



WHIASU



QUALITY ASSURING HIA: WALES EXPERIENCE

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CONTEXT - WALES

- HIA not a statutory requirement
- Open Cast Mining: MTAN 2 (2009). HIA has to be undertaken as part of mandatory HIA
- 2014-15 Welsh Government HIA Screening of policies, Bills and Amendments
- Wales HIA Support Unit - Independent and Impartial. Provides advice, guidance, training and provision of resources
- Advice - often asked 'is it any good?'



OPEN CAST MINING REVIEWS

- 4 Recently reviewed reports for planning applications
- All assessed by WHIASU
- Requested by Directors of Public Health; community members; PHW; Environmental Health Officers



ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Size and complexity of reports - ESHIAs rather than HIAs
- Time
- Capacity - WHIASU/public health teams and commissioners/LA officers
- WHIASU - lack of local knowledge and context; technical expertise
- Political pressure - contentious developments



ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Knowledge and interpretation of HIA and health and wellbeing - physical health; environmental health or social definition including inequalities
- Critical Appraisal tools - BCA/WHIASU checklist and usability
- What's in report but also... what's not in it!
Inequalities often not referenced.
- Developer bias
- Consultation versus Involvement
- Jargon - glossary



KEY FACTORS TO ADDRESS

- Increase understanding of broad definition of health
- Build capacity of LPHT/Local Planning Authority/WHIASU and experience
- Need to map out and define expectations and requirements to meet minimum standards
- Communicate these from the outset and the review tool to be used
- Usability of tools
- Provide resources - guides; evidence reviews



WORK SO FAR...

- Development of resources - guide to 'Health and wellbeing impacts of open cast mining'
- Training and knowledge - Environmental Health Officers/Local Public health teams; LA Planning Departments
- Work with EH Protection experts in Wales
- Developed and delivered a standalone training module in QA - Feedback tools need to be shorter; more usable; applicable to all HIAs and not just development projects
- More practice for confidence; more time for the training session



SUMMARY

- Substantial experience - outline expectations at the start
- Can't be looked at by WHIASU in isolation - need local partners and technical experts
- Delivery of amended QA module in partnership with PHW and Chartered Institute of EH in 2015-6
- Ongoing awareness with Planning Authorities, EHOs and Planning Officers about wider definition of health - conference papers and posters
- Development of more resources and support tools in WHIASU work plan for 2015-16 including QA tool





Grazie!

Diolch yn fawr!

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