

Smoking in Wales

Dr Dai Lloyd A.M.

SMOKING IN WALES

- The historical impact of Public/Environmental Health
- Victorian Drains
- Immunisation
- Smoking linked to Lung Cancer 1953

- Local Government
- Environmental Health
- Housing
- Public Transport
- Education

IMPACT OF SMOKING

- 120,000 deaths annually in the UK
- 7,000 deaths annually in Wales
- 400 deaths annually in Wales from passive smoking
- 27% of adults in Wales smoke

WHAT TO DO?

- Jan 2003 – Assembly vote to ban smoking in enclosed public buildings in Wales
- March 2004 – Ireland bans smoking in enclosed public buildings
- March 2006 – Scotland bans smoking in enclosed public buildings

- Similar bans on smoking in enclosed public buildings in California
- New York
- Italy
- Norway
- Sweden
- Cuba

WHERE ARE WE IN THE ASSEMBLY?

- Another Assembly vote in 2004 to set up The Smoking in Public Places Committee
- All- Party
- Over 9 months exhaustive evidence-taking
- Recommend full ban along Irish lines
- Committee recommendations endorsed by the full Assembly 2005
- NO powers

- The Queen's Speech Nov. 2005 delivers the Health Improvement Bill
- Contains an enabling clause allowing Wales to do what it wants in terms of smoking bans
- Awaiting Royal Assent

EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE

- The truly poisonous nature of environmental tobacco smoke
- “ like Asbestos ”
- PASSIVE SMOKING KILLS

MORE EVIDENCE

- Ventilation DOES NOT work!
- Ventilation merely removes the smoke you CAN see, but not the noxious, odourless, colourless fraction you CANNOT see OR smell

PARTIAL BANS DO NOT WORK!

- Anachronistic
- Unenforceable
- No evidence of efficacy

THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

- Need a long, planned lead-in time
- Tobacco smoke “like Asbestos”
- Sold as protecting health in the workplace
- Tobacco sales down
- Economy NOT destroyed!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Assembly Elections May 2007
- All need to be working NOW to prepare the way for a full ban in Wales
- Ban on smoking in all enclosed public buildings in Wales kicks in summer 2007

CONCLUSIONS

- Ground-breaking transformations in Public Health ;-
- Victorian Drains
- Immunisation
- In years to come, the ban on smoking in enclosed public buildings will come to be regarded in the same light!!