

Health Impact Assessment

Claire Higgins

Public Health Development Officer

HIA Forum

28 April 2009



www.publichealth.ie

What is HIA?

A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population

Gothenburg Consensus 1999

How can HIA support healthier communities?

- Social determinants of health
- Health improvement
- Focus on health inequalities
- Multi-disciplinary
- Participatory
- Evidence-based decision making

- Government level support:
 - Investing for Health
 - Quality and Fairness

HIA process

Screening

Scoping

Appraisal

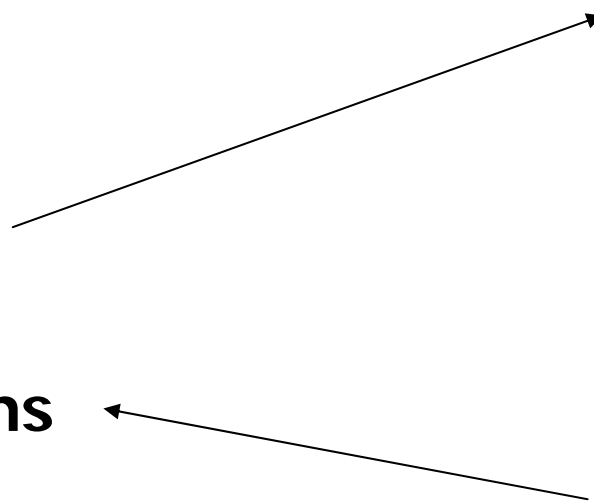
Recommendations

Monitor and evaluate

Gather information
from a range of
sources

Collate the
information

Prioritise potential
health impacts



IPH work in HIA

- Skills development: Broad range of opportunities from awareness raising to comprehensive training
- Information: Health impact reviews series; Website
- Partnerships: HIA network; HIA forum; HIA conference
- Practice: Active involvement in HIAs currently being undertaken

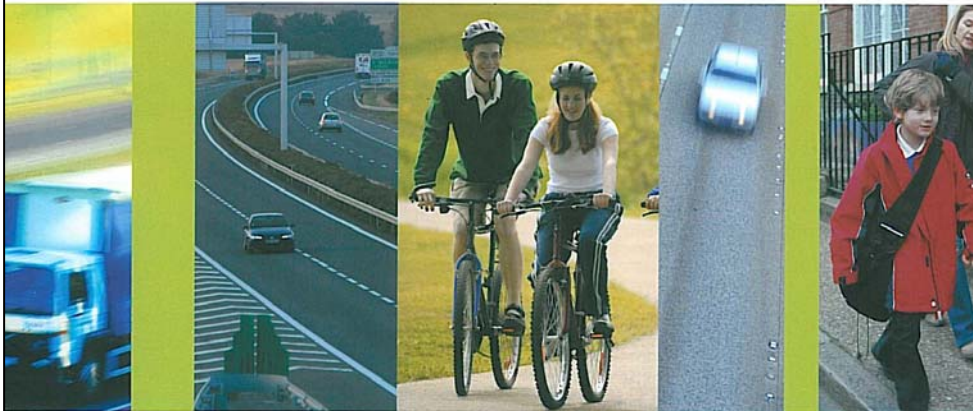
www.publichealth.ie/hia

HIA – Air Quality Action Plan, Belfast City Council

Health Impact Assessment

of the Draft Air Quality Action Plan for Belfast

Abridged Version - MAY 2006



Commissioned by Belfast City Council With support from Belfast Healthy Cities

Overview



- **Developing Air Quality Action Plan**
- **4 Air Quality Management Areas:**
 - **M1/ Westlink corridor**
 - **Ormeau Road**
 - **Cromac Street**
 - **Upper Newtownards Road**
- **Stakeholder engagement:**
 - **Stakeholders/key informants**
 - **Local community focus groups**
 - **Primary school workshops**



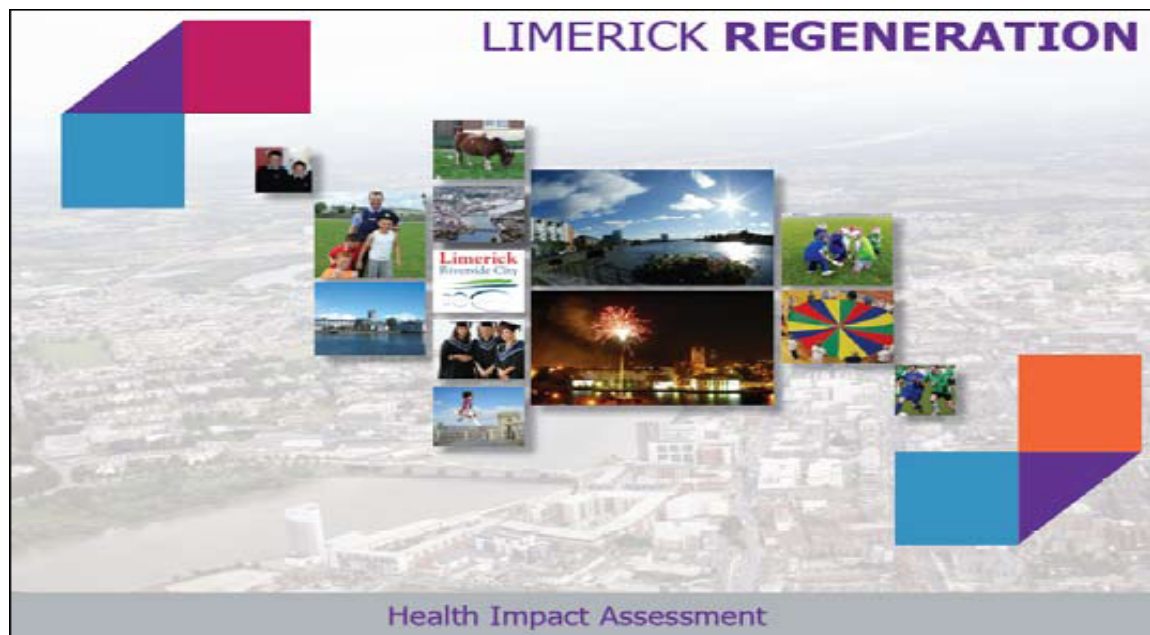
Impact of the
ion

Recommendations

- Initiatives to promote walking and cycling
- Initiatives to encourage increased use of public transport
- Implementation of policies that will contribute to lower air pollution levels
- Highway and road improvements that will contribute to lower pollution levels
- Marketing and education initiatives that will raise public awareness of air pollution

Health Impact Assessment on the Regeneration of Limerick City

LIMERICK HEALTH PROMOTION, HSE WEST



Limerick Regeneration – Physical regeneration



- Community consultation and participation
- Safety and security in design
- Transport and connectivity
- Green space and play areas
- Town centre and local amenities
- Housing design
- Retirement housing
- Travellers residence
- Employment and training
- Management of the estate
- Home ownership
- Food availability

Limerick Regeneration - Early School Leaving, Absenteeism and Truancy

- The need to invest more in the formative years
- Parent-school relationships
- Parental understanding
- Supporting parents
- Parental education and support
- Working to address educational disadvantage
- The education system
- Transition from primary to post primary school
- Student-teacher relationships
- Bullying, mental health, substance misuse
- Media
- Learned helplessness

HIA - Dove Gardens



“To demolish the 79 dwellings that make up Dove Gardens and provide replacement dwellings for those that wish to return”

HIA – Dove Gardens



Enablers

- Support for HIA
- Stakeholder involvement
- Acknowledges different communities of interest
- Skills
- Resources
- Current climate supports a healthier approach to proposals
- Adaptable methodology

Barriers

- Context of the proposal
- Who to influence
- Decision-maker may not be receptive
- Time
- Skills
- Confidence
- Resources

Further information

Institute of Public Health in Ireland

W: <http://www.publichealth.ie/hia>

E: Claire.Higgins@publichealth.ie
Teresa.Lavin@publichealth.ie



www.publichealth.ie