



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks & Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Royal Life Saving Society Annual Awards</b>
<b>Date:</b>	9 May 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard Director of Parks & Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Adrian Walker – Acting Leisure Operations Manager Mark McCashin – Area Leisure Manager – Participation

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>During an incident in Olympia Leisure centre in May 2012, seven members of staff were involved in the rescue and recovery of an unconscious swimmer.</p> <p>All Lifeguarding personnel within the council are professionally trained and qualified to Royal Lifesaving Society standards.</p> <p>Upon becoming aware of the incident two members of staff on pool duty raised the alarm and the facility emergency action plan was immediately implemented.</p> <p>One member of staff entered the pool and recovered the unconscious swimmer whilst colleagues assessed the situation and subsequently commenced Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The Automated external Defibrillator (AED) was in position although ultimately not required.</p> <p>Two local cardiac doctors, who were within the facility for unrelated reasons, attended the scene and assisted staff in the casualty treatment and management. The swimmer recovered consciousness prior to the arrival of cardiac ambulance personnel a short time later. He remained in hospital for 12 days but has since made a full recovery.</p> <p>The two cardiac doctors and the ambulance crew commended the staff for their swift and professional response and advised that their immediate action almost certainly prevented a much more serious situation from developing.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The staff members involved in the rescue have been nominated by management for the Pool Lifeguard of the Year Awards, run by the Royal Life Saving Society.</p> <p>The staff members have now been successfully shortlisted by a panel from the RLSS for a Pool Lifeguard of the year award and invited to the award ceremony on 14 June 2013.</p> <p>The awards ceremony takes place in Cheshire, England as part of the RLSS annual conference. Committee are asked to approve the attendance of the Chairman and Director or their nominees together with two members of the staffing team involved in the incident last May.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Subject to approval the cost of flights and transfers to the conference venue in Cheshire, England on the 14 June 2013 at approximately £250.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>N/A</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
	N/A

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>Committee are asked to note the professional response from staff members of Olympia Leisure Centre in the rescue of the swimmer and the effective implementation of the established emergency action plan at that time.</p> <p>Committee are asked to approve that the Chair of the Parks &amp; Leisure Committee and his nominee plus an attendant and duty manager from Olympia Leisure Centre attend the conference on the 14 June 2013 in Cheshire England to represent the council at the awards ceremony.</p>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	A further update to follow on the outcome of the award

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	RLSS – Royal Life Saving Society CPR – Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation AED – Automated External Defibrillator

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None