

## IPH Newsletter

### Vol 6 Issue 4 - December 2012

Welcome to Public Health News in Ireland

Seasons greetings and good wishes for 2013 to all our readers

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#### **IPH Open Conference - presentations available**

IPH held a dynamic, informal Open Conference in Belfast on 11 October providing a platform for participants to explore current public health issues. The conference emphasised that public health is everyone's business and all sectors and government departments must work together to improve the health of the population. A versatile programme (which was developed by participants through an online voting system) engaged everyone and received much acclaim.

[Access IPH Open Conference presentations here](#)



Left to right: Owen Metcalfe (IPH Director), Dr Eddie Rooney (PHA Chief Executive), Mary McMahon (PHA Chair), Jim Wells MLA and Dr Michael McBride (NI Chief Medical Officer)

#### **IPH appearance at NI Assembly Health Committee Review on Health Inequalities**

IPH presented to the Northern Ireland Assembly Health Committee as part of an evidence review on tackling health inequalities on 3 October. The presentation focused on the evidence relating to early years and health inequalities. The Institute's briefing paper highlighted key implications for policy which were discussed at Committee.

[Access the IPH briefing paper](#)

[Access the Hansard report of the Committee briefing](#)

#### **Gender mainstreaming - HSE Policy**

IPH were members of an HSE Gender Mainstreaming Steering Group developing a framework for the integration of gender mainstreaming into HSE policy. The framework was launched on 16 November 2012 as a HSE and National Women's Council joint publication "Equal but Different: A Framework for integrating gender equality in Health Service Executive Policy, Planning and Service Delivery".

[Access the Framework](#)

#### **Northern Ireland Public Health Research Network (NIPHRN) – IPH hosts website**

IPH is pleased to host the NIPHRN website on the Health Well website. The Network, an initiative of the Centre of Excellence for Public Health (Northern Ireland) and the HSC Research and Development Division, aims to:

- Facilitate public health intervention research
- Extend the public health evidence base
- Increase engagement between public health professionals, academics and the third sector
- Increase quantity and quality of public health research in Northern Ireland

The website includes a number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) dealing with particular public health topics, and Research Development Groups (RDGs) to support small groups working on particular research projects.

You need to join the NIPHRN to access the SIGs, RDGs and other resources. Membership is free.

[Click here to join](#)

#### **All-island Obesity News**

IPH is now a collaborator on the All-island Obesity News, e-bulletin of the All-island Obesity Action Forum, along with Safefood, the Health Research Board (HRB) Centre for Health and Diet Research and the Centre of Excellence for Public Health (Northern Ireland). This new collaboration was officially launched at the recent All-island Obesity Action Forum Workshop - Overweight and Obesity in Practice on Tuesday 27 November. Each edition will bring together the latest in obesity related research, news and events while also highlighting recent work from each of the four collaborators.

[Access the new bulletin here](#)

#### **Weather and Health – An Irish Perspective**

Findings from an IPH collaborative research project on older people, cold homes and fuel poverty featured at the seminar Weather and Health – An Irish Perspective held by the Irish Meteorological Society and the Institute of Physics on 17 November.

[Access reflections from the Conference ‘Weather and Health – An Irish Perspective’ here](#)

[Access the IPH Fuel Poverty Hub here](#)

[Access the IPH report Climate Change and Health here](#)

#### **PANI (Physical Activity and Nutrition Intervention) Tool**

The PANI Tool provides a platform to enhance collaboration and build networks across the island. Currently the tool contains over 150 interventions and is continually updated. In 2013 interventions from the National Obesity Observatory (NOO) in the UK will be added.

To include your intervention in the PANI Tool, complete the online audit form by clicking [here](#)

For more information, email [fiona.oshea@publichealth.ie](mailto:fiona.oshea@publichealth.ie)

#### **Researching Children’s Outcomes: An All-Island Approach**

The Children’s Research Network for Ireland and Northern Ireland inaugural conference took place on 26 September and focused on children’s behavioural, educational and health outcomes. IPH Senior Policy Officer, Helen McAvoy, highlighted developments in children’s research on the island.

[Access the Conference Newsletter here](#)



Left to right: Dr Jude Cosgrove (St Patricks College), Dr Helen McAvoy (IPH) and Dr Dirk Schubotz (QUB)

#### **The Health Well – a tool for profiling**

IPH Research Analyst, Lorraine Fahy, spoke at the Netwell Centre lunchtime seminar at Dundalk Institute of Technology. Netwell focuses on enhancing the quality of life and wellbeing of older people. The seminar entitled 'The Health Well as a tool for profiling' showcased the Health Well website and the Community Profiles tool which can help people to develop health profiles of their local area.

[Click here to access the Health Well](#)  
[Click here to access Community Profiles](#)  
[Click here to access the Netwell Centre](#)

#### **Planning to quit smoking in the New Year?**

Here are some useful resources to help you succeed!

[www.quit.ie](http://www.quit.ie)  
[www.exsmokers.eu](http://www.exsmokers.eu)  
[www.want2stop.info](http://www.want2stop.info)

## **Consultations**

#### **Department for Social Development – Proposed changes to the law regulating sale and supply of alcohol in Northern Ireland**

International evidence clearly supports the role of regulation of the sale and supply of alcohol in reducing consumption and related harm. IPH recommended that a Health Impact Assessment should be conducted on the proposed regulations.

[Access the original consultation](#)  
[Access IPH response](#)

### **Department for Social Development – Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework for Northern Ireland**

Urban regeneration and community development provide a basis for addressing the social determinants of health and reducing inequalities in health. This policy framework presents an opportunity for coherence with 'Fit and Well - Changing Lives' as part of Government's overall approach to tackling health inequalities.

[Access the original consultation](#)

[Access IPH response](#)

### **Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – Ten Year Breastfeeding Strategy for Northern Ireland**

The draft strategy recognises the potential of breastfeeding as a means for tackling health inequalities and forms a central theme of the IPH submission. This emphasises the importance of integrating the actions of the breastfeeding strategy with the strategic direction of overall public health policy (in particular the forthcoming Fit and Well policy framework and Early Years strategies).

[Access the original consultation](#)

[Access IPH response](#)

## **Events**

### **33rd Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) – 13-16 May 2013, Calgary, Alberta, Canada**

The 33rd IAIA Conference 'Impact Assessment: The Next Generation' will be of interest to all impact assessment practitioners.

IAIA13 focuses on how impact assessment (IA) will evolve as we face global changes (eg climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation and loss, ocean productivity changes, loss of aboriginal cultures, and more) as well as changes in IA regulations and procedures. The "next generation" refers to both a new generation of practitioners and new approaches to IA practice.

Access further information and application details from <http://www.iaia.org/iaia13>

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