

## IPH Newsletter

### Vol 6 Issue 1 – March 2012

#### Welcome to Public Health News in Ireland

##### Inside this issue

- [Spotlight on the Health Well – Community Profiles](#)
- [North South Alcohol Conference](#)
- [IPH brief to Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children and Northern Ireland Assembly Health Committee](#)
- [Commitment and cooperation from all essential to reduce obesity](#)
- [Clear roadmap for smoking reduction welcomed](#)
- [IPH recruitment](#)
- [Rare diseases](#)
- [Oireachtas researchers get Health Well](#)
- [New Health Well members](#)
- [Latest EU-SILC data show that poverty worsened and income inequalities grew in 2010](#)
- [Consultations](#)
- [Resources](#)

#### **Spotlight on the Health Well – Community Profiles**

The Health Well gives people access to qualitative information resources such as policy, interventions and evidence. The Community Profiles give people access to quantitative local data for the island of Ireland.

The new integrated Community Profiles tool combines quantitative data with qualitative resources from the Health Well. This new integrated tool is both unique and innovative and will help users contextualise information; allow them to ask questions to guide their analysis; and to better understand differences between regions.

[Access the Community Profile tool here](#)

#### **North South Alcohol Conference**

The first North South Alcohol Conference took place in January. Policy-makers and agencies came together in Armagh and explored common issues in relation to alcohol. Contributors included Sir Ian Gilmore, Chair, UK Alcohol Health Alliance; Dr Peter Anderson, an international expert on alcohol policy and Dr Fiona Measham, researcher. Health Ministers Edwin Poots (NI), Dr James Reilly (ROI) and Minister of State (ROI) Róisín Shortall spoke and set the scene for a longer term, all-island collaborative approach for tackling alcohol abuse issues.



Tom Daly, Director General, CAWT / HSE; Edwin Poots, Minister for Health, DHSSPS; Dr James Reilly, Minister for Health, Department of Health; Bernie McCrory, Chief Officer, CAWT and Owen Metcalfe, Director, Institute of Public Health in Ireland

[Access all the audio, presentations and further information here](#)

### **IPH brief to Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children and Northern Ireland Assembly Health Committee**

IPH submitted a paper to a recent meeting between the Joint Committee on Health and Children and members of the Northern Ireland Assembly Health Committee on cross-border cooperation in health. The benefits from cooperation in health, public health, health service planning and delivery were discussed. IPH recommended that an agreed plan or overall strategic context be agreed for future work. Alcohol, obesity, tobacco health surveys and rare diseases are particular areas that would benefit from cooperation.

[Access the transcript of the meeting here](#)

[View the video of the meeting here](#)

### **Commitment and cooperation from all essential to reduce obesity**

Obesity and related conditions are affecting our economy and threaten to engulf the health service. 'A fitter future for all. Framework for preventing and addressing overweight and obesity in Northern Ireland 2012-2022' was launched by NI Health Minister Edwin Poots in March and outlined a sustainable and effective response to this crisis. Responsibility goes beyond the health sector. IPH work highlights the need to address the complex causes linked to poverty, deprivation and social exclusion.

IPH supports the Framework in a number of ways but particularly through the development of the all-island Obesity Hub.

[Access the framework here](#)

[Access the all-island Obesity Hub here](#)

### **IPH recruitment**

IPH wishes to recruit two Public Health Development Officers (Policy) who will support our drive

to tackle health inequalities and improve population health across the island. One post will be based in Belfast and the other in Dublin.

[Access the job description here](#)

[Access the job advertisement here](#)

### **Clear roadmap for smoking reduction welcomed**

The recent Ten Year Tobacco Control Strategy for Northern Ireland presents a clear roadmap for reducing the excessive burden of smoking-related illness and deaths and will be significant in the reduction of health inequalities. IPH believes the strategy provides an opportunity for North/South cooperation in the development of tobacco control programmes to tackle this critical threat to public health on the island of Ireland.

The recommendations of this strategy are aligned with those set out in a Health Impact Assessment of the Service Framework for Cardiovascular Health and Wellbeing conducted by IPH and the Public Health Agency (2011).

[Access the strategy here](#)

[Access the Health Impact Assessment of the Service Framework for Cardiovascular Health and Wellbeing here](#)

### **Rare diseases**

IPH is working with the Department of Health (ROI) Steering Group on a National Rare Diseases Strategy. A seminar 'Insights into Rare Disease Research' was hosted by the Medical Research Charities Group, the Health Research Board and IPH in March. Speakers included; Professor Orla Hardiman, Professor Brendan Buckley, Ms Celiné Hubert and Dr José Millán. The event is part of our involvement in the development of the National Rare Diseases Strategy.

The UK Rare Disease Plan consultation was published on 29 February. IPH contributes to the Northern Ireland Rare Disease Partnership which was launched on Rare Disease Day 29 February.

[Access the UK Rare Disease Plan here](#)

[Access further information on the Northern Ireland Rare Disease Partnership](#)

### **Oireachtas researchers get Health Well**

The Library & Research Services in the Houses of the Oireachtas, in association with IPH, held a workshop on the Health Well website and its Community Profile tool on 22 February. IPH demonstrated how the Health Well and the Community Profile tool can provide information support to the Oireachtas and constituency work through the development of Administrative County profiles.

[Access presentation here](#)

[Access Community Profile tool here](#)

### **New Health Well members**

The Health Well would like to welcome the following members to our site.

- [safefood](#)
- [Centre for Cross Border Studies](#)
- [Food Safety Authority of Ireland \(FSAI\)](#)

## **Latest EU-SILC data show that poverty worsened and income inequalities grew in 2010**

The CSO has released its final report on the EU-SILC 2010 survey. Key findings show that equivalised disposable income fell by 5% between 2009 and 2010. In the same period, poverty levels increased: the at-risk-of-poverty rate rose from 14.1% to 15.8% and the percentage of people in consistent poverty rose from 5.5% to 6.2%. The survey also showed that the income gap widened: while the bottom 10% of income earners saw their household income fall by 26%, the top 10% of income earners saw their household income rise by 8%.

[Access further information here](#)

## **Consultations**

### **Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister - Social Investment Fund, December 2011**

IPH called for a consideration of health to be included in the Social Investment Fund. Each of the four objectives of the programme will have the potential to positively impact on health by increasing education attainment and skill levels, tackling deprivation, increasing community support and enhancing the physical regeneration of communities. IPH also calls for greater clarification on the links with other area based partnerships.

[Access the IPH response here](#)

[Access the original consultation here](#)

### **Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister – Northern Ireland Programme for Government, February 2012**

In our response to the Northern Ireland Programme for Government (PfG) consultation, we highlighted how improvements to health can be achieved through a well-designed PfG which addresses the economy, creates safer communities and delivers efficient public services. Northern Ireland has a poor population health status in key areas when compared to other regions in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland and IPH support and welcome allocation of an increased proportion of the Northern Ireland budget to public health.

[Access the IPH response here](#)

[Access the original consultation document here](#)

### **Department for Environmental, Community and Local Government – A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland, February 2012**

IPH welcomed the Framework and particularly the section on public health. The Framework aims to identify and prioritise policy areas and mechanisms where a sustainable development approach will add value and enable continuous improvement of quality of life. IPH appreciates the recognition of social inclusion as an integral element of sustainable development, as well as the realisation that interdepartmental working is key to implementation and success. Health inequalities and the wider social determinants of health are acknowledged in the Framework as integral to the sustainable development agenda.

[Access the IPH response here](#)

[Access the original consultation document here](#)

### **Department for Regional Development – Building an Active Travel Future for Northern Ireland, March 2012**

IPH welcomes the new Active Travel Strategy which outlines actions to increase walking and

cycling. IPH highlight the need for a truly integrated approach to the strategy which has the potential to positively influence health in areas such as obesity, mental health and cardiovascular health. We suggest a health impact assessment is undertaken on each of the Active Travel Demonstration projects to fully maximise the potential health outcomes of developing the required infrastructure for active travel. The response is based on the publication Active Travel: Healthy Lives.

[Access the IPH response here](#)

[Access the original consultation here](#)

[Access Active Travel: Healthy Lives here](#)

## Resources

### **The Physical Activity and Nutrition Intervention (PANI) tool**

The Physical Activity and Nutrition Intervention (PANI) tool is now live on the Health Well website ([www.thehealthwell.info/pani](http://www.thehealthwell.info/pani)). The tool helps users identify effective physical activity and nutrition interventions by critically comparing details which were collected as part of an audit. It currently contains over 110 interventions and will be regularly updated. If you would like to submit details of an intervention you can do so here: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/obesity-related\\_interventions](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/obesity-related_interventions)

[Register to use the PANI tool here](#)

### **Injury Prevention News (IPN)**

IPN is the joint electronic newsletter of the Injury Observatory for Britain and Ireland (IOBI) and the Collaboration for Accident Prevention and Injury Control (CAPIC). IPH is the IOBI member for the island of Ireland.

[Access IPN Issue 12 here](#)

### **How families matter to the social and emotional outcomes of 9 year olds**

A new report and policy forum linked to Growing Up in Ireland, the national longitudinal study of children was launched on 9 March. IPH staff also attended a training session on using the newly available data from the 9 month old cohort of the study.

[Access How Families Matter to the Social and Emotional Outcomes of 9 Year Olds here](#)

### **Open Access to Health-Related Knowledge across Ireland**

IPH is calling for expressions of interest from people wanting to receive training and join a network focused on open access publication and dissemination of health – related knowledge in Ireland (North and South). This will link with the NECOBELAC (Network of Collaboration between Europe and Latin American and Caribbean Countries).

[Access more information here](#)

## Contact us

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