

INVESTING FOR HEALTH TEAM NEWSLETTER

24th Edition

10th March 2007



BRENDAN BONNER

- **RPA** - the Minister has announced his plans for the future of Public Health in NI and there is currently an ongoing consultation process taking place. Staff should feed their views in to the proposals or are welcome to attend any event that is to be hosted by WIFH for partnership members. A draft response will be drawn up for consideration. The full extent of the structures has yet to be defined but staff will be kept informed as proposals develop.
- **Assembly Inquiries** - two presentations have recently been made to NI Assembly Committees. The first was a joint presentation with Siobhan Sweeney from HAZ on the issue of Child Poverty and a summary of the presentation and questions asked can be found on the web page www.westernifh.org. The second presentation was joint with the other 3 Boards on the implementation of the Suicide Presentation Strategy.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12th March 2008
Ally Foyle Wellbeing Conference

13th March 2008
Big Lottery Workshop

9th April 2008
2008 Media Awards Ceremony

10th April 2008
WASOP Conference

22nd May 2008
CAWT Health Inequalities
Seminar



SEAMUS MULLEN

- *Thanks to all those who have contributed to promoting the Roadwise Programme. As a result, most of our dates have been booked to capacity. We will be running more programmes towards the beginning of the financial year - please continue to promote to anyone and everyone that you can.*
- *IFH Community Awards have been distributed to Newbuildings Partnership Forum, Strabane and District Playclub, Newtownstewart Youth Forum, and Devenish Partnership Forum. Well done to those who have received an award. Please check IFH website for details of the programmes for which they won the awards.*
- *IFH Media Awards will be launched on 9th April at 2pm in Magee University. We have a wide range of entries that may be applicable to your work from: Road Safety to Alcohol abuse, elder abuse, injuries in the workplace, mental health etc. Please contact Ailish at the Office if you would like to attend.*

MARTIN DUFFY

Population Health – INTERREG 1V application (VIA CAWT)

The INTERREG IV panel that will assess the CAWT application are due to meet on the 13th March 2008. Three members of the CAWT Management Board Colm Donaghey (Chief Executive, Southern Trust), Sean McKeever (Acting Chief Executive, SHSSB & Area Director of Commissioning, HSCA) and Tom Daly (Corporate Manager), HSE have been invited to the workshop to do a presentation on all the CAWT Applications.

Following the presentations these individuals will be subject to detailed questioning from the INTERREG IV panel on each of the projects, In preparation for this myself and Richard Pheal (Social inclusion, manager HSE) have been asked to attend a pre meeting on the 28th February to provide these officers with a comprehensive briefing on our proposal and answer any queries in relation to the application. NICVA, Belfast - 13 March 2008, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Ballybot House, Newry - 3 April 2008, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Ballymena North Resource Centre - 4 April 2008, 10.30am to 12.30pm

St Columb's Park House, Derry 2008 - 7 April 2008, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

CONSULTATION ON MINISTER'S PROPOSALS

NICVA and CDHN are about to commence a number of regional and thematic consultation events on the Minister's proposals for future reform of health and social care in Northern Ireland. The dates and venues are as follows: -

NICVA, Belfast - 13 March 2008, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Ballybot House, Newry - 3 April 2008, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Ballymena North Resource Centre - 4 April 2008, 10.30am to 12.30pm

St Columb's Park House, Derry 2008 - 7 April 2008, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

To book your place on any of these events please contact Cathy Breslin on 028 9087 7777, email: cathy.breslin@nicva.org.



SIOBHAN SWEENEY

Congratulations to Dawn

Dawn Thompson will be leaving the HAZ on the 6th March to take up her new position as a paramedic with the NIAS. On behalf of the HAZ staff and all our wider colleagues and partners, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dawn for her dedication and commitment to the HAZ over the past 6 years. Dawn's organisational skills and professionalism behind the scenes has contributed enormously to the development and success of the HAZ. We are all very sad to see Dawn leave but our loss is definitely the NIAS gain.

Date for your Diary - CAWT Health Inequalities Seminar
22nd May Radisson Hotel Letterkenny – more information to follow.



COLETTE BROLLY

Fuel Poverty

The Health Action Zone is currently producing a fuel poverty action plan for the West, which will be launched at a Seminar to be held in Strabane in June (date to be confirmed). HAZ has recently been awarded funding from the NIE Levy to install 15 total solution energy efficiency packages and 50 insulation older measures into the homes of older people. This funding will be available in 2008/09 and will be targeted at Rural Priority Areas.

Transport Guide for Older People

The transport guide for older people in the West will be launched by Andrew Elliott of DHSSPS at the Ally Foyle Well Being Conference on 12th March 2008 in the Everglades. For copies of guide contact Colette Brolly.

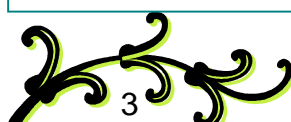
JULIE MCGINTY

Debt and Consumerism

The Health Action Zone has been working with a range of partners to roll the programme out in various organisations and communities. The programme, modeled on the Debt and Mental Health Research, has been replicated in Women's Aid and rerun in Fermanagh New Horizons. Also Community based awareness raising activities and learning continue in Newbuildings, where the Youth have developed a DVD and in Ballymagroarty and Hazelbank where a range of activities, including Financial Literacy are run. Debt and Consumerism has also been incorporated into the Lay Health Worker Training. The facilitator of the Financial Lifeskills Programme has been developing Training for Trainers Pack and this Training will be piloted in March and rolled out in June and October 08. Participants will be from Mental Health organisations, Women's Aid, CAB and Communities and will cascade the Training throughout the region.

Ethnic Minorities

The Health Action Zone has been working in partnership with Saipak, to condense the 4 Welcome Packs into 1 volume to improve the cost-effectiveness of Translation. Also Saipak have been working with a number of Community Support Groups across the Board area to provide events in each Council area for Migrant Workers. The aim of the events is to raise awareness among the target group, about the Welcome Packs and the IFH Welcome Pack Website and also to pilot the questionnaire and gather feedback. Evaluation of these events will be available in April.



KAY DEVINE

Derry Travellers Support - Kay is currently monitoring the work of Derry Travellers Support Group, funded by the Western Health and Social Services Board. The group are working on three specific areas inclusive of providing health checks for men and women, a home safety programme, developing posters with young Travellers highlighting accident prevention, particularly for nomadic families to access. They are also working with Travellers throughout the North of Ireland and the border counties to produce posters and leaflets that can be used by the Travelling community, to sign-post Travellers to access points for services inclusive of DHSS, Health Centres, Police, Doctors, Hospitals, Social Services, Councils etc.

WHSSB Interagency Register: Funded Projects

Kay is presently working on monitoring arrangements for projects, currently included on the WHSSB Interagency Register.

COOK IT!

A further 19 Cook it! tutors completed their training at the beginning of February and some have already commenced delivering their first Cook it! programmes. There has been a big increase in Cook it! delivery this quarter with much interest from Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

Organisation of the Annual Networking Day on April 22nd at the Station Centre Omagh is underway. The day will commence with the launch of the Community Food and Nutrition Team, which will be followed by workshops on Food Labelling, stands and a resource fair.

Cook it!

fun, fast food for less

CAMILLE MCDERMOTT

- Two seminars are taking place over the next month or so, organised by the Community Development Unit. The first is the WHSSB Big Lottery Umbrella Grant Scheme Review Seminar on 13 March - this event aims to bring together all the projects to celebrate the success of the Scheme and to hear from project users' about their experiences of engaging in the Scheme. The second event is the seminar on Inter-Sectoral Collaboration, taking place in Omagh on 10 April. The focus of this morning seminar is to explore issues surrounding inter-sectoral collaboration, particularly in light of the changes in the public and community/voluntary sectors. The event will provide an overview of government strategy for collaborative work, discuss the achievements to date and the challenges for the future, and will showcase the Western Area Statutory Outreach Programme. This event is open to all so please publicise this to those contacts that you think may be interested in attending. Deadline for booking a place is 13 March.
- As many of you know, I am leaving the WHSSB at the end of March. I have really enjoyed working within the team and would like to thank you all for your assistance and support during my time in IFH.



TOBACCO CONTROL GROUP

REGIONAL SMOKING CESSATION SEMINAR PROVES A GREAT SUCCESS

The regional smoking cessation entitled 'Here and Now' was held on the 19th February. The event was organised by tobacco control services in the Western and Northern Boards. Over 120 smoking cessation specialists attended the seminar in the Comfort Inn, Antrim. Speakers included Edel O'Doherty, CAWT and Jeannette Dunlop facilitated and led on the workshops. Early indications from the evaluations show that delegates were extremely satisfied with the event. A full evaluation will be available in the near future.

TOBACCO CONTROL LEGISLATION EXEMPTIONS TO END 30TH APRIL 2008

The temporary exemptions in relation to Mental Health Units will cease to have an effect from 30th April. Currently Mental Health Units may have designated rooms where smoking is permitted. Mental Health Units refers to any establishment used wholly or mainly to treat persons suffering from mental disorder as defined in the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) (Order) 1986. Some exemptions will remain; for example, in; residential care homes; nursing homes; and hospices.

WDACT

'a drop too far' seminar was held at the Strule Arts Centre, Omagh on 19th February 2008. The purpose of the seminar was to look at issues around alcohol and anti-social behaviour. The seminar was organised by the WDACT and the five Community Safety Partnerships in the Western Board Area. The event was a success with over 160 delegates in attendance. Speakers included Rob Phipps - Health Development Policy Branch, Tony Kavanagh – Community Safety Unit, Alan Mc Kinney – A&E Altnagelvin.

Convenience Advertising is currently running a campaign across the Western Board area, which began prior to Christmas with the cocaine awareness campaign 'it's nothing to be sniffed at' and 'paranoid?' This has now been switched to an alcohol awareness campaign 'you don't have to be drunk to be doing real damage', which will run over the St. Patrick's Day and Easter periods. Participating venues include all further and higher education colleges in the Western Board Area and approximately 22 licensed premises.

Barbara Ward is currently off on sick leave. We would like to take this opportunity to wish her a speedy recovery.

CATHY MULLAN

Accident Prevention - A report of the work of this project to date has been prepared and will be available shortly. It describes how the data collation and analysis is done and gives data on accidents attending Altnagelvin hospital, with a focus on older people and children under five. It also describes some of the work that has been generated at community level in response to the statistics analysed.

A write up of the project, prepared by Joanne Doherty, Injury Prevention Officer, appeared in the Feb edition of ROSPA's magazine. The article has generated interested from organisations in England.

Sexual Health - The Action Plan for the sexual health strategies is nearing completion. The priorities for 08-11 will be tackling teenage pregnancy and reducing levels of STIs, including HIV. Resources will be used to build the sexual health services for young people right across the WHSSB area. There will be increased focus on sexually transmitted infections and linking the work on sexual health to other risk-taking behaviour. Anyone who has work that they think would link with sexual health is asked to contact Cathy ext 2919.

HEALTH PROMOTION DEPARTMENT

Oral Health

In response to a needs assessment carried out last year with all Adult Training Centres in the WHSCT, Oral Health Implementation Team 2, in partnership with the Community Dental Service and Community Dieticians have developed an initiative to encourage 504 clients, with learning disabilities to take better care of their oral health and nutrition. Staff from all main Adult Training Centres and their satellite units have been invited to attend training which includes healthy snacking and oral health workshops. To date 40 staff have received training and a further 75 are expected to attend by the end of March 08. Following these sessions, participating centres will be expected to implement changes to current practice to include tooth brushing programmes and encourage healthier choices in relation to meals and snacks. For Further information contact Sonia Montgomery 71865127

Northern Ireland Health Care Awards

Congratulations to Joyce Thompson and all the staff and partners in the Southern Sector involved in the two health promotion projects, Bone Fun and Fermanagh Active Living as they were winners in the Northern Ireland Health Care Awards on Thursday 28 February 2008 in the Europa Hotel, Belfast. The Minister for Health, Mr. Michael McGimpsey and first Minister, Dr. Ian Paisley attended the ceremony.

Joyce Thompson, Health Promotion Department, WHSCT stated, "We are delighted that these two projects have been recognised in the Northern Ireland Health Care Awards as they are two innovative Trust Projects, that highlight all the hard work of our team members, partners and users".

***Bone Fun** allows young people to look at healthy lifestyles in a fun way. Not only does it look at bone health, but healthy diet, exercise and bone robbers such as smoking. It enables young people to develop optimum bone strength and lessen their chance of developing osteoporosis in the future. All post primary children in the southern sector of the WHSCT are invited to take part in Bone Fun Day and a teacher training pilot scheme is offered by the team and WELB in order to help teachers develop this further in their own schools.*

***Fermanagh Active Living Project** combines the talents and strengths of GP practices and leisure services and refers clients with specific medical conditions from their GP practice to the local leisure centre for a tailored exercise programme. The project is managed in partnership by the WHSCT and Fermanagh District Council. For further information please contact: Joyce Thompson 66321018*

Wishing Barbara a quick recovery.



Good Luck to Camille on her new post at 'Health In Your Hands' and Dawn in the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.

