

Overview from Northern Ireland

Council meeting

6 September 2007

Report from Graham Jukes, Chief Executive

1.0 Summary and recommendations

- 1.1 This report summarises the activities and progress in ongoing projects in N. Ireland being led by Gary McFarlane since the last meeting of Council.
- 1.2 This report should be read in conjunction with the 2007 business plan for N. Ireland.
- 1.2 Council are recommended to note the report.

2.0 Detail

- 2.1 All fieldwork has now been completed for the research study commenced in March 2007 to evaluate the effectiveness of the smokefree legislation on indoor air quality. The analysis of the data and has now commenced and it is anticipated that the research paper/report will be completed late 2007. The CIEH are working with the Ulster Cancer Foundation (UCF) and Assembly Ministers to create an appropriate high profile launch event for this research.
- 2.2 The period which this report covers has seen the conclusion of all fieldwork and data collection for the food poverty research project. The first draft of the final report has been produced and will be completed at the end of September. Work has been progressing on the launch of the research findings which will take place on 6 November. The findings are likely to attract significant interest from policymakers; practitioners; academics; community and voluntary sector and academics. Given that the CIEH is a key collaborating partner this should further assist in our positioning and profile.
- 2.3 Several meetings have taken place with newly appointed ministers and assembly committee chairs and the summer recess has allowed time for the planning of several more. In May the CIEH, along with UCF and the Health Promotion Agency, successfully persuaded the Health Minister to retract proposals for an exemption

for performers from the smokefree legislation (the proposal was similar to that exemption which currently exists within England). Meetings also took place with the newly appointed Minister for the Environment and the CIEH has been in communication with the First and Deputy First Ministers Offices. The new NI Assembly continues to present excellent opportunities for the CIEH to influence key policy areas.

- 2.4 The Director has had informal discussions with the incoming chair of EHOA with a view to strengthening collaboration between the two professional organisations on the island of Ireland. It is intended to hold regular meetings in order to work collaboratively on joint policy issues as well as further develop opportunities for training and professional development between and across the memberships.
- 2.5 The low cost training programme in NI for 2007 continues to be well subscribed. In addition to EHPs the programme has, this year, begun to attract increasing numbers of other professionals which further enhances our reputation and credibility in this field. Planning has begun for the 2008 programme.
- 2.6 The Director has also been involved in ongoing input into the public health workforce development work in N. Ireland and nationally.

3.0 Implications

Environmental	None
Equal opportunities	None
Financial	Within existing or anticipated/planned budgets
Legal	None
Personnel	None
Public health	None
Public relations	None

Background papers Available from G. McFarlane, Director NI
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