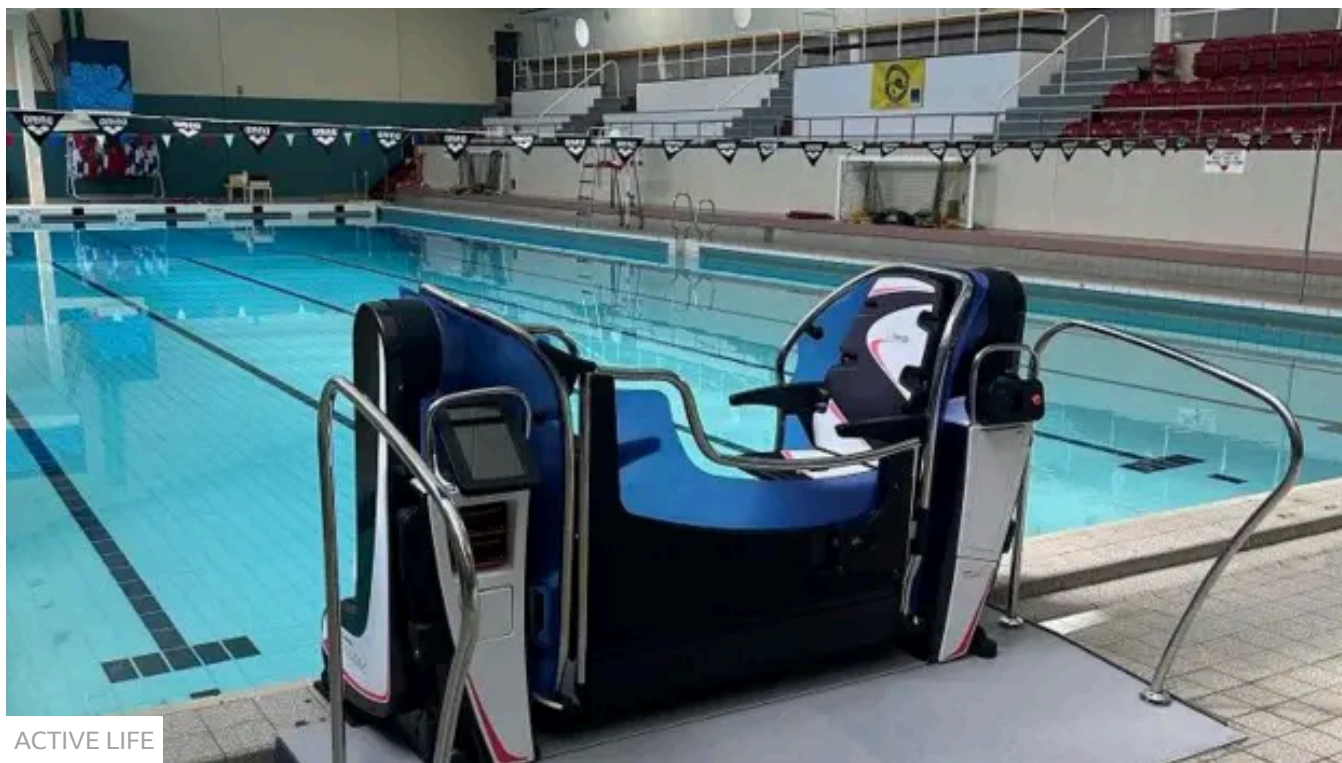


[Home](#)[News](#)[Sport](#)[Weather](#)[Home](#) | [InDepth](#) | [Israel-Gaza war](#) | [War in Ukraine](#) | [Climate](#) | [UK](#) | [World](#) |[More](#)[Business](#) | [Politics](#) | [Culture](#)[England](#) | [Local News](#) | [Kent](#)

New pool lift boosts access for disabled swimmers



ACTIVE LIFE

| The platform lift helps disabled people to enter the water

Mark Norman

Health correspondent, BBC South East

30 July 2025

A new platform lift has been installed at a Kent leisure centre to give disabled swimmers who find it hard to get in and out of swimming pools a dignified and independent transition from wheelchair to water.

The Poolpod platform - a lift mechanism that fits to the side of swimming pools - is part of an £8m transformation at Kingsmead Pools & Fitness in Canterbury.

Trained staff will be on hand to support people wanting to use the Poolpod, which is available to all users during family swims and general swims.

Anthony Cawley, CEO of charity Active Life which led the transformation, said: "Everyone should have the same opportunity to experience the physical and mental joy of movement."

The funding has also enabled a new Changing Places toilet and changing area to be installed for people who require extra space, specialised equipment, and support from a carer or assistant.

The facility offers an adult-sized changing bench, hoist, and a spacious shower area, with IFI (Inclusive Fitness Initiative) compliant gym equipment.

Funding for the project came from Canterbury City Council and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, in consultation with the council's Disability Advisory Panel.

Councillor Connie Nolan said it was important that no-one was excluded from enjoying the facilities.

"We want it to be as stress-free and as easy as possible for people who have challenges to overcome to keep fit and healthy in mind and body," she said.

*Follow BBC Kent on **Facebook**, on **X**, and on **Instagram**. Send your story ideas to southeasttoday@bbc.co.uk or WhatsApp us on 08081 002250.*

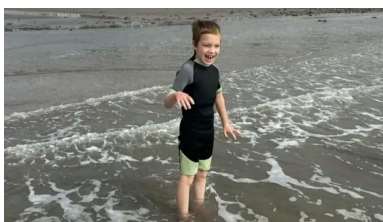
Related topics

Disability

Canterbury

Canterbury City Council

Related stories



My son loves to swim but felt unwelcome at pool

23 March