

Action on Reaction

A food safety training programme on food allergen control

The Course

This course is intended for all those with an interest in food safety enforcement in catering establishments on the island of Ireland

Those with enforcement duties in the health service executive in the Republic of Ireland and local authority environmental health officers in Northern Ireland.

Participants will be provided with materials and knowledge to educate and inform catering business/students about food allergy and its implications in food supply, preparation and service. This programme is an extension of previous food allergy training which was delivered to EHOs in the border region.

When?

This course which is provided free of charge during 2008 and 2009, will be delivered through a short online training course and one day workshops for participating groups. The workshops involve a range of exercises and case studies which deal with practical food allergen management in a catering setting.

Further details

To register your expression of interest please send your: name, work address and contact details to

leitichian@googlemail.com



Issue 4

Philip Thompson, Chair CIEH Northern Ireland Regions

At our most recent Management Board meeting it was good to welcome Catriona Cooper now working with White, Young Green Consultancy and representing EHP's in the private sector and Suzanna and Leo representing first and second year students respectively. How encouraging it is to see fellow professionals coming forward with a willing and enthusiastic attitude to contribute to the work of the Northern Ireland Centre on behalf of its members.

It was however disappointing to lose Roisin McDaid who has taken up a new post with the Electoral Commission. We wish Roisin well in her new post and are delighted that her skills as an EHP are rightly recognised and should just not be seen/confined to the local government sector.

Finally in the short time I have been chair to date I have had an

opportunity to see more closely the work, which goes on, within the region. I really want to highlight and thank Steve Cooper for all the work, time and dedication he continues to put into the successful operation of the Management Board and also Gary McFarlane, Director CIEH NI.

I have now had the opportunity to go along with Gary to meetings with both with the Environment Minister, Arlene Foster and Health Minister, Michael McGimpsey.

On both occasions it has been clear that Gary continues, on our behalf, to promote the concept and importance of environmental health to ministers and senior government officials, to highlight the valuable skills, which EHP's possess, and to develop opportunities where EHP's can practice and demonstrate those skills.

As members I trust that you are encouraged with the work being

undertaken on your behalf.

Please take time to share your thoughts, concerns or ideas with members of the Regional Management Board.

You can see who these members are by going to

<http://www.cieh-nireland.org/> Or by

contacting Donna

Drummond on 02890243884

or by emailing her at

d.drummond@cieh.org

Climate change starts at the workplace...

Don't put hot equipment, like photocopiers, near cooling vents. The cooling system will need to work harder to cool an area that is constantly being heated.

Keep the thermostat away from draughts or hot and cold spots. These will all affect the thermostat and automatically increase your heating costs.

Switch off all lights and appliances at night. Lighting a typical office overnight wastes enough energy to heat water for 1000 cups of tea; introduce occupancy sensors, daylight sensors and local light switches.

Switch to green energy suppliers.

Turn off unused office equipment, including laptops and photocopiers, at source.

Humans remain entirely atmosphere dependent, so there is no choice but to respond to extreme climatic behaviour and its many effects
Peter Garrett

Gary McFarlane, Director CIEH NI

As you will all be aware finally, in the months since the last newsletter, we have seen firm proposals for the local government sector the health sector. Following the announcement by the health minister Michael McGimpsey, outlining the future proposals for health reform, the CIEH has now been busy engaging with both his officials and indeed the minister himself in ensuring so far as possible that environmental health interests are embedded in the final outcomes. Indeed our previous extensive engagement in the Review of Public Health (2003/2004) has added credibility and consistency to our position.

In April we were invited to deliver a presentation outlining our thoughts on the future proposals for public health in Northern Ireland to a panel convened by the Chief Medical Officer.

I invited CEHOG (Chief Environmental Health Officers Group) to be part of that process and was accompanied to the meeting by Kieran Doherty; Coleraine BC who I believe made a valuable

RPA and health reforms move on – at last!!

contribution to the debate. In addition to that engagement I have also met with the Minister McGimpsey about a range of issues in late April. Once again the opportunity to put our proposals forward and thinking on the health reforms was taken. The papers presented at these meetings is available online at www.ciehnireland.org/

I do believe that there will be exciting new opportunities within the new local government structures for a much more substantial role in health improvement in the future. This in turn should herald new opportunities for EHOs within local government to use their training, knowledge and skills both directly and across departments in these new organisations to influence, contribution to the debate.

Develop and deliver health improvement policies and interventions

Equally I believe that there is a strong possibility of new opportunities and potential appointments for EHPs within the proposed new Regional Public Health Authority.

Over the next eighteen months the CIEH will be seeking to continue to develop capacity in the existing system as far as is possible.

In addition, if you have not already do so, I would encourage those of you who my aspire t some of these potentially new and emerging opportunities to check out and keep abreast of other emerging developments – most notably the developing UK Public Health Register practitioner Standard. You will have recent received information from my office about this (see across).

I hope to see some of your somewhere in the near future.

Gary

British Council

Are looking for the brightest, boldest and best minds in Europe.

Climate change is real. Something needs to be done to make a difference and accelerate change to a Low Carbon Future. The time to stop talking and start acting is NOW. The British Council and its local partners are looking for bright young people from the island of Ireland who can make this happen.

WHO

Are you aged between 18 and 35? Can you commit approximately 12 hours of your time each month for the next year?

WHAT

If selected, you will be offered the chance to explore solutions to climate challenges with other bold and bright people across the island of Ireland and Europe. You will participate in local and international visits and study tours, develop long-lasting networks, interact with leaders, public figures and specialists from different sectors of society, share best practice across Europe and promote unique ideas that will accelerate change to a Low Carbon society.

INTERESTED

Email

Liz.mcbain@britishcouncil.org
02890248220

Gary McFarlane, director CIEH NI and other colleagues have been involved in developmental work that is being undertaken by the UK Public Health Register www.publichealthregister.org.uk. If you are not familiar with the work of UKPHR, it was established to develop a common and comprehensive framework to assist in assuring the competency and quality of the public health workforce, in particular at senior level. This is largely because the appointment of directors in public health is no longer restricted to those with medical qualifications. At present UKPHR is involved in trying to develop practitioner standards and they have approached Gary to see if he can assist them with this. They are looking for is three or four practitioners and/or advanced practitioners who could work with them for about three hours to look at the draft standards. Asking them to look through the current drafts to identify whether they know/can do the standards or if they do not know/do them whether they perceive them to be helpful or a hindrance to their development. Their feedback, along with that from other groups, will be used to do an initial edit of the standards (i.e. they are seeking at this stage just to check the standards to make sure they are broadly understandable and appear feasible).

If you would be interested in participating in this work contact Zoe Clark: zoe.clark_po@hotmail.com.

From Jordanstown... news just in!!

A party organised by students has come to a premature end when for the fifth consecutive night the fire alarm has been activated at 4 am in the halls. Environmental Health students were reported missing or late for classes! This has created chaos and confusion amongst staff who cannot explain the downward trend in attendance. After long hours of revision and coursework, a student is found quietly and peacefully sleeping at the back of the classroom!

To avoid a repeat of the same, a creative and imaginative programme called the "response system" (a version of who wants to be a millionaire, without the money!) has been successfully introduced by one of the lecturers. This has proved to be effective and has made learning fun and interactive. After being parted from their families, students now appear to have mastered the art of budgeting, cooking, laundry and the home delivery service! Now on serious note, being an Environmental Health student is about prioritising, organisation, hard work, attending classes and at the same time making the most of a great new experience and building life long friendships. For most students Environmental Health is a passion; dedication and determination are incentives that will produce numerous rewards. Just around the corner, exams approaching, signals another academic year coming to an end. However, a new year is coming and brings with it new changes, challenges and adventures.

September 2008 will see the introduction of a restructured Environmental Health course at the University of Ulster. Students past and present have welcomed the new change in the course structure, which is more in line with the evolving role of the EHP in today's society. The new structure will advance students' skills in communication, teamwork, leadership, taking responsibility, decision making and using their initiative; all of which are attributes of the Environmental Health profession. Current students look forward to becoming a part of this innovative programme and are happy to have contributed to it.

By Leo Andrade and Susanna Vince

The Chief Executive, President and Director of CIEH will be visiting us on the 26th November 2008.

They will inform members of current issues within CIEH but more importantly to listen to what **you** have to say about CIEH education, policy and whatever other matters concerning the organisation you might wish to raise.

The last time you were able to meet the management of your organisation was in 2004 when we met at the Belfast International Hotel. This time we will meet in the Civic Function room at Castlereagh Borough Council at 14.00 hrs.

All are welcome – email your attendance to

d.drummond@cieh.org

CIEH Membership drive

Is the person sitting beside you at work a member of CIEH?

If you know an EHP who is possibly a lapsed member there has never been a better time for them to rejoin. No need to sit APD or pay outstanding subscriptions. Have they a post graduate qualification? Have they undertaken at least 20 hours of CPD a year for the last

three years? If so put them in touch with me and I'll do the rest! Don't forget that there is also Associate membership and Accredited Associate membership available for your non-EHP colleagues.

Steve Cooper, Honorary Secretary
nicentre@cieh.org

Best of the best conference

This year the NI Region is sponsoring three places at the CIEH "Best of the Best" Conference due to be held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham from 28 September until 30 September 2008. The Conference will provide members with the

opportunity to update their knowledge of the latest research, innovation and developments in environmental and public health. As a delegate you will be able to access over fifty sessions and participate in a wide range of workshops. The

Conference is designed to encourage delegates to develop and share skills with the aim of staying ahead in their professional development. Members of the NI Region may apply for one of the three places but preference will be given to those members

who have not been able to or would not normally attend this event. Applications should be submitted to the Secretary at nicentre@cieh.org. The closing date for applications is 12 June 2008.

Social Marketing – a one day conference

As the Chief Medical Officer in Northern Ireland, Michael McBride, reflected in his recent annual report:

“Changing every day, long term behaviour is the key to adding years and quality to our lives”.

We need to effectively facilitate behavioural and lifestyle change where these are currently exposing individuals to real health risks and we cannot improve our track record on this by doing more of the same things we have already done. The stakes are too high. We need a new approach to the promotion of public health. One which starts with a realistic understanding of what will motivate people to change their behaviour, rather than what fits with the existing delivery models.

Social marketing is about using a consumer-centred approach to promoting the adoption and sustainability of behaviours. Its development has been influenced by two key schools of thought: ‘marketing’ and the learning from years of social campaigning and reform work in the public and not-for-profit sectors on ways to inform and influence different behaviours. It is not simply about generating carefully crafted, individually

focused messages to promote behavioural change. It adheres to some key principles: putting the consumer (and the stakeholder) at the centre of the process. Instead of assuming we know what the target audience wants, it starts by listening to and asking **them what they do and why; what they need and want; and what motivates and drives them.** We can then use this information, as part of a logical planning process, to develop initiatives which will promote the adoption and sustainability of behaviours at the individual level and/or encourage policymakers and organisations to make improvements to their policies, services and practices so that it is easier for people to adopt and sustain healthy behaviours.

This one-day conference, aims to introduce you to the concepts and principles of social marketing. This will take the form of presentations and interactive group work. The conference will be run in conjunction with the National Social Marketing centre, set up by the Department of Health in England and other is supported by a wide range of other public health organisations including the Public Health Alliance for the island of

Ireland. This event will be open to anyone but will be particularly relevant to all those who work directly or indirectly on health related lifestyle choices such as diet and food, smoking, alcohol and exercise; as well as lifestyle choices concerned with environmental issues, for example, recycling, waste minimisation and travel.

To find out more and to book your place go to www.cieh-nireland.org/events a programme for the conference will follow shortly

YOUR BOOKMARKER

IS ENCLOSED

THIS NEWSLETTER

IT DETAILS

THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

TRUSTEE

THE SECRETARY

THE DIRECTOR, CIEH NI

IT SHOWS

NIR PROGRAMME FOR 2008

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETINGS

Emergency Planning Legal Issues & Technicalities

16 June 2008

NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast

Cost: CIEH members £95.00/non members £195.00

Course Provider: CIEH NI

Trainer: Julie Barrat

Overview

EHOs are pragmatic professionals; they can identify hazards, assess risks and make the correct decision on appropriate actions. They are a wealth of information and a useful resource for the ‘blue-light services’ (police, ambulance and fire brigade). When employed in a LA capacity EHOs are valuable in terms of liaising with the relevant agencies (helped by the fact that they know their local patch).

But what about the legal issues and technicalities surrounding the planning of an emergency?

This interactive course has been designed to explore the legal issues at a practical level with real examples/scenarios and delegates will be in a position to ask questions that will enable them to get it right rather than learn from their mistakes during a real incident.

Topics include:-

- Authority to act: why you need it and consequences of not being authorised
- Contemporaneous notes: producing good notes and the value of well written notes (and the danger inherent in poorly written notes).
- Computer records: security of information and the production of computer records
- Decision making and recording the decision
- Surviving cross examination: practical tips

CPD certificates and comprehensive notes will be provided at this course along with refreshments and lunch For further details on how book this course go to:-

<http://www.cieh-nireland.org/events> or contact d.drummond@cieh.org

Personal emails

From August 2008 all correspondence to members will be sent by email only with hyper links to the CIEH NI web site to allow you to view documents and download.

I am sure you will commend CIEH NIR making this move in a drive to reduce paper usage and its associated costs.

The CIEH NI Region has 631 members and it is important that an effective channel of communication

is set up to inform you of meetings and courses for members only and any relevant information that we feel would be important and a benefit you.

So if you are reading this newsletter you are part of the membership – welcome!!

Also this is a fast and effective way to communicate. We can also forward your information to members on your behalf within the

office on 02890243884 and speak to Donna and let her know your personal email (not your work email remember we are trying to get a membership database so please only if you have no other address, and it is your responsibility to update us with changes if you move etc.)

Connecting Agendas 24/25 April 2008

It is usual for members to change jobs, get married, go on maternity/paternity leave or indeed retire/graduate. This disables us from contacting you if the only email contact we have is your work email. So to help us with this task please take the time to contact CIEH NI

The All Ireland Environmental Health Conference has come and gone for another year.

The conference this year was located in Killarney, County Kerry and held in hotel Europe – what a beautiful place and wonderful venue.

The delegate list numbered 402 and welcomed colleagues from all over Ireland, Wales, England

and Scotland.

Thanks to those speakers from the north who took the time to travel down to Killarney to speak – Harry Whan, Emergency Planning Co-Ordinator, EGEHC and Eileen Campbell, Business Support Manager, SGEHC who were excellent, informative and well received by all the delegates.

Once again Gary

region.

As vice chair I ask all members to respond to this request and forward their personal email address to the CIEH NI office to be compiled into one membership database.

I am sure you can understand that personal emails are more a permanent fixture that you will use long term than work emails.

Don't have time to ring why not email Donna and let her know your details – either way she will be in contact with you over the coming months to ensure that you are on the database

Jennifer Parkinson
Vice Chair, CIEH NIR

McFarlane's presentation held the audience spell bound speaking with heart felt earnest on the issues of Climate Change.

A massive thank you to the delegates from the North who attended most notably, past chair John Corkey, Messrs Farrell and Briggs, and the lovely Gillian Topping et al.

Jennifer Parkinson
Vice Chair, CIEH NIR

Donna Drummond

Is PA the Director CIEH NI

123 York Street
Belfast
BT15 1AB

02890243884

d.drummond@cieh.org
or
ciehnorthernireland@cieh.org

Fancy a birdie

Gerry Tierney is organising a golf day out on Friday 20 June 2008 (depending on interest) and he is considering three categories for the competition

1 Males with handicap

2 Females with handicap

3 Hackers without official handicap

Venue will be central to wherever most interest comes somewhere central like Moyola Castledawson, Lisburn Golf Club or Hilton

With possible prizes sponsored by CIEH NIR Interested – contact Gerry on

Gerry.tierney@fermanagh.gov.uk