

INVESTING FOR HEALTH TEAM NEWSLETTER

22nd Edition

5th November 2007

BRENDAN BONNER

- ❖ HIA – I attended the 8th International HIA Conference in Dublin. I did not submit any abstract for discussion, however I was surprised that in comparison to those that were submitted, we are as well established and with as much greater understanding of community and stakeholder engagement. I also chaired a work group on an international panel that discussed the concept of HIA being value for money.
- ❖ Extended Schools - I recently met with a cluster of schools in the Derry area who were discussing their options for development. The main priority for the group was mental health and they will be developing a plan in the near future and are keen to link in with Health Promotion, IFH, HAZ, WDACT etc.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15th November 2007
Launch of research on
Extrinsic Barriers to
Participation in Physical
Activity by Older Men

21st November 2007
DHSSPS Stakeholder
Involvement Workshop

23rd November 2007
Regional Consultation
Seminar – Mental Health
Promotion & Suicide
Prevention

30th November 2007
Community Development
Approach to tackling Health
Inequalities

5th December 2007
Regional IFH Conference

14th December 2007
Christmas Night Out
Bowling Alley

19th February 2008
Regional Smoking Cessation
seminar called
'Making an Impact'



MARTIN DUFFY

SEAMUS MULLEN

- ❖ The Regional IFH Conference takes place on 5th December at the City Hotel in Armagh. Please log on to www.ifhconference2007.net to register.
- ❖ We have recently launched the IFH Community Health Excellence Awards. Awards of up to £1000 are available for community organisations that have been involved in health improvement programme. Details and criteria are available on the IFH Website.

CATHY MULLAN

- ❖ Institute of Public Health Leadership Programme - I completed the last module of the yearlong leadership programme in October. It was no easy ride, but as a development opportunity it was excellent. The programme brought together people from across the statutory and voluntary sectors. It provided space to reflect, and a lot of feedback, to enable participants to identify both strengths and development areas in their leadership. Then, through a combination of workshops, training programmes, master classes, action learning, and mentoring, participants were able to tackle some of their most challenging work issues and in the process build skills and confidence to be active leaders in the field of public health. It was also an excellent networking opportunity, and solid relationships were built which should lead to more effective cross agency and cross-border working in the future.

The programme will not run in 08-09, but may, if demand exists be re-introduced the following year. I would really recommend it.

- ❖ Mental Health Promotion - The Health Promotion Department facilitated a stakeholder event in the Fir Trees hotel on the 9th October. This event, commissioned by the WHSSB under the mental health promotion strategy was designed to bring together both providers and users to inform the action plan for 08-09 and to provide the basis for the WHSSB contribution to the new regional mental health promotion strategy which will be drafted shortly. Over 100 delegates attended. The event included a presentation from Lyn Friedli on the health economics of mental health promotion - it was excellent. A write up of the event will be available shortly.



JULIE MCGINTY

❖ Young Fathers

The Project was launched on Wednesday 17th October at 1pm in the Guildhall by the mayor and Elaine Way. The turnout for the launch was excellent and the speeches very well received, particularly that of Sean Benson, Young Father.

Sean was also supported to take part in several media interviews and the launch was widely publicized.

Referral packs have been developed and are being distributed to a range of organizations.

Relationships within the Steering group are being widened and strengthened and the packs will go out to all partners in order that referral to the project becomes part of an holistic assessment process.

Julie (HAZ), Sharon White (Young Fathers Project) and Sean Benson (young Father) represented the Project at an all Ireland Conference on Teenage Pregnancy and Support in Dublin the following day.

❖ Debt and Consumerism

Following the completion of the Debt and Mental Health Research in Fermanagh New Horizons, Julie and Siobhan attended a meeting to present this work and the recommendations to the regional managers. One of the recommendations is that the service be included as a core programme in Action Mental Health on a regional basis.

At present Haz are working with the partners to run the programme again and to develop Training for Trainers to enable all units to run this programme and increase capacity of staff to include Financial Lifeskills Training. The programme will also be adapted for use in Womens Aid before end March 08.

COLETTE BROLLY

❖ The Later Years Sub-group of IFH has recently commissioned research into the Extrinsic Barriers to Participation in Physical Activity by Older Men. This research will be launched at a workshop to be held on Thursday 15th November 2007 in the Silver Birches Hotel Omagh. The aim of the workshop will be to consider the research and begin the process of developing an action plan to address the barriers identified.

❖ The Western Health Action Zone have commissioned Northern Ireland Energy Agency to establish a baseline of fuel poverty in the West and to facilitate the development of an action plan to address fuel poverty in the West. This process will commence in November and be completed by March 2008.



SIOBHAN SWEENEY

The Public Health Alliance have just launched a new report 'Food Poverty, Fact or Fiction?' Food Poverty is an outcome of the wider effects of social exclusion resulting from problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime, bad health and family breakdown.

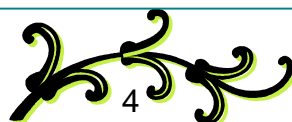
The report highlights the fact that food poverty is not just about food and health policies, it is inextricably linked to issues of finance, education, transport, literacy, culture, planning and retailing. It is a complex, multifaceted problem, which demands an integrated approach to solutions. The report goes on to show that there are numerous policies in existence that if successfully implemented, will address some of the fundamental causes of food poverty e.g. IFH strategy, Anti Poverty strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal strategy. The report provides a great deal of 'Food for Thought' (sorry couldn't resist that) even in relation to our own work in the team and how we could join up some of our own thinking e.g. the link between the Community Food and Nutrition Team, Community Transport, Health Promoting Homes, Debt and Consumerism, Local producers etc

Tackling food poverty needs to be seen not as a cost but as an investment in the future health of vulnerable groups in our society.

The report is available to download from www.phaii.org

COOK IT!

- ❖ A further 22 Cook it! tutors were trained in September in Omagh. The updated training proved to be successful and 12 tutors completed the Level 1 food hygiene certificate offered to those who had no existing food hygiene qualification.
- ❖ Consultation with the community and voluntary sector regarding their expectations of a Community Food and Nutrition Team has commenced and will continue throughout November. Two consultations date – in Lisnaskea and Limavady – have been held to date. The feedback from the consultation exercise will be used to establish the remit and scope of the Community Food and Nutrition Team.



HEALTH PROMOTION DEPARTMENT

❖ Breast and Cervical Screening Awareness Training

A one day breast and cervical screening awareness training course took place for community workers in the southern sector, at the Bawnacre centre, Irvinestown on Thursday 4 October. The training was organized by the Health Promotion Department and facilitated by Community Direct. Fourteen community workers attended the course, which covered areas such as:

Why women are reluctant to go for screening
Why women don't prioritize their own health
How we can support women to take responsibility for their own health
The importance of breast awareness
What happens when you go for breast screening?
The benefits of regular cervical screening
What happens when you go for a smear test?
What prevents some women having smear tests?

This training was created initially to tackle the worryingly low uptake of breast and cervical screening invitations by women living in disadvantaged areas of Belfast. However, the uptake for screening in many disadvantaged areas of the western trust area are also extremely low. This training aims to combine the resources of the community development sector and the health sector in order to increase uptake of screening services. All attendees are requested to run at least 2 information sessions to women in their local communities before March 2008. Another training course is planned to take place in the Old Library Trust, Creggan on 22 November 2007.

Anyone interested in this training course should contact either: Sandra Semple or Sarah Davidson on 02871865127.

❖ Firework Safety

A Firework Safety Seminar aimed at Year 8-10 pupils in the Derry City Council area was delivered to over 60 pupils from 7 local Post-Primary Schools on 10 October at the North West Teacher's Centre. Home Accident Prevention, Foyle with the support of the Health Promotion Department, coordinated the event. Presentations on issues around firework safety were delivered by NI Fire & Rescue Service, Derry City Council Environmental Health Department and Altnagelvin A&E Department before pupils were asked to discuss how to take firework safety messages forward within their schools.



WDACT

❖ Neighbourhood Renewal Area Partnerships

WDACT have financially supported 5 Neighbourhood Renewal Area Partnerships in bringing forward specific alcohol and drug initiatives. Details listed below:

Partnership	Reference	Initiative
TRIAX NRAP	NR 07/8-001	No Tricks - All Treats
Waterside NRAP	NR 07/8-002	Facilitate an 8 week Personal Development Programme
Strabane NRAP	NR 07/08 -003	Cringe Drinking Campaign
Outer north NRAP	NR 07/08 -004	SAFE Initiative
Outer west NRAP	NR 07/08 -005	Tough Issues Training Programme

❖ Alcohol Misuse Seminar – 10th /11th October 07

WDACT in conjunction with the Clinical Management Network facilitated and supported 2 very successful Alcohol Misuse Seminars, 1 in Enniskillen and 1 in Derry. St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, Consultant and Champion of Accident and Emergency Liaison, Professor Robin Touquet and Clinical Nurse Specialist Adrian Browne shared the "Paddington Experience" and explored effective brief interventions and the management of alcohol misuse in Accident and Emergency.

KAY DEVINE



TOBACCO CONTROL GROUP

❖ MINIMUM AGE OF SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A consultation questionnaire on the minimum age of tobacco products was released by the DHSSPS on the 29th October and will run until the 18th January.

The consultation questionnaire sets out 3 options as follows;

1. No change
2. Increase to 17
3. Increase to 18

A response is currently being prepared for SMT.

Responses may be posted to the IFH Unit Health Improvement Policy Branch (Tobacco Control) or submitted online <http://www.dhssps.gov.uk/tobacco-control-age-of-sale.htm>

❖ NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREAS TARGETED

In conjunction with other IFH staff and WHSSB pharmacy services NRAs are currently being targeted through additional WTCG funding to ensure that the local residents have easily accessible, convenient smoking cessation services, combined with nicotine replacement products on prescription.



CHRISTMAS COVER

24 TH December	Ailish
25 th December	Closed
26 th December	Closed
27 th December	Kay
28 th December	Martin / Kay
31 st December	Sharon or Caroline
1 st January	Closed
2 nd January	Brendan / Ailish
3 rd January	Brendan/ Ailish/Sharon/Kay
4 th January	Brendan/ Ailish/Sharon/Kay

HAZ Office / Anderson House closed Christmas Week
Reopens Wednesday 2nd January 2008.

Wishing Caroline and Barbara all the best
and a quick recovery

Good Luck to Denise, who is off on
Maternity leave.

