eGym
Location: Nationwide (UK travel), UK

Duty Manager

Company: Soll Leisure
Location: Didcot, UK

Operations Manager

Company: Lee on the Solent Tennis
Location: Hampshire, UK

Sports Club Team Leader

Company: Harrow School
Location: Middlesex, UK

Impact Sales Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: National role, UK

General Manager

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Hartlepool, Wakefield UK

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

General Managers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Fitness Instructor Certificate

Company: Lifetime
Location: Nationwide, UK

Front of House Assistant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Nationwide

Personal Trainers

Company: Matt Roberts
Location: London, UK, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Nationwide

GP Exercise Referral

Company: Focus Training
Location: Nationwide, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Nutfield Priory Hotel & Spa
Location: Redhill, UK

Spa Therapists

Company: Hand Picked Hotels
Location: Various, UK

Spa Therapists

Company: Hand Picked Hotels
Location: Jersey / Guernsey, Jersey

Spa Therapists

Company: Wood Hall Hotel and Spa
Location: West Yorkshire, UK

Spa Manager

Company: Pachtuv Palace Hotel
Location: Prague, Czech Republic

Beauty Therapists

Company: Auchranne Hotel & Spa Resort
Location: Isle of Arran, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Celtic Manor Resort
Location: Newport, UK

Beauty Therapist

Company: Wyboston Lakes
Location: Wyboston, Bedfordshire, UK

Spa Supervisor

Company: University of Derby
Location: Buxton, UK

Beauty Therapists

Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Bedfordshire, UK

Beauty Therapists

Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Elveden Forest, Suffolk, UK

Spa Therapist

Company: Lifehouse Spa and Hotel
Location: Essex, UK

Head of Group Resourcing

Company: Merlin Entertainments Grp
Location: Poole, Dorset, UK

Duty Manager

Company: The Eye Brand
Location: Orlando, United States

Commercial Development

Project Manager

Company: Zoological Society of London
Location: London, UK

Signage Artworker Assistant

Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: Windsor, UK

Master Model Builder

Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: New York, United States

Duty Manager

Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: Toronto!, Canada

WZ Lead Presenter

Company: Zoological Society of London

- Zoo Live Team

Company: Zoological Society of London

Visitor Attractions

Account Director

Company: Engie
Location: London, UK

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ukactive and LGA launch 'food plan'

In an attempt to counter Britain's obesity epidemic, ukactive will work alongside the Local Government Association (LGA) to help leisure centres offer a healthier range of snacks.

The not-for-profit body and mouthpiece for local councils have been tasked by the Department of Health to find innovative ways of promoting nutritious foods rather than the chocolate bars and cans of pop commonly found in local authority leisure centre vending machines. A key focus for the project will be to make sure leisure operator vending machines are "broadly compliant" with the Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services, which carry requirements such as making sure portions of fruit are less expensive than sugary desserts.

The standards also frown upon products that are high in salt, saturated fat and sugar – a notion that dovetails with a greater promotion of fruit, vegetables, fibre and oily fish.

Over the next few months, ukactive will work with its member base of local authority



Steve Ward, ukactive executive director, said it was 'vital' that leisure centres were fully set up to facilitate healthy and active lifestyles

operators to see what they can implement. The move follows the publication of the government's *Childhood Obesity: A Plan for Action*, which emphasised the importance of physical activity, although it was widely derided for its "watered down" approach to.

Steven Ward, executive director at ukactive, said it was "vital" that leisure centres were "fully set up to facilitate healthy lifestyles" by combining accessible physical activity and low-cost nutritional food options.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Zze3H_O

Cities asked to bid for Parklife funding

Continued from front cover

Two centres in Sheffield have already been established as part of a pilot programme, while centres in Liverpool and London are expected to come to fruition, with two sites in the latter – Rectory Park and Gunnersbury – being earmarked.

Local authorities who want to invest in the facilities will be able to bid for funding from next month. The FA, Premier League and Sport England are ploughing in around £50m (US\$64.9m, €58.1m) each for the nationwide strategy, and councils are expected to fund 40 per cent of any project.

"It does take a significant cash investment," said Simmons. "You're looking at around £16m per city of money from us and partner money, but in the end the local authority and the city will have better facilities for the long-term."

Parklife facilities are designed to be "self-sustaining centres", and will offer affiliated



The FA's Kelly Simmons is driving the initiative

football clubs and casual users a number of 3G pitches for a number of disciplines, including five-a-side and 11-a-side. Some will include gyms and other recreational facilities.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=e3X7t_O

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