



Overview of the activities of the CIEH in Wales, 2004-5

1. Once again CIEH has had a busy year. We have established ourselves as one of the key partners in taking forward the public health agenda, and consequently have carried out most of the initiatives undertaken this year in partnership with other public health bodies.
2. 2004 saw the launch of the Directory of Student Training Opportunities. This was put together in response to the changes to the BSc Environmental Health Core Curriculum and the consequent changes to the practical learning element of the training. It is a loose leaf compendium of training opportunities in the local government, non-governmental organisations and commercial sectors from which students can identify those opportunities that best suit their needs. It is the first of its type, and there has been much interest in it outside Wales. The Director has attended meetings of training officers in Northern Ireland, Nottingham and Bath and North East Somerset, where versions of the Directory are now proposed. The Directory will be kept under review and will be supplemented by further training opportunities as the same are identified.
3. CIEH also worked with the Wales Heads of Environmental Health Group in 2004 putting together Best Practice Standards : Improving Environmental Health Services in Wales, which was launched in early 2005. This document identifies the need for environmental health departments to demonstrate that they are delivering improved services and contains a suite of Best Practice Standards, devised in collaboration with the Technical Panels. The Best Practice Standards will allow local authorities to elect to which level they wish to deliver their services and to provide explanation for that choice. They also allow authorities to show year on year improvement in the service they deliver. The document is seen as vital to raise the profile of environmental health services and to increase the value attached to the service by elected members, two of the aspirations of the 2012 Vision Statement for Wales.
4. Through out 2004 CIEH has been a member of a group working with the Local Government Data Unit on a Performance Measurement Framework for Environmental Protection. The work is now completed, a number of Performance Indicators, either to be part of a Statutory and a Core set have been derived and consultation on them has taken place. CIEH has been asked to remain a member of the group which is tasked with review of the Performance Indicators and progress of the scheme.
5. In 2004 in partnership with a number of local authorities CIEH ran a Beat the Burn campaign, targeting prevention of skin cancer. The campaign was supported by Lloyds Pharmacy with additional resources provided by Cancer Research UK. The campaign was very successful, with all the participating local authorities reporting high levels of interest from both the public and the local media.

6. As the result of the Beat the Burn campaign the issue of skin cancer prevention through protection from excessive exposure to sun and use of sun beds has become CIEH national policy. CIEH has produced a Skin Cancer Public Health Interventions tool kit, containing details of a number of case studies as well as information on skin cancer statistics, resources and partner organisations. This will be launched at a national conference to be hosted by CIEH in Cardiff on 19th May 2005.

7. CIEH was invited to be a member of the First Ministers' Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Smoking in Public Places. In October 2004 the Director launched the Smoking in the Work Place tool kit at a Breath Easy event in Carmarthen. CIEH responded to the Welsh Assembly Government consultation on Smoking Public Places and the Director also gave oral evidence to the National Assembly Committee taking evidence on the subject. Our considerable involvement in this field is an indication of the weight attributed to the view of CIEH, and demonstrates that we are influencing government policy.

8. We have provided support to a number of organisations and groups which became established during 2004. The Welsh Food Fraud Co-ordination Unit was established to gather intelligence and to support local authorities in the fight against food related crime. CIEH supported the establishment of the unit and assisted in its launch. We also supported the establishment of the Pest Control Liaison Group, now adopted as a Technical Panel by the Wales Heads of Environmental Health Group.

9. CIEH has offered a considerable number of low cost training opportunities throughout the year, on each occasion in partnership with other organisations. These were:
 - HSCWB- Progress Pitstops and Pitfalls – a seminar for elected members on the progress of the HSCWB agenda and the role of environmental health in delivering it, delivered in association with the WLGA,
 - Management Challenges and Opportunities – a rerun of the management skills course previously run in 2003,
 - Food for Thought – a conference on topical food issues run with the Food Safety Technical Panel,
 - Food Safety and Sampling – a course for food sampling officers, run with the Welsh Food Microbiological Forum,
 - Environmental Interventions and Health – a conference on the effect that environmental interventions can have on public health, run with the NSCA Wales,
 - 2 courses on Health Challenge Wales run in association with the Welsh Assembly Government Health Promotion Division, informing EHPs about HCW and their role in delivering its aspirations,
 - 2 courses on Integrated Impact Assessment run again with Health Promotion Division, highlighting the Assembly IIA Toolkit and giving participants a practical opportunity to try the kit.

10. We have worked with Anglesey CC on a pilot scheme, called 'Operation Christmas Turkey' which teaches young women with little in the way of lifestyle skills cooking skills budgeting skills, food hygiene and nutritional awareness. The scheme will be rolled out as a tool kit in 2005 for use by all

local authorities, as it meets both the HCW and the HSCWB agendas and allows EHPs to demonstrate that they can work in partnership with other, non-traditional groups to deliver tangible results through this intervention.

11. CIEH has continued to respond at all relevant consultation documents produced by the Welsh Assembly Government and others throughout the year. We have also participated in a number of groups working variously on Recruitment and Retention of Regulatory Services Staff, the UK Voluntary Register, Public Health Evidence and Food Safety legislation.

12. 2004-5 has built on the work done in 2003-4. The profile of CIEH is high and we are seen as a valuable partner by other organisations operating in the public health field. There has been an increase in the number of local authorities and of individual members coming to CIEH seeking support for projects and for emerging policies which is very encouraging, suggesting the work that is being done is appreciated and effective. The presence of CIEH in Wales is small and the resource is limited, however by continuing to work in partnership we will maximise our influence and the value attached to the role of EHPs in Wales.

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