



The RPA and “Public health”

Grasping the nettle or
tinkering round the
edges?

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Chairman, NIPHA

NI – The Persistent Challenge

- 11 government departments
- 140 public bodies
- 3 MEPs
- 18 MPs
- 108 MLAs
- 564 Councillors
- 60% GDP derived from Public Service
- 32% of adult workforce employed in Public Service
- (180,000)



Terms of Reference

“To review the existing arrangements for the accountability, development, administration and delivery of public services in Northern Ireland and to bring forward options for reform which are consistent with the arrangements and principles of the Belfast Agreement, within an appropriate framework of political and financial accountability”



Timetable

- Launched June 2002
- First Consultation Oct 2003 – Feb 2004
- Further Consultation 22 March 2005 – 30 September 2005
- Final Decisions – turn of the year
- Implementation through to 2009

REGIONAL

Devolved
Institutions

Regional Authorities

Departments

Next Steps Agencies

Strategic Planning
Policy
development

Standards
Delivery of
Regional Services

Voluntary
and
Community
Sector

Central/Local
Government
liaison
arrangements

SUB REGIONAL

Coterminous Boundaries:

Councils

Health Bodies

Other Sub-
Regional Bodies

Sub-Regional
Delivery Units


Limited policy role
Service Delivery
Council led
Community Planning

Civic Leadership
Local
representation,
consultation,
partnership

Private
Sector

NI – The Current Performance of the Public Service

- 22% of working population claiming benefit
- Employment rate below rest of UK
- Expenditure on R&D £9.00 per head
- 30% of population functionally illiterate
- many children condemned to live in some of the highest levels of relative poverty in these islands
- 70% of disabled people on the poverty line
- Highest waiting lists in UK



**“The definition of madness is doing
the same thing again and again
and hoping for a different
outcome”**

LEARNING CURVE

1900



EXPERTS
SOLVE
PROBLEMS

"EVERYBODY"
SOLVES
PROBLEMS

1950

1965

EXPERTS
IMPROVE
WHOLE
SYSTEMS

"EVERYBODY"
IMPROVES
WHOLE
SYSTEMS



2000

Number of Councils – 7, 11 or 15?

THE DRIVERS

- Population for efficient service delivery
- Co-terminosity
- Equality and Social Need
- Population and Compactness
- Wealth base
- Geography
- Regional Development & Other Strategies
- Local Identity

Health Bodies Proposals

- Existing 4 Boards and 18 Trusts (the exception being the Ambulance Trust) would be replaced by either 5 or 7 sub-regional health and personal social service agencies
- 6 existing regional health bodies would reduce to 4
- A regional health forum would be established.
- The 4 Health and Social services Councils replaced by 1 regional body



The “health” service is driven by
a model that best serves “ill

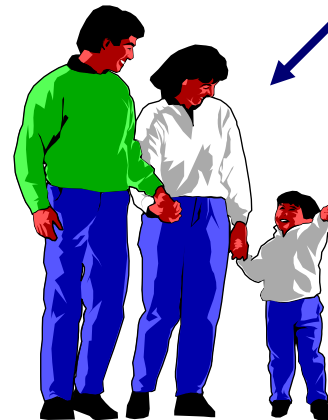
= Major problem

for public health?!

The determinants of health

SOCIO- ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY NETWORKS



INDIVIDUAL LIFESTYLE FACTORS

AGE, SEX & GENETIC FACTORS

Determinants of Health & Wellbeing

Social Determinants of Health may include:

- Social and economic circumstances; psychological circumstances; early Life; social Inclusion / exclusion; quality of Working Life; social support; addictions; food; transport

Economic Determinants may include:

- Levels of employment; small business viability; business diversity; average wages; home ownership; affordable accommodation

Environmental Determinants may include:

- Quality and safety of buildings and roads; wheelchair accessibility; local government infrastructure (transport, recreation, access to technology, etc); water, air and marine quality; landscape protection; bio-diversity.



Public health was the reason Local Authorities were invented!

“giving back to councils the public health role they once had - indeed pioneered - would inject some much needed clarity.”

-Guardian 02

“Local Authorities have a vital role to play in improving the health of their communities and have influence over a greater number of factors affecting health than the local NHS.”

-DoH 2001

Creating the **conditions** for local communities to thrive!

Current (and proposed) future role for Local Government

(RPA Consultation Doc)

- **Community planning**
- Planning
- Conservation of natural and built heritage
- Local economic development
- Tourism
- Urban and rural regeneration
- Rural development
- Environmental services
- Environmental health
- Leisure and recreation
- Arts and culture
- Community development
- Community relations
- Emergency planning

Community Planning



Some challenges!

- We need a **common language!**
- Courage, creativity and flexibility in financial planning (including Government!)
- Evidence based practice – improve our understanding – yes! But tempered with “whats blatantly obvious”!
- Workforce development and training.

“Reciprocal Maintenance”

– looking after the things that look after you!



"Only when the last tree is cut; only when the last river is polluted; only when the last fish is caught; only then will they realise that you cannot eat money."

Cree Tribe



**Where there is no vision
the people perish**