



WESTERN INVESTING FOR HEALTH

31ST MARCH 2010

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

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PHA Places Community Allotment at the Heart of Neighbourhood Renewal

The Public Health Agency's Western Investing for Health (WIFH) Partnership marked its investment in a community allotment which will literally put the heart into regeneration in the Strabane area for ex-prisoners and the wider community alike. Dr Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive, Public Health Agency, launched the community garden and allotment site at a ceremony on Wednesday 3rd March, attended by the IFH Partnership.



Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive, PHA, Tony Doherty, WIFH Co-Chair, Jarleth McNulty, Cairde Ex-Prisoners Group

The project has been funded by a number of other key stakeholders, including Strabane District Council, Landfill Tax Credit, Ancient Order of Hibernians, East Bank and Melmount Community Forum and Cairde. A Health Impact Assessment of the Community Allotment will be implemented over the coming year in conjunction with Strabane District Council.

Partnership Concerned on Impact of "Legal Highs"

There is growing concern in the community at large in respect of the prevalence and impact of so called "Legal Highs" on young people in the west. There has been significant coverage in the national and local media on the issue and various members of the Partnership have been approached in respect of the matter. WIFH would refer anyone looking for more information in the first instance to check out the PHA "Legal High Fact sheet" which can be downloaded from:

www.publichealth.hscni.net/Inews/94%20Legal%20highs%20factsheet.pdf

The term "legal" is misleading in that most of the substances used in the production of drugs is regulated by the Medicines Act, which makes them illegal to sell, supply or advertise for human consumption.



WIFH Concerns on Deprivation Levels

WIFH Partnership has raised its concerns in respect of the latest findings from NISRA on Deprivation levels in NI. The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 results on 31st March 2010 indicated that there continues to be high levels of deprivation in the western area. Although only having 17% of the population of NI, a quarter of the top 10% most deprived areas (Super Output Level) are based in the west of the province. Creggan Central (Derry) ranked 10th and Strabane East (ranked 12th) are the most deprived wards outside of West Belfast.

Specific concern has been expressed around the levels of Child Deprivation with five localities from Derry City Council area in the top 20 most deprived areas, including Creggan Central ranked the 2nd most deprived location in NI for child poverty. Similar figures are reflected in respect of deprivation and older people, this despite the fact that the west has a lower proportion of older people than the rest of NI. Such evidence supports the continued work being taken forward by WIFH/ WHAZ in respect of Early and Later Years work and demonstrates the challenge that faces the west in addressing the wider determinants of health and social well being. For more information and details visit

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation.htm>

Road Safety Consultation Underway

The DOE has launched a consultation on Preparing a New Road Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland which will cover the years 2010 to 2020. The consultation runs from 16 March 2010 to 15 June 2010. The DOE paper outlines some of the key challenges to be addressed over the lifetime of the strategy and they propose a number of action measures which have been agreed by the other statutory road safety partners. Given the high levels of road traffic collisions in the west the WIFH would encourage all stakeholders with an interest in road safety to input into the New Road Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland that will shape the way ahead for safety on our roads over the next decade. To access the relevant documents please click on the link:

www.roadsafetyni.gov.uk/index/road_safety_strategy_2010/public_consultation.htm

Understanding Local Health and Well-being Status

WIFH in collaboration with NINIS are providing free training on the use of the health and well being indicators web-based information system. There are two levels of courses the first basic introduction the second is an advanced level. Bookings are now been taken for 2010/11 for both levels of programmes, dates and venues will be confirmed in due course.

In addition if you would like specific training for your community or staff in your organisation, WIFH will be happy to facilitate this for groups of between 8 and 12 people - again this will be free of charge.

If your interested please contact Ailish O Neill on ifh.secretary@hscni.net or on 028 7186 0086.

We are on the Web!

www.westernifh.org

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