

Overview from CIEH Wales

Meeting of Council

30 April 2009

Report from Graham Jukes, Chief Executive

1.0 Summary and recommendations

1.1 This report summarises the activities and progress in ongoing projects in Wales being led by Julie Barratt since the last meeting of Council.

1.2 Council is recommended to note the report.

2.0 Detail

2.1 The Wales regional conference, Public Health :Initiating Outcomes was held on 25-6th February in Cardiff. Two of the three of the Performance Indicators set for it were achieved.

PI	Measure	Outcome
Delegate Numbers	100 delegates on each day	Day 1 – 109 delegates Day 2 - 102 delegates
Financial performance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Break even 2. Up to £500 profit 3. £500-1000 profit 4. > £1000 profit 	Loss of £127.61
Media Coverage	Day 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newspaper 2. TV /Radio Day 2 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newspaper 3. TV/Radio 	Achieved Total approx measurable audience 14,329,798 Direct Equivalent Costs £441,948

2.2 The conference launched two pieces of research. One piece of research, on UV dose levels from sunbeds commissioned by CIEH was presented to the conference, and received extensive media coverage. A second piece of research, looking at levels of exposure to noise experienced by bar workers in night clubs was also widely covered in the media, and has been used as the basis of a wider study

supported by CIEH working with Wales Heads of Environmental Health Health and Safety Technical Panel which will report later in the year.

- 2.3 The Directorate simultaneously launched a piece of research commissioned in 2008 looking at the bacteriological quality of water in ornamental water features sold in garden centres. This study also received considerable media coverage. Students on placement with the Directorate have used the study to produce a Guidance Note raising the issue of water quality in such features with Garden Centre Operators and also a PowerPoint presentation that can be used by EHPs when working with Garden Centres on health and safety and communicable disease issues. The Director is now working with the Health & Safety Technical Panel and Communicable Disease Technical Panels to take these pieces of work forward in Wales. They will then be made available on a wider basis.
- 2.4 The launch of the research pieces generated very considerable publicity and raised the profile of CIEH and the work undertaken by EHPs. The Wales Directorate funded the research by purchasing the necessary equipment and loaning it to the researchers or by giving a direct grant that contributed to the costs of the work. The Directorate has made it a condition of supporting all such work that the CIEH can use and promote its findings, that researcher agrees if requested to give a conference paper on the research and that it is written up for the JEHR. This maximises the benefit we obtain from supporting the work. The Directorate also makes the equipment purchased available to other researchers to ensure maximum value is archived from its purchase. The table below shows the costs of each piece of research and the value that flowed from it.

Study	Cost	Value £	Added Value
Sun bed dosimetry	£9,125	363,575.16	Conference paper given JEHR Paper WAG Health Minister engagement on sunbed control Inspection protocol for EHP use Equipment available for further loan
Noise in Night Clubs	£500	1371.60	Conference paper given JEHR paper Research protocol derived Wider study now being undertaken
Garden Water Features	£2,200	77001.12	JEHR Paper Advice Note for Garden Centres Protocol for EHPs use Generic PowerPoint slide set

- 2.5 The Director has met with the Deputy Housing Minister to discuss issues relating to Private Sector Housing in Wales. Topics covered included the Essex Report and the Draft National Housing Strategy, the importance of private sector housing in terms of health, accident prevention and general well being, the role of private sector housing in terms of addressing sustainability and particularly in terms of energy efficiency measures, the future of renewal areas in Wales and the issue of resources for private sector housing improvement. The Deputy Minister has agreed to host a CIEH reception at the Senydd where the impact of housing on health will be showcased. All AMs will be invited, it is intended to have examples from every constituency in Wales available to demonstrate the local, regional and national

value of housing interventions to improvement of health and reduction of inequalities. The date has to be confirmed, but is likely to be October 2009.

- 2.6 On 20th March the Directorate held interviews for 2 student placements that it will host in 2009-10. The first placement will run from September 2009 - February 2010, the second will run from February 2010 to July 2010. 10 students were interviewed and the two students selected, both currently second year undergraduates at UWIC have accepted the posts.
- 2.7 In March the Director was invited to attend at the Scottish Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health Annual Congress where she gave a presentation on the Best Practise Standards for Improving Environmental Health Services. The representatives of the Scottish Chief Environmental Health Officers group had expressed interested in the Best Practice Standards at the tri-partite meeting held in Northern Ireland in December 2008, and have now resolved to look at ways of taking them forward in Scotland as a more meaningful way of measuring service improvement than the Performance Indicators that are currently in place.
- 2.8 The Directorate has responded to Welsh Assembly Government consultations on the Draft Heatwave Plan for Wales, amendments to the Private Water Supply Regulations and The Role of Inspections, Regulation and Audit.

3.0 Implications

Environmental	None specific
Equal opportunities	None specific
Financial	Within existing resources
Legal	None specific
Personnel	Within existing resources
Public health	None specific
Public relations	None specific
Background papers	
Contact officer	Julie Barratt, Director CIEH Wales, j.barratt@cieh.org