# leisureopportunities

13 DEC 2013 - 14 JAN 2014 ISSUE 622

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# Lack of policy for children's activity levels 'neglect'

A recently published editorial in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* (BJSM) has highlighted a lack of UK policy towards increasing children's exercise levels, with one of its co-authors suggesting such failings amount to the government's own definition of "child neglect".

The journal claims there has been a lack of action towards increasing levels of exercise among younger people, despite access to growing evidence which shows both the immediate and long-term benefits of regular exercise during our younger years.

The article also argues that

both current and former governments have failed to implement a successful national policy, with leadership and strategy "totally absent".

It calls for more co-operation between governments and educational bodies to help



The BJSM has called for more co-operation between governments and educational bodies

decide on a national policy to cater for children from all social backgrounds.

"There has been a persistent failure from this government and former governments to meet children's basic physical and psychological needs," said co-author Dr Richard Weiler, a consultant in sport and exercise medicine at University College London, as well as a club doctor at West Ham United.

Speaking as part of the Today programme on BBC Radio 4, Weiler also suggested that the lack of policy "meets the government's own definition of child neglect", while stating that funds allocated to encourage children's activity were "pitiful".

Weiler's comments on the show have ignited a debate surrounding the role that both the state and

children's parents play in encouraging activity levels, with Weiler arguing that schools have an important role to play as "children don't get to choose who their parents are". Continued on back cover

# English Heritage to get extra £5m funding

Culture Secretary Maria Miller has announced a further £5m funding – on top of £8om already committed – to create a new charity arm of English Heritage to manage England's historic sites.

The new charitable status will give English Heritage the freedom to raise funds, with a target of finding a further £83m from third parties. This will allow it to undertake a huge programme of conservation for the properties and works to improve the visitor experience. Details: http://lei.sr?a=P8N5X

# Sheffield centre key in NCSEM project

A Sheffield sports venue is to play a key role in a major investment project aimed at making the city one of the most active in the UK.

New facilities at the Concord Sports Centre in Shiregreen will see it become one of three initial developments for the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine (NCSEM), a government-funded Olympic Legacy project.

The £700,000 development is under the NCSEM banner, which brings communities, clinical services, sport and exercise specialists and health professionals together to examine how exercise can be used in the treatment of a range of chronic health conditions.

At Concord - which is funded by Sheffield City



Concord Sports Centre will be home to the NCSEM

Council and operated by Sheffield International Venues (SIV) – this will mean a new facility in the existing north changing block, which will house a range of consultation and treatment rooms. There will also be a new dedicated entrance and reception area. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=p9R3H* 

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Annual subscription rates are UK £31, Europe £41, Rest of world £62, students UK £16.

Leisure Opportunities is published fortnightly by The Leisure Media Company Limited, Portmill House, Portmill Lane, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1DJ, UK and is distributed in the USA by SPP, 75 Aberdeen Road, Emigsville, PA 17318-0437. Periodicals postage paid @ Manchester, PA POSTMASTER Send US address changes to Leisure Opportunities, c/o PO Box 437,Emigsville, PA 17318-0437. The views expressed in print are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the publisher The Leisure Media Company Limited. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recorded or otherwise without the prior permission of the copyright holder. Printed by Warners Midland plc. ©The Leisure Media Company Limited 2013 ISSN 0952/8210

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#### SPORT

# Plans revealed for 'stronger' Team GB

UK Sport and the English Institute of Sport (EIS) have announced number of changes to the UK's high performance system as part of a "shared vision" for building a stronger, more sustainable Team GB.

The changes include a new, evidence-based Mission 2016 tracking tool to support the on-going development of all World Class Performance Programmes, as well as a renewed focus on centralising data and analysis on athletes and World Class Programmes' performance pathways.



Meanwhile the EIS, UK Sport's science, medicine and technology arm, has made a number of refinements to its working relationships with sports to maximise the impact of the services it offers and provide athletes and coaches with access to world leading expertise.



Team GB enjoyed record-breaking success at the London 2012 Olympics

One of the key measures includes the creation of a Performance Solutions team to manage relationships with sports and work with them to develop a Performance Partnership Plan.

This will allow EIS to deliver a holistic range of science, medicine, technology and research services designed to increase the probability of success by optimising training programmes, maximising performances in competition and reducing the number of training days lost to injury. Details: http://lei.sr?a=U5S3E

# **Newcastle United unveil training centre plans**

Newcastle United Football Club has revealed plans for a new training complex as part of a multi-million pound redevelopment of the club's existing 35-acre training ground.

Work on the redevelopment will get underway in May 2015 and should be complete in early 2016.

While existing training pitches and a modern indoor training hall will be retained, the club's current training centre building will be demolished and replaced by a much larger structure.

This will accommodate new changing, training, rehabilitation, medical, leisure and catering facilities, plus a 20m swimming pool, a hydrotherapy and fitness pool and specialist equipment to aid injury prevention and recovery.

The project will also create a fitness centre double the size of the club's existing gym, as well as administrative space, a presentation



The new training centre is expected to be operational by early 2016

suite for match analysis and a new media suite.

Newcastle's director of football Joe Kinnear said: "Our current training ground has served the club very well but the new complex will give us all of the ingredients that we need to continue maintaining and enhancing the performance of elite footballers."

A formal planning application is to be submitted shortly, ahead of the commencement of a tender process. Details: http://lei.sr?a=A3P4h

# **Sports funding for schools secured**

Chancellor George Osborne confirmed in his autumn statement on 5 December that the government has extended its £150m per year funding for school sport by one year until 2016.

The government first announced the £150m annual fund in March this year, with an initial pledge to secure further funding until 2015.

There will be no change to the way the money is distributed, so the amount of money each school will receive will continue to be calculated by the number of

primary-aged pupils and schools will have to spend the money they get on improving their provision of PE and sport.

Schools are free to spend the money on hiring specialist PE teachers or qualified sports coaches to work alongside primary teachers as well as paying for professional development opportunities in PE/sport.

Tim Lamb, CEO of the Sport and Recreation Alliance, said: "This is good news for school



The £150m a year in funding has been extended by the government

sport. It gives schools and sport providers a clearer focus, sense of stability and incentive to make the pupil premium funding work.

"While this is a step in the right direction, however, what we really need is a longer term, say, ten-year strategy for school sport - which would allow schools to deliver quality PE and sport provision regardless of what party is in power or what their priorities at the time might be." *Details: http://lei.sr?a=X3p2h* 

## Notts Sport secures Cricket Ireland deal

UK-based synthetic turf supplier Notts Sport has been appointed official supplier to Cricket Ireland.

The partnership will see Notts Sport become the recommended supplier for all future Cricket Ireland-funded pitch projects.

Dennis Cousins, head of commercial, Cricket Ireland, said: "Working with Notts Sport will enable us to support clubs and unions by offering access to products and services for cricket grounds around the country."

Shaun Patrick, chair of Notts Sport said: "Cricket Ireland and ourselves are committed to providing top quality facilities to schools, universities and clubs and these facilities will help Cricket Ireland achieve its long-term goals in the sport." Details: http://lei.sr?a=U5S3E



Stechford Cascades is one of nine being replaced

# Birmingham replacing old and outdated sports centres

In an overhaul of Birmingham's leisure facilities, nine centres are being closed down, but six new pools and leisure centres are being developed during the course of the next two years.

The council's leisure services are currently running at £6.8m over budget and the £36m investment in new facilties aims to make the sector more sustainable.

The nine ageing centres earmarked to close are: Newtown Pool, Colmers Leisure Centre, Court Road, Erdington Leisure Centre, Moseley Road Swimming Pool, Northfield Pool, Shard End leisure centre, Stechford Cascades and Tivertoon Pool in Selly Oak.

Most of these will be replaced by new centres on the same sites and all of them, along with four more existing centres, will be handed over to private operators to run.

Only six centres will remain under direct council control and will be underpinned with NHS funding and rebranded as health and wellbeing centres, using fitness to tackle the city's obesity problem. Details: http://lei.sr?a=j4v4g

# **CASC** extension to help grassroots clubs

An extension to the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) relief could bring financial assistance to more than 40,000 grassroots sport clubs in the UK.

The new additions to CASC announced at the end of November include an increase in the amount which can be earned tax free from club bars, cafés and venue hire – and clubs which generate income this way will be able to donate more of their profits back into the sports club tax free.

Clubs will now be able to generate up to £50,000 from trading (increased from £30,000) and £30,000 from rental income (increased from £20,000) from non-members before paying corporation tax.

To encourage local – and larger – donations, corporations and local businesses who donate to sports clubs will be able to offset their donation against their corporation tax bill.



The extension could benefit more than 40,000 grassroots clubs in the UK

To take advantage of these tax reliefs clubs must charge no more than £31 per week in membership fees as well as offering reduced rates for the less well off.

Alex Horne, general secretary of the Football Association, said: "It's great to see the scheme reinvigorated in a way that provides more flexibility for amateur clubs and will allow more clubs to register to become a CASC." Details: http://lei.sr?a=E5k4a

#### **Nuffield Health forms new Wellbeing Division**

Nuffield Health, the UK's largest healthcare charity, has combined its Corporate and Consumer Wellbeing divisions to create The Wellbeing Division.

The primary purpose of the change effective from 1 December - is to create a one-stop integrated wellbeing offer for all its customers, extending physical locations to give national coverage, creating product innovations in clinical and fitness areas.

The charity says its long-term aim is to create a unique not-for-profit health and wellbeing system which challenges the existing NHS and for-profit models. Details: http://lei.sr?a=W8X3C



Outdoor facilities will be joined by indoor classes

#### All year cycling concept introduced at Cyclopark

Cyclopark near Gravesend in Kent has enabled the concept of offering cycling all year round – regardless of either the weather or a visitors' goals or fitness levels - with the introduction of indoor cycling classes.

The new classes, which take place in a dedicated studio twice a day, Monday through to Friday, and once on Sundays, are all conducted to music and will be led by fully qualified and experienced instructors.

The move, using a new fleet of Schwinn indoor cycling bikes, follows the increase during the past year of Cyclopark's Cyclofit programme of indoor classes aimed at giving people the opportunity to exercise all year round.

Externally, the 43-hectare site, brainchild of long-term cycling enthusiast Tony Mack, offers a 330m CycloBMX track; Cyclocircuit, a 2.9km circuit for cycling, skating and running; Cycloterrain, 6km of mountain bike trails; the Cycloskate skateboard, scooter and freestyle BMX arena; and - for visitors below the age of 8 - Cyclokids, a 3,000sq m cyclebased playground with water, sand, climbing frames, percussion music and a sensory garden. Details: http://lei.sr?a=F8V6h

# **New leisure centres for Manchester**

Manchester City Council looks set to follow an 'invest to save rationale' to meet its spending cut targets, by closing three ageing facilities and developing two new ones.

A report has recommended the development of new leisure and library services at Levenshulme and a leisure facility at Hough End. The £18m needed for the developments would be financed mainly from the capital fund, with some money coming from borrowing and capital receipts.

The ongoing cost of the new centres would be much less than the existing ones. Over the projected 30 year lifespan of the facilities, the council will generate a cumulative £29m of revenue saving, in addition to ongoing maintenance savings.

Councillor Rosa Battle, executive member for culture and leisure, said: "These proposed improvements are based on what residents have said they need during consultation. The enhancements will also ensure the long term viability of these centres by increasing their visitor numbers and income. By investing more upfront in them



Beswick Leisure Centre will include a pool and sports research centre

now, we can make sure they are self-sustaining and do not require year on year council subsidy, saving £30m over the life of the two buildings, while significantly improving facilities."

Manchester City Council is also about to celebrate the topping out of a third new leisure centre at Beswick. A joint regeneration project between the council; regeneration company; New East Manchester and Manchester City Football Club, this will include a leisure centre, swimming pool and sports research centre. Details: http://lei.sr?a=M9f6q

# Work starts on £13.5m Blackburn project

Work has officially started on a £13.5m sports and swimming complex in Blackburn town centre, which is being built to replace the area's ageing Waves Water Fun Centre.

The development is part of a partnership between Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackburn College, with Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen Salim Mulla and Blackburn College chairman of governors Phil Watson both present at the site as they broke the ground to signal the start of work on the project.

The new leisure facility will feature a six-lane swimming pool, an 80-station fitness centre, a sport performance lab and a dance studio.

The existing Waves Water Fun Centre will be demolished by the council.

The development underwent a planning permission approval process earlier this year, with hopes of work being completed by 2015.

The scheme, partly-based on Darwen Leisure Centre which runs at half the cost of



The development underwent planning permission approval earlier this year

Waves, aims to reduce the running costs of the existing complex and reduce the subsidy.

Once the 26-year-old Waves building which has been labelled as 'unsustainable' and 'dilapidated' - is demolished the site will be sold for development by the council.

Blackburn with Darwen borough's executive board approved its £8.5m share of the cost in April 2013, with the college providing in excess of £5m. Details: http://lei.sr?a=U7x2B

# **Boddy and Tutt join Xercise4Less**

Yorkshire-based gym chain, Xercise4Less has seen two additions to its board of directors. The new arrivals form part of the brand's continued expansion and follow the recent £5m investment by the Business Growth Fund.

Former Fitness First UK managing director, Peter Boddy, is joining the board as non-executive chairman, working alongside CEO Jon Wright to help him deliver on his stated mission to 'revolutionise the budget gym sector'.

In addition to his tenure at Fitness First, Boddy was CEO of sports nutrition brand

Maximuscle from 2008 to 2011 and saw its successful sale by private equity group, Darwin to GlaxoSmithKline in December 2010.

Also new to the Xercise4Less board is Simon Tutt, taking up the position of finance director having held similar posts at Harvey's Furnishing Group, Dwell Retail and the Elvi Group.

Of the two new appointments, Wright said: "...they are the latest investment in the growth of our business. A growing trend which sees the



CEO Jon Wright (centre), flanked by Peter Boddy (right) and Simon Tutt

more nimble low-cost gyms increasingly taking market share from mid-market operators means this is the time when Xercise4Less can really make its mark. Simon and Peter's involvement is exciting for everyone".

Future plans for Xercise4Less - currently operating 15 sites - will see the opening of a further 100 clubs across the country over the next five years, with agreements signed on 20 sites already. Details: http://lei.sr?a=p9N4t

# Freedom Leisure opens two revamped sites

A £3.1m, eight-month redevelopment of the Freedom Leisure-operated Hailsham Leisure Centre in Sussex has now been completed.

The project, funded by Wealden District Council, has seen the opening of two new exercise studios, including an indoor cycling facility fitted with the forward motion video-enabled Myride+ programme.

In another enhancement, the gym has been enlarged and situated on one level and

features a large functional training area with Pavigym flooring, Jordan Soft Plyometric Boxes, battling ropes, ViPRs and Kettlebells. Its centrepiece is a Queenax Training System.

In addition to the workout areas, the centre now has brand new changing rooms, a new café area and an improved bowling alley.

Elsewhere in Sussex, Crowborough Leisure Centre – also operated by Freedom Leisure – reopened on 6 December following a £3.2m redevelopment project.



Hailsham Leisure Centre now includes a large functional training area

Beyond the installation of a customer service hub, the work saw the pool retiled viewing area redeveloped as well as new poolside changing rooms and a new sauna and steamroom. The gym was also refurbished with additional equipment to include a 20m sprint track and cv kit.

Two new exercise studios have been added and the first floor changing rooms have received a revamp and redecoration. Details: http://lei.sr?a=G7J2J

#### Magherafelt council defends rise in development costs

Magherafelt District Council has responded to criticism in a Local Government Auditor's Report about the leap in costs incurred in the redevelopment of Greenvale Leisure Centre.

Chief auditor Louise Mason said the original contract price of £4.1m had more than doubled to £9.2m due to the council making design changes after construction work had commenced.

A council statement, which compared the cost of the Greenvale redevelopment with work undertaken at several other leisure centres in Northern Ireland. claimed it did represent value for money and that the report was 'flawed'. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=J5K4v* 



The bra will be able to detect the user's EKG levels

#### New bra technology looks at emotional link to overeating

Scientists at Microsoft Research have been exploring the possibility of developing pieces of hardware to try and explore the relationship between overeating and emotional states of mind.

Researchers have developed a piece of kit which sees the use of a bra kitted out with monitors which detect electrocardiograph (EKG) levels close to the heart. Microsoft had also attempted to conduct tests with men's underwear, but found that the sensors would be placed too far away from the heart to be effective.

The study sought to cross reference emotional feelings when overeating with EKG patterns and then send a message to the user's smartphone when similar emotional levels and electrocardiograph levels were detected to help warn of possible overeating.

Though the team of researchers is not yet aware whether or not the alert will actually prevent overeating, they do plan to persist with further research to explore the possibility of creating a device to cope with the challenges posed by everyday use. Details: http://lei.sr?a=X8d9X

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# Sexism affecting men in spa sector

More than one in five people feel that men should not work as beauty therapists, according to a recent study looking at gender perception in certain job roles.

The Attitudes in the Workplace study, which surveyed 2,000 people and was commissioned by WorldPay Zinc, revealed that when asked about which jobs men should not do, beauty therapy came top of the list, with 26 per cent of men and 16 per cent of women agreeing with the statement.

Of the participants, 18 per cent said they wouldn't trust a male beauty therapist and 32 per cent said they were 'suspicious' of men choosing to work as a beautician.

The UK-based study discovered that people are prone to stereotyping men and women based on their gender. Strong opinions exist on which jobs are for men and which are for women, with the belief being that men would be better suited to a position as a plumber or electrician, while women make better nurses, florists and beauty therapists.



A number of people do not trust men working in the beauty industry

Men appear more conservative about men working in the beauty sector, while women appear to be more receptive to the idea of men taking on the role of what is traditionally a female role and vice versa.

"While the study suggests there is still a way to go before we are able to achieve equality in the workplace, attitudes are changing for the better," said Geraldine Wilson, MD of WorldPay Zinc. "While the study shows that some stereotypes are hard to shift, it's great to see these preconceptions being challenged by some people." *Details: http://lei.sr?a=B6t5p* 

# leisure

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# China Fleet Country Club opens new Aqua Spa

The China Fleet Country Club in Saltash, Cornwall has unveiled the addition of its new Aqua Spa, following £500,000worth of renovation works to its on-site water facilities.

The opening now sees China Fleet able to offer guests the use of leading thermal technologies, including a laconium and Finnish sauna.

The spa also features salt and aroma steamrooms too, use of progressive technologies, with its salt steamroom using an injection system to create air

reminiscent to that experienced on tropical beaches.

An ice chute experience, where ice flakes are used to help stimulate circulation, is on offer as well as tropical and cold experience showers, a relaxation area, a tepideriam, foot spas and a spa pool.

The Aqua Spa joins the club's existing Barn Spa, which offers guests the use of six treatment rooms, providing a range of beauty and skincare therapies.



Country Club guests will now have access to leading thermal technology

The country club has a long history, having been originally founded in Hong Kong, to help benefit the serving ratings and other ranks of the Royal Navy.

The China Fleet Trust opened a club on the 180-acre Saltash site in England in 1991, with the Hong Kong club closing in 1992. The trust continues to serve members of the Royal Navy, and their immediate family members while the country club is also open to members of the public. Details: http://lei.sr?a=E4q3A

### Looking back at 2013 for tourism



**KURT JANSON** is policy director of Tourism Alliance

ell, the end of the year is here and, as such, an appropriate time to consider questions as to how the industry has fared this year and to look back at the 2012 Olympics and assess whether they had the impact on tourism growth forecast when London won the bid.

Let's take domestic tourism for a start. Domestically, visitor numbers and spend look like they will end the year pretty much the same as last year. In some ways this is surprising because 2012 was one of the wettest years on record while in 2013 we experienced the best summer in seven years - so you would expect tourism to be up, however, while the UK economy has shown increasing signs that the worst of the recession is over and that the country is returning to growth, this hasn't translated through to people's pay-packets. So with inflation running at just under 3 per cent and wages increasing at less than 1 per cent, the cost of living has increased, which has restricted growth in domestic tourism.

It will be interesting to see the day-visitor figures for 2013 as there is a lot of anecdotal evidence that the pressure on family budgets has seen a significant switch from "staycations" to "daycations" this year.

The inbound tourism side, by contrast, is set to see revenue increase by around 10 per cent in 2013. This will add about £2bn in overseas revenue to the UK economy sufficient to generate around 40,000 new jobs. The success of the Olympics and the accompanying "Britain is GREAT" campaign is certainly a factor. However, so is the return of "normal" visitors who postponed their travel to the UK last year because of the Olympics. And a third factor that has boosted inbound tourism has been the weakness of the pound against other currencies, which has made the UK attractive for cost-conscious travellers.

The growth in inbound tourism is a combination of all these factors - although with the UK economy poised to recover strongly in 2014, one would expect the pound to recover and inbound tourism receipts to grow a lot less strongly in the coming year.

#### **TOURISM**

# UK's 'dream' activities revealed

Buckingham Palace has been revealed as the number one attraction for tourists visiting the UK following a survey of more than 10,000 people conducted by VisitBritain.

Out of 19 countries surveyed, 15 named Buckingham Palace as the "dream" activity to do while in the UK, with viewing London from the Shard or the London Eye coming in second place and visiting Edinburgh Castle coming third on the list.

The desire to visit Chatsworth House and its

expansive gardens was particularly common in markets where TV shows such as Downton Abbey are shown, while the French position 'wildlife spotting in the Scottish Highlands' as their number one activity, with Argentina, Germany and Poland ranking it second and Russia placing it third.

The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, along with VisitBritain's marketing of Britain as a destination with attractive natural scenic beauty, seems to have changed perceptions of Britain's countryside. All countryside-based



Buckingham Palace is the number one destination for overseas tourists

'dream activities' attractions, such as the Lake District, the Scottish Highlands and Snowdonia, were ranked highly by respondents. Post-Games research also suggests that 75 per cent of tourists agreed the UK has plenty of interesting places to visit outside London.

Long haul and emerging markets have a tendency to stick to London attractions, whereas markets such as Italy, Germany and France want to explore and venture out across the country with their choice activities. Details: http://lei.sr?a=P4w7z

# Game of Thrones key in NI tourism drive

Northern ireland's tourist board is planning to use hit TV show Game of Thrones in its quest to achieve record visitor numbers.

Much of the HBO series is filmed on location in Northern Ireland and as such will be used to promote the region, alongside the Giant's Causeway and Titanic Belfast.

The series has proved so popular that fans are travelling to Northern Ireland specifically to visit filming locations for the show.

Launching a Tourism Ireland strategy, enterprise minister Arlene Foster said she wants to increase overseas visitor numbers to more than two million a year by 2016.

"In order to attract new and repeat visitors, Tourism Ireland will be seeking to capitalise on the huge popularity of Game of Thrones," said Foster. "It is essential Northern Ireland stands out from other destinations."

Tourism Ireland will also be wanting to capitalise on events including the official start of



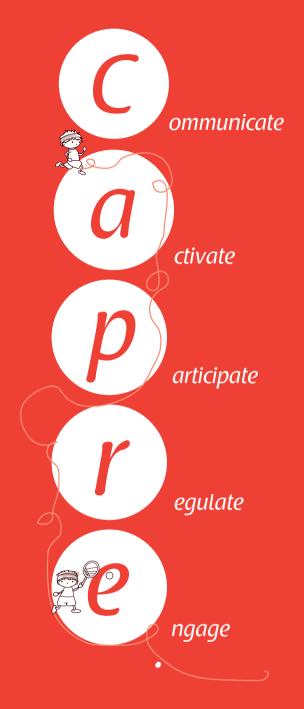
Much of the Game of Thrones TV series is filmed in Northern Ireland

the Giro d'Italia bike race and the Clipper yacht race, which are projected to bring in new visitors to the country.

Northern Ireland's contribution toward the tourism drive was quoted as £13.8m for 2014. The total cost of the campaign Ireland-wide is to reach £90m.

An estimated 1.8m people will have visited Northern Ireland by the end of 2013 and growth in the sector, which employs around 54,000 people, is a Northern Ireland Executive priority. Details: http://lei.sr?a=t4k4r





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HOTEL INDUSTRY



# **Menzies sold to Topland Group**

Having been put up for sale in July after its parent company, Cordial Hotels, went into administration, the Menzies Hotels Group has been sold by KPMG to the Topland Group.

The deal, handled by Christie + Co and thought to be worth £8om, includes the freehold of Menzies' 12 hotels – two in Birmingham and Bournemouth plus one in Aberdeen, Cambridge, Derby, Glasgow, Irvine, London, Stratford-upon-Avon and Woburn – and its Derby office.



The 19th century Welcombe Menzies Hotel is set in 157 acres of grounds

The properties range in size from 18 to 212 rooms and include Menzies' flagship hotel, the 78-room, Grade II\* listed Welcome Hotel Spa and Golf Club in Stratford.

The deal also secures the ongoing employment of 1,130 Menzies employees.

A further three Menzies hotels at Gatwick Airport, Swindon and Luton – which are operated under shorter-term lease agreements – will be closed and their staff made redundant.

Rob Croxen, KPMG partner and joint administrator, said: "We have worked closely

with stakeholders to secure the best possible outcome for creditors. After reviewing a number of options, it became clear that a pre-pack sale of the business and the freehold properties would provide the greatest return to creditors, while also preserving the majority of jobs across the business."

Bespoke Hotels have been appointed by Topland to operate the group, a move which will increase Bespoke's portfolio to around 100 properties across the UK. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z8N9D

# **Great National planning rapid expansion**

Ireland-based hotel company Great National Hotels & Resorts is planning to add to the 27 hotels currently in its portfolio with a major expansion in the UK.

The group says it will sign up three more independent properties by the end of 2013, bringing its total to 20 hotels in Ireland and 10 in the UK.

Following this, expansion plans will focus on three and four-star independent hotels within a two- or three-hour radius of Manchester, as well as taking on more hotels in

Ireland in the Ulster and midlands areas.

Great National aims to have 50 hotels by the end of 2014 and double that number by the end of 2015.

The group offers a range of hotels comprising a variety of business, leisure and spa



Swansea's Grand Hotel is part of Great National Hotels & Resorts' portfolio

facilities ranging from the boutique-style Victoria House Hotel in Killarney to the Grand Hotel located in Swansea's city centre.

The company launched in February 2010 and moved into the UK in June 2010. *Details:* http://lei.sr?a=A2f7g

Many good reasons to employ people with a disability



**PETER DUCKER**is chief executive
officer of the Institute
of Hospitaity

ourism for All UK (TFA) is a charity dedicated to world-class tourism standards which are welcoming to all. It offers a great deal of advice and help to businesses. I would like to highlight an excellent write-up on their website entitled 10 Good Reasons to Employ a Disabled Person.

Consider TFA's five true / false statements below to determine whether you have any preconceived notions about disability and employment:

- 1. "Most disabled people are born with their disability." False. Only 15 per cent of disabled people were disabled when they were born or under 16 years old.
- 2. "The large majority of people with physical disability use a wheelchair." False. Let's take the French example: eight million people are physically disabled, 370,000 of whom use a wheelchair.
- 3. "A receptionist with a hearing impairment cannot hold his/her job any longer." False. Thanks to an amplifier, s/he can keep doing her/his job.
- 4. "My establishment is not accessible. I cannot employ a disabled person." False. Not all disabilities require specific equipment. Moreover, many technical and financial aids allow you to convert the establishment to the special needs of your employee.
- 5. "Even if I am healthy, I can be confronted with disability in my working life." True. One out of two people will have a disability or disabling disease in a permanent or reversible way during their lives.

In an industry with unfilled vacancies and relatively high staff turnover, employing someone with a disability can help a hospitality or leisure business in more ways than one. For example, a study commissioned by Tourism for All found that "88 per cent of people working with a disabled colleague say this experience is enriching, likely to modify their opinion of disabled people and to give a new sense of value to their job."

Hospitality employers need to make the most of everyone available to them in the hospitality talent pool; the law requires it and businesses can benefit from it.

#### First Disney Parks experience in the UK opens in Harrods

For the first time ever, a Disney Parks and Resorts experience has been created in the UK. The Disney Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique opened its doors at the iconic London department store, Harrods, on 25 November.

Inspired by the Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo scene in Disney's Cinderella film - where she is transformed for the ball - the experience invites children into a fairy tale castle to find out what it takes to be a princess or a knight.

Behind the castle doors there are dresses, accessories and a beauty salon, with ornate gold mirrors.

Children are hosted by their own fairy godmother in training to learn the qualities needed to become a princess or a knight and take a royal oath. The store also has a new look Disney Café. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y9x3B* 



Liverpool's library has turned into a tourist attraction

#### **Grand Central Library voted** Liverpool's top attraction

Liverpool's Grand Central Library has been voted the number one attraction in the city by users of travel site TripAdvisor.

The library topped a poll which featured 124 more traditional attractions – including iconic ones such as The Beatles Story, the Walker Art Gallery, Museum of Liverpool and the birth homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney. It is the only public library in the UK to come anywhere close to being a city's top attraction.

The news comes six months after the library reopened following a £50m restoration. Since then, it has received more than 400,000 visits.

Liverpool City Council's cabinet member responsible for libraries, Wendy Simon, says: "The feedback we've had has been overwhelming, with people loving the painstaking restoration work which has been carried out, set against stunning new features such as the atrium and roof terrace."

The TripAdvisor popularity index is calculated from millions of traveller reviews. *Details:*  $http://lei.sr?a=E_4Y_5x$ 

# **Penguin colony comes to Birmingham**

Birmingham's National Sea Life Centre is to see the opening of a new £2.5m attraction in time for Easter next year, with Penguin Ice Adventure designed to give visitors to the aquarium a unique opportunity to come faceto-face with a colony of Gentoo Penguins.

Visitors will be taken on an expedition into the Antarctic landscape, where they can watch from a number of viewing platforms as the birds dive and play in their icy environment.

There will also be the chance to see the penguins being fed three times a day and to join in a range of interactive experiences.

Amy Langham, general manager at the centre, said: "Penguin Ice Adventure promises to be very different.

"The birds - which are classified as nearthreatened on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List - have been bred together at Sea Life Centre



The Antarctic and its penguins are coming to Birmingham's Sea Life Centre

Melbourne, Australia as part of our Breed, Rescue, Protect programme and are being transported here to their specially-built new home.

"We want to inform and educate our visitors about the hardships that sea and marine creatures face, whether as a result of global warming, threats from mankind or natural occurrences, but at the same time we want people to meet this colony and get to know the penguins as they thrive in their carefully created habitat." Details: http://lei.sr?a=S2G6C

# HLF invests £7m in two Cathedral projects

The Heritage Lottery Fund has announced that it will invest £7m in two UK cathedrals, Durham and Peterborough, in order to preserve the past, as well as present their stories for future generations.

A £3.9m grant for Durham Cathedral will enable the display of original 13th century copies of the Magna Carta, alongside other artefacts, in celebration of the 800th anniversary of the historic charter in 2015.

The Monks' Dormitory and Great Kitchen will also be restored to house an exhibition telling the history of the cathedral and its monastic community. A new gallery will be created in a hidden void, to form a visitor route around the medieval buildings.

Peterborough Cathedral will benefit from £2.5m, which will create a new entrance and display the history of the building. The Grade I listed Knights' Chamber will be restored to house a new visitor and heritage



Peterborough Cathedral has been awarded £2.5m of Heritage Lottery funding

centre, which will open to the public by 2018, marking the cathedral's 900th anniversary.

Chief executive of the HLF, Carole Souter, says cathedrals play a central role in the cultural, social and economic life of the country: "Cathedrals are among the most outstanding elements of the UK's heritage. The Heritage Lottery Fund's investment will conserve both these beautiful buildings and unlock their stories for future generations to enjoy." *Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q3k5D* 

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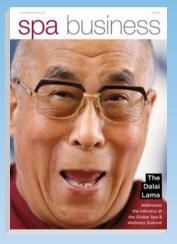
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The new site will accommodate 2000 spectators

#### **Kent County Cricket Club** set for redevelopment

Kent County Cricket Club has received the green light from planners for a multi-million pound redevelopment of its Worsley Bridge Road ground at Beckenham, enhancing the facilities for cricket and providing hospitality.

Among the additions planned are an indoor cricket school and a new 2,000-seat stand to boost capacity.

There will also be physiotherapy treatment rooms, a gym, pilates studio, a bar and conference and banqueting area, offices, floodlit football pitch, tennis courts and parking.

Negotiations are now ongoing with a view to developing a health and leisure facility and a dedicated conference centre at the site. Details: http://lei.sr?a=K2H2Z

#### **Boston United reveals plans** for £100m mixed-use project

Boston United Football Club (BUFC) chair David Newton has unveiled detailed plans for a £100m mixed-use project which would include a new 4,000-seat stadium for the club.

Plans for the Community Stadium include an all-weather 3G pitch for community use, plus educational facilities, conference and banqueting facilities; a café; education and community facilities; meeting rooms for hire; an all-weather sports pitch and possibly a sports hall.

As well as the new stadium, plans for the development - called The Quadrant include more than 500 new homes as well as retail space and restaurants.

Newton, who owns Lincolnshire-based house builder Chestnut Homes, said he is looking to fund the project by securing loans from local and central government.

BUFC was relegated from the Football League in 2007 - the same year in which it was placed in administration and lost all of its playing squad.

The club has struggled on the pitch in recent years and currently plays its football in the Conference North Division. Details: http://lei.sr?a=R2z3V

### **Capco unveils Earls Court redevelopment plans**

Developer Capital & Counties Properties (Capco), has received outline planning consent for its far reaching, and controversial plans for a £8bn regeneration of Earls Court.

Plans involve demolishing the famous art deco exhibition centre and two council estates. Land is being acquired under the Conditional Land Sale Agreement, although the company is having to negotiate with Transport for London about a certain area.

The first detailed planning application will be submitted in the coming weeks. Plans include

37 acres of new open space, 6,775 homes, office and workspace, retail space, hotels and serviced apartments, a health hub, a primary school, a community and cultural hub and leisure space with a sports centre.

With two crescents, garden squares and a large public square, development director at Capco, Gary Yardley, calls it a modern



The Earls Court are will undergo a complete £8bn redevelopment

interpretation of the best parts of the local area in Kensington, Chelsea and Fulham.

There has been local protest about the demolition of Earls Court, which hosts exhibitions and concerts. But Capco, which invested £30m in Olympia London three years ago, says events held at Earls Court can be hosted there instead. Details: http://lei.sr?a=r3M2G

# Beckham signs deal with developer

Former England football captain David Beckham has signed a deal with global property developer Las Vegas Sands (LVS) which will see Beckham help create experiences at resorts around the world.

Beckham, regarded as one of the world's most iconic men, will join forces with LVS's integrated resort properties in both Macao and Singapore, acting as the company's consultant and partner in the developement of locations in Asia.

"We have billions of dollars invested in our

own global, iconic brands and we clearly understand the importance of growing and sustaining those brands over time," said Michael Leven, president and COO of LVS. "We're very excited about the partnership and we fully expect it to grow in the years to come, especially as we aggressively explore opportunities to further expand our presence in Asia."

At a press conference held in Macao, it was revealed that Beckham, described as a 'tastemaker', will lend his expertise to developing



Beckham has signed a deal to work with US property developer Las Vegas Sands

dining, retail and leisure concepts for the luxury property company.

"The Sands team has created amazing resorts in Singapore and Macao," said Beckham. "The scale, vision and calibre of all that they do is very impressive.

"I am very excited to be working with them to develop a range of new business ideas in a part of the world that I love spending time in and which is full of optimism and growth." Details: http://lei.sr?a=H9p3d



Are you thinking of buying, selling, reviewing or leasing health & fitness sites in 2013?

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## The first step towards sporting participation



IAN TAYLOR is chief executive at Skills Active

n November I wrote about the commitment we have at SkillsActive in creating a more active population and was able to touch on the ways we look to do this.

I'd like to focus this piece on our Children's Activity Professionals Register (Capre), launched in December at the iconic Copper Box Arena at the Olympic Park. The launch of Capre will ensure that the quality of physical activity provision will be at a high standard, delivered by a skilled professional.

With government recently committing a further £150m to primary school sport to continue the School Sport Premium in the academic year 2015/16, we are delighted that Capre now offers schools and clubs the opportunity to make informed decisions on how physical activity is delivered to children.

Recently released data showed that 85 per cent of girls and 73 per cent of boys aged 13 fail to do the recommended one hour of physical activity per day, while 25 per cent of children aged 2-15 spend six hours every weekend day being inactive.

Capre will undoubtedly help get children active. Capre instructors, through delivering multi-disciplinary activities in a fun and engaging manner, will inspire children to participate regularly in sport or physical activity later in life.

To ensure we see positive change in UK statistics on obesity and overall activity levels, it is critical that we focus on nurturing our children's natural enthusiasm for being active, which will lead to life-long healthy lifestyles. That is why the responsibility for awakening a child's enjoyment in sport and physical activity is such a critically important role.

Capre instructors can essentially provide a stepping stone into specific sports, which are delivered by the country's national bodies. By working in partnership, we can do our bit for a healthier, more active population.

The launch of Capre is just the beginning of this journey. Consulting the sector and its leading organisations has led to the development of Capre and we will continue to work with our valued partners as we strive to grow this register.

#### TRAINING

# Derby Uni hailed "best in the world" for spa

Swedish spa expert Anna Bjurstam - who led a recent Global Spa & Wellness Summit (GSWS) survey which highlighted the lack of educated spa professionals - has praised the University of Derby Buxton for providing the "best spa management training in the world."

An SRI International Report in 2012 revealed that worldwide, 180,000 people work as spa managers while there are only 4,000 students enrolled in spa management degree programmes. In response a GSWS committee was formed with a subcommittee producing a 'snapshot' of career trends today.

Bjurstam - who owns Raison d'Etre Spas and is vice president of Six Senses Spas - hailed Buxton University as "a pioneer in spa management internationally" thanks to its methods which include receiving hands-on experience in real-world work situations.

"If the industry knew how good your students are, then they would be standing in line to employ them," said Bjurstam, speaking at the 2013 Buxton Spa and Wellness Conference (BSWS). "I've studied the educational market and I believe that Buxton is doing this better than any university in the world."



Derby Uni students get on-the-job training as part of the course

The university - which combines on-thejob training with academic studies - had this year beaten both Oxford and Cambridge in a league table of graduates gaining work within six months of receiving their degrees in spa management, culinary arts, sports and outdoor leadership.

"It's not just about running a spa," said Bjurstam. "It's about giving treatments. That's such an important factor; knowing what it's like to do eight hours of massage, five days a week. You can't understand it unless you've done it." Details: http://lei.sr?a=S2e3p

# School studies failing hospitality sector

School leavers are less prepared for work in the hospitality and catering workforces than they were midway through the 19th century, according to a new report from learndirect.

The report from the online learning provider, which explored 160 years of the curriculum, has found that current changes only partially reflect the shifting skillsets required by hospitality and catering employers.

It was also found that 21 per cent of businesses report a lack of skilled workers to be a con-

cern, with basic abilities in customer service, time management and problem solving hindering recruitment and staff retention.

The report has uncovered hindrances created by the teaching of older, irrelevant subjects, as well as gaps around core competencies in essential skills such as communication, management and teamwork.

To combat the issues the report has suggested five recommendations to help counter



The report says students aren't taught necessary skills to enter the sector

such problems, with its writers proposing changes to the use of the maths curriculum, while pushing the idea of offering Functional Skills as an equal alternative to a GCSE choice.

In its five recommendations, the report has also proposed changes to put more of a focus on vocational pathways, better use of work experience and the harnessing of technology in both teaching and learning. Details: http://lei.sr?a=j6M9a









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Dianne Eade, Newquay Zoo Head of Finance, Human Resources and Administration



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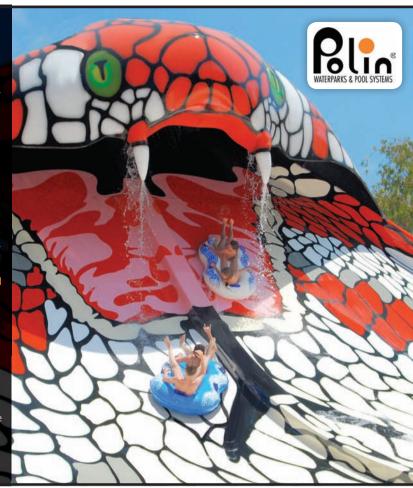
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Gym Manager, Pure Gym Limited, Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainers, The Gym Group, Ashford, Kent, UK

Personal Trainer, Everyone Active, Daventry, UK

Personal Trainers, The Gym Group, London Stockwell, UK

Get Active Exercise Referral Specialist, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, London, UK

Service Manager, GLL, Woolwich, UK

Store Manager, Fitness Superstore, London, UK

UK Inside Sales Coordinator, Star Trac Europe, High Wycombe, UK

Recreation Assistant, Everyone Active, Cheam, UK

Recreation Assistant, Everyone Active, Cheam Leisure Centre, UK

Duty Manager, Parkwood Leisure, West Berkshire, UK

Duty Manager, Everyone Active, Tenbury Wells, UK

Membership Advisor, Parkwood Leisure, Southend, UK

Recreation Assistant, Everyone Active, Northolt Leisure Centre, UK

Healthwise Manager, GLL, High Wycombe, UK

Nursery Nurse, Everyone Active, Stratford Upon Avon, UK

Part Time Receptionist, Everyone Active, Southam, UK

Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, Redditch, UK

Assistant Gym Manager, Pure Gym Limited, Natiowide, UK

Personal Trainer, Matt Roberts Personal Training Company, London, UK

Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, London Enfield, UK

**Duty Managers (Full-time and Part-**

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Centre Manager, Parkwood Leisure, Cotswold, UK

Aqua Instructor, Everyone Active, Bourton, Gloucestershire, UK

**Spa Manager - Rainbow ,** GLL, Epsom, Surrey , UK

Team Leader, Everyone Active, Loughton Leisure Centre, UK

Membership Sales Consultant, Helio Fitness Club, Bolton, UK

Assistant Gym Manager, Pure Gym Limited, Grimsby, UK

Lecturer in Cricket, Myerscough College, Preston, UK

GLL Recreation (Lifeguard) Apprenticeship

Scheme, GLL, Various, UK

Duty Manage (Leisure Centre Supervisor)-Hillingdon,

GLL, London Borough of Hillingdon, UK

General Manager for Black Prince Community Hub, GLL, Black Prince Community Hub in the London Borough of Lambeth, UK

Health and Fitness Service Manager - york Hall,

GLL, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, UK

Cycling Development Officer, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, Enfield, North London, UK

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Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, Birmingham Beaufort Park, UK

Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, Lambeth, London, UK

Full Time Personal Trainers wanted, Ten Pilates, Central London, UK

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Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, Sheffield Millhouses, UK

Group Exercise Instructor, Everyone Active, Warwickshire, UK

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Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, Birmingham West, UK

Fitness Manager, Impington Village College, Cambridge, UK

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General Manager, The Gym Group, Milton Keynes, UK

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**Fitness Instructors,** Magnum Power Force Gym and Diet Center, Hamilton, Bermuda

General Manager, Heaton Tennis and Squash Club, Bradford, UK

SHOKK Prospector (Salesperson), énergie group, Bracknell, UK

Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, London Greenwich, UK

Club Promotional Staff, énergie group, Warrington, UK

Crew Member / Fitness Instructor, énergie group, Warrington, UK

Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, Bournemouth, UK

**Social Media Apprentice,** Everyone Active, Fareham, UK

Personal Trainers, The Gym Group, Gloucester, UK

Personal Trainers, The Gym Group, Nottingham, UK

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**Sports and Community Centre Manager,** Greasley Parish Council, Nottinghamshire, UK

Tarish Council, Notthighamshire, OK

Front of House positions, Ten Pilates, London, UK

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Centre Manager, Parkwood Leisure, Newbury, UK

Franchise Opportunity, Premier Sport, Nationwide, UK

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General Manager, NRG Gym, Watford, UK

GP Exercise Referral, Focus Training, Nationwide, UK

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**Aqua Sana Beauty Therapist,** Center Parcs, Woburn Forest, Millbrook, UK

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Chefs, Lifehouse Spa & Hotel, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, UK, UK

Park Operations Supervisor, Paultons Park Ltd, New Forest, UK

Attractions Manager, SeaQuarium, Weston-Super-Mare, UK

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# **Gladstone to partner with bounts**

A fitness app called bounts, which has been created to motivate and reward people for being active, has gone into partnership with Gladstone Health & Leisure.

Leisure operators using the Gladstone Plus2 system will be able to activate bounts, opening the rewards scheme up to more than three million Gladstone members across the UK. Bounts can be collected and then redeemed against national brands and local retail outlets and services, ranging from Starbucks, Odeon Cinema, Sainsburys and Debenhams, through to local cafés.

In addition to rewarding activity undertaken within a health club or leisure centre, bounts can be linked up with a number of established fitness tracking apps and devices including Map My Run, Runkeeper, MyZone, Nike + and Fitbit, enabling users to log effort



Bounts can link with a number of fitness tracking apps and devices

and collect points for physical activity completed anywhere, at any time.

Health clubs and leisure centres can integrate bounts onto existing membership software and online booking systems letting them choose what to reward, and when. Details: http://lei.sr?a=V5r6d

#### £3.7m HLF grant to restore Whitley Bay's iconic Dome

Whitley Bay's Grade II listed Spanish City and Dome is to be restored and reopened following a £3.7m Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant to North Tyneside Council.

The money will be used to fund vital repairs needed to return the building - closed in

2000 - to a good state of repair, with the Dome building undergoing a major refurbishment for leisure, retail and business enterprise use.

The grant was awarded through HLF's new Heritage Enterprise programme. Details: http://lei.sr?a=F3W3N

# Former minister denies neglect claims

Read Leisure Opportunities online: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/digital

#### Continued from front cover

In response to the British Journal of Sports Medicine (BJSM) suggesting that the UK's policy towards increasing children's execrcise levels is "neglect", former children's minister Tim Loughton has said the comments are "alarmist".

"Finger-wagging and accusing the government of mass neglect of children deeply undermines the seriousness of this problem," the BBC reports him as saying.

"I agree we need to do much more for kids and sport, making it a part of their growing up, something that they want to do because it's fun and enjoyable as well as being good for them - but child neglect is a persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and psychological needs, resulting in serious impairment of health and that is a world of



MP Tim Loughton has called the claims 'alarmist'

difference from kids not doing enough sport.

"Is Dr Weiler suggesting we should be taking millions more children into the care of the state? Because that's not the solution." Details: http://lei.sr?a=b5U3A

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