**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**[Insert date]**

**Local Nottingham woman Anna Smith attempts to swim the**

**English Channel for charity**

Anna Smith is to attempt to swim the English Channel to raise money for international development charity WaterAid on Saturday 10th September.

Anna from Nottingham hopes to raise over £10,000 for the charity, which enables some of the world’s poorest people gain access to clean, safe water and sanitation. She aims to complete the swim, a total of 21 miles, in only 20 hours. Described as ‘the Everest of open-water swimming,’ only 10% of those attempting to swim the channel actually manage to complete it.

Anna has been training for the challenge for the last 12 months at local pool, the Beechdale Swimming Centre. She has organised several local fundraising activities, including a 24 hour swimathon with her former school, Nottingham Girls High School, which saw over 100 pupils take part and raise over £2000.

Anna said: “*I am excited to be undertaking the huge challenge of swimming the English channel and have been training very hard. I’ll be battling the cold water, strong tides and even passing ships in order to reach the other side. While I tackle this huge open mass of water, millions of people around the world still do not have access to clean, safe water. I’m proud that my fundraising efforts will raise vital money for WaterAid and their vision of a world where everyone has access to safe water, decent toilets and good hygiene”.*

To support Anna Smith in her challenge to swim the English Channel and donate to WaterAid please visit [www.justgiving.com/xxxx](http://www.justgiving.com/xxxx).

You can follow Anna’s training for the swim challenge via her blog [www.wordpress.com/challenge](http://www.wordpress.com/challenge)

twitter: @Twitterhandle and on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/name](http://www.facebook.com/name)

**ENDS**

For further information, interviews and images please contact Anna Smith on email.address@email.com or 07777 777 777

To find out more about WaterAid please contact pressoffice@wateraid.org or 0207 793 4537

**Notes to Editors:**

**WaterAid**

WaterAid’s vision is of a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation.  The international organisation works in 38 countries across Africa, Asia, Central America and the Pacific Region to transform lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in some of the world’s poorest communities.  Since 1981, WaterAid has reached 23 million people with safe water and, since 2004, 21 million people with sanitation.  For more information, visit [www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org), follow @WaterAidUK on Twitter, or visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/wateraid](http://www.facebook.com/wateraid).

* Around 289,000 children die each year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. That’s nearly 800 children each day, or one child every two minutes.
* Over 663 million people (around one in ten) are without safe water
* Over 2.4 billion people (around one in three) live without improved sanitation
* For every £1 invested in water and sanitation, an average of £4 is returned in increased productivity.
* Just £15 can help provide one person with access to safe water.