

IPH Newsletter

Vol 5 Issue 4 – December 2011

Welcome to Public Health News in Ireland

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Spotlight on the Health Well - Physical Activity and Nutrition Intervention (PANI) Tool

The Physical Activity and Nutrition Intervention (PANI) Tool, developed by IPH in collaboration with the Public Health Agency (PHA) and Health Service Executive (HSE), will soon be launched on the Health Well. It will help policy-makers and practitioners critically review local, regional and national physical activity and nutrition interventions using the details collected in the all-island audit of obesity related interventions and other information on the Health Well. If you have any comments or feedback please email pani@info.ie

Access PANI www.thehealthwell.info/pani

Access The Health Well <http://www.thehealthwell.info>

IPH vacancy

IPH wishes to recruit a part-time Consultant in Public Health who will support IPH in its drive to tackle health inequalities and improve population health across the island.

Access further details and job specification here <http://www.publichealth.ie/site-page/vacancy-consultant-public-health>

Northern Ireland Assembly researchers get Health Well

The Research and Information Service Directory (RaISe) in the Northern Ireland Assembly, in association with IPH, held a seminar on the Health Well website and its Community Profile tool on 24 November. IPH demonstrated how the Health Well and the Community Profile tool can provide information support to the Assembly and constituency work through the development of Local Government District (LGD) profiles.

[Access presentation here](#)
[Access Community Profile tool here](#)

Public health frameworks in Ireland and Northern Ireland –update

New public health frameworks are currently being developed North and South. IPH have input into both frameworks. In the Republic of Ireland, IPH is represented on the project working group and is centrally involved in the consultation strand of the process. In Northern Ireland, the process for developing a new Strategic Framework for Public Health has begun. IPH is represented on the project board and data and research group.

[Access Republic of Ireland information here](#)
[Access Northern Ireland information here](#)

Ageing Globally - Ageing Locally

Population ageing is one of the biggest issues facing the world today. On the island of Ireland there are nearly one million people aged 60 years or older and this is expected to more than double by 2041. The Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI) held its first international conference, *Ageing Globally - Ageing Locally*, placing the ageing revolution in the spotlight with international experts tackling the health, social and economic impacts. Keynote presentations were given by Professor Peter Lloyd-Sherlock, Sir Michael Marmot, Professor Peter Passmore, Professor Rose Anne Kenny, Professor Alan Walker and Professor Anne Martin-Matthews.

Access presentations here www.cardi.ie/conference2011



Pictured at Ageing Globally - Ageing Locally (L-R) Mr Owen Metcalfe, Director of IPH, Mrs Mary McAleese, Former President of Ireland and Roger O'Sullivan, Director of CARDI.

All-Ireland Evidence-Based Practice Forum

An All-Ireland Evidence-Based Practice Forum has been established to help guide the development of evidence based practice and policy across the island of Ireland. This was initiated by IPH in collaboration with the Evidence-Based Practice Group South East, HSE Health Intelligence and the Health Research Board (HRB). A number of discussion forums have been set up to tap into the expertise of the community of health practitioners across the island in order to identify the skills, resources and supports necessary to build and sustain a culture of evidence-based practice.

Join in the discussion here <http://www.thehealthwell.info/All-Ireland-EBP-Forum>

Fit Futures Communities of Interest Workshop

Fit Futures is a cross-departmental taskforce established by the Northern Ireland Ministerial Group on Public Health in response to concerns about the rising numbers of overweight and obese children and young people. IPH gave a presentation on the Obesity Hub website to the Fit Futures Communities of Interest Workshop conducted by the Belfast Health and Social Care

Trust.

Access the Obesity Hub and presentation [here](#).

HIA Forum - HIA: a tool to support policy development

Co-hosted with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) this event considered how HIA fits into the policy-making agenda. A HIA on the DHSSPS Service Framework for Cardiovascular Health and Wellbeing demonstrated how HIA can add value at policy level and consider the impact on health inequalities and actions required to address. Dr Salim Vohra provided an overview of HIA in England which is mandatory as part of Regulatory Impact Assessment.

View all presentations here <http://www.publichealth.ie/ireland/hiaforum/hiaforum2011>

British Medical Association (BMA) paper on health inequalities

IPH staff recently met with representatives from the British Medical Association to discuss the role of the clinician in tackling health inequalities.

Access *The Social Determinants of Health – What Doctors Can Do?* [here](#).

Understandings of ‘wellbeing’ in public health policy – ESRC/IPH project

This three year project commenced in November 2010 and seeks to unravel the dominant discourses on the concept of ‘wellbeing’ that have emerged over the last twenty years. A key aim is to trace how the meaning of wellbeing has evolved over time and what key drivers underpinning such changes might be. The project is funded by ESRC and IPH.

For further information email joanne.wilson@publichealth.ie

Consultations

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI): Children’s Commercial Communications Code

The BAI are undertaking a review of the Children’s Commercial Communications Code section 11 rules on Diet and Nutrition. This sets out standards for commercial communications for food and drink shown during children’s programmes. IPH emphasises that the majority of television food advertisements viewed by children refer to foods high in fat, sugar or salt. The obesity epidemic is developing rapidly and all possible evidence-based measures must be used to address it.

[Access the original consultation document](#)

[Access IPH response](#)

Department of the Environment: Amendment to Policy HS 3 of PPS 12

IPH welcome this amendment for Traveller accommodation. Travellers health status is significantly poorer than that of settled people and there is an inextricable link between poor housing and Travellers health outcomes. Galway Traveller Movement developed a toolkit to assess conditions on Travellers sites and IPH recommend this is taken into consideration by planners prior to developing such sites.

[Access the Galway Traveller Movement toolkit here](#)

[Access Planning and Development Issues: Traveller Specific Accommodation – A Brief Guide](#)

[Access IPH response](#)

Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and the Public Health Agency (PHA): Community Development Strategy

The new Community Development Strategy outlines an approach to enhance health and wellbeing and tackle health inequalities in Northern Ireland. IPH welcome the focus on tackling health inequalities using community development approaches and highlight HIA as a tool to support community engagement and provide a mechanism for HSCB and PHA to support the

implementation of this strategy.

[Access the original consultation here](#)

[Access IPH response](#)

European Review of the Social Determinants of Health and the Health Divide

IPH submitted a response to the European Review of the Social Determinants of Health and the Health Divide in Europe being led by the Marmot Review Team. The consultation document is available on the website of the newly formed UCL Institute of Health Equity.

[Access original consultation here](#)

[Access IPH response here](#)

Resources

Rare diseases

IPH is currently working with the Department of Health in the Republic of Ireland to support the development of a National Rare Diseases Strategy for Ireland. The UK Rare Diseases Plan is due to be released for consultation shortly.

In Northern Ireland the Patient and Client Council is encouraging people to share their experiences of living with a rare disease to inform key decision-makers and planners in Health and Social Care. A survey is available online to do this

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/raredisease>

IPH – blogging on public health

As part of recent IPH website development monthly blogs on various topics will provide an opportunity to get involved in discussing current public health issues.

This month's blog asks what role for public health within a population health approach to rare diseases?

Get involved <http://www.publichealth.ie/blogs>

Events

Fuel poverty, older people and cold weather – an all-island analysis – 15 December 2011

IPH, as part of an all-island research collaboration led by Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) will publish findings from the research on fuel poverty and older people at 1.30pm on 15 December at DIT Kevin St, Dublin.

Findings from this research have been used in the following ways:

- to inform content of the Keep Well and Warm booklet
- briefing sessions for the Energy Poverty Coalition and Irish Social Policy Network
- to inform the forthcoming Affordable Energy Strategy
- data used in the '*How Low Can They Go*' campaign run by Age Action.

If your organisation would be interested in a briefing on this research, please contact

helen.mcavoy@publichealth.ie

Visit the [fuel poverty hub](#) to keep up to date on all fuel poverty related news on the island of Ireland!

HIA Training - 12-14 March 2012

Health impact assessment (HIA) is a tool to support decision-making for better health. It considers the broad range of social, environmental, economic and individual factors which influence health and makes recommendations to enhance health.

This course explains HIA and empowers participants through action learning to conduct a HIA and will be of particular interest to those working in local government, healthcare, public health and health promotion, planning and regeneration renewal, socio-economic development, environmental health and the community and voluntary sector. The training will take place at the Clarion IFSC Hotel, Dublin.

[Access further information and booking details here](#)

Population Health Methods and Challenges Conference: 24–26 April 2012

The demand for strong population health evidence has never been greater, and methods for producing, appraising, synthesising and translating evidence are developing rapidly. The MRC Population Health Sciences Research Network, UKCRC Public Health Research Centres of Excellence and the Scottish Collaboration for Public Health Research and Policy are convening the first UK conference on population health research methods with a focus on the challenges facing transnational research in population health.

Access further information here <http://maverick.sym-online.com/publichealthmethods/>

Contact us

Belfast:

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland
Forestview
Purdy's Lane
Belfast
BT8 7ZX
Northern Ireland
Telephone: +44 28 9064 8494
Fax: +44 28 9064 6604
Email: info@publichealth.ie

Dublin:

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland
5th Floor
Bishop's Square
Redmond's Hill
Dublin 2
Ireland
Telephone: +353 1 478 6300
Fax: + 353 1 478 6319
Email: info@publichealth.ie