

CONTENTS

01 News

- i. WHIASU Welcomes New Team Members
- ii. Update on the World Health Organisation (WHO)
Collaborating Centre for 'Investment for Health and Wellbeing'

02 Putting HIA into Practice

- i. The Public Health Impacts of Reducing, Reusing and Recycling Waste
in Welsh Public Bodies

03 Collaboration and Partnership

- i. Harmonising Public Health and Land Use Planning
- ii. Continued Collaboration with the Chartered Institute of
Environmental Health (CIEH)
- iii. Continued Collaboration with the Town and Country Planning Association
on '5 years on planning for health'
- iv. WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Urban Environments
at the University of the West of England

04 Publications and Presentations

- i. Presentation on Circular Economies at the WHO European Regional
Technical Expert Meeting
- ii. European Public Health Association (EUPHA) Conference, Ljubiana,
November 28- 1 December
- iii. The Landscape Institute CPD Day

05 Continued Professional Development

- i. Training Opportunities
- ii. Resources
- iii. Useful Links

06 Contact Us

WHIASU

newsletter

Welcome to the winter 2018 edition of the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading our articles and if you have any questions or queries please contact us on the contact details provided at the end of the newsletter.



News

WHIASU Welcomes Four New Members to the Team

Since the last edition of the newsletter was published earlier this year, WHIASU have been fortunate enough to welcome four new members to the team. Nerys Edmonds has returned to the team as a Senior Public Health Practitioner after previously holding the role of Public Health Practitioner in the Unit between 2014-15. Nerys is leading on a HIA of the 'Public health implications of Brexit in Wales' with Liz Green, and the HIA Knowledge and Skills Framework and Training Strategy; she will also be supporting the implementation of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 by delivering training and advocacy sessions.

Ed Huckle has joined the team for 1 day per week on a fixed term secondment from Public Health England where he works as a Principal Environmental Public Health Scientist. Ed will be leading the work on reconnecting public health and land development planning, as well as supporting the other functions of WHIASU.

Vicky Smith has joined the team as a Project Support Officer on a fixed term contract for 1 day per week. Vicky will be supporting all of the continuing work streams in WHIASU whilst completing an apprenticeship in Project Management. Laura Morgan joined WHIASU during the summer as a Public Health Researcher - she has been working on a HIA of the 'Public health implications of Brexit in Wales'. Welcoming four new members to the team has been of significant benefit to WHIASU and has enabled the Unit to strengthen its current work whilst expanding into new areas of health across a broader range of policy areas.



Update on the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for 'Investment for Health and Wellbeing'

The Policy, Research and International Development Directorate (PRID) of Public Health Wales (PHW) has been designated as a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre (WHO CC) for 'Investment for Health and Wellbeing'. As part of the agreed four year work plan, WHIASU will lead Activity 5 which is focused on developing a framework for HIA for WHO European Region Member States.

In December, WHIASU held the first Advisory Group meeting for Activity 5 and the purpose of this meeting was to decide on the Year 1 activities and priorities. Despite a number of organisational changes planned for PRID, the work associated with the WHO CC will not be affected. Further updates on Activity 5 will be provided in the next newsletter in 2019.

Applying HIA in Practice

A HIA on the Public Health Impacts of Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling by Public Bodies in Wales

WHIASU and the Health and Sustainability Hub within the Policy, Research and International Development (PRID) Directorate of Public Health Wales (PHW) are conducting a rapid participatory HIA to explore the potential positive and negative public health impacts of waste management by the 44 Public Bodies in Wales covered by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In addition to understanding the current waste management approaches, this work aims to identify opportunities to reduce the amount of resources (natural and manmade) being used by Public Bodies and where it is not possible to reduce, then to identify ways to increase the amount of waste that is reused and recycled. This will support Public Bodies to reach the Welsh Government's ambition of 'Towards Zero Waste'. The final report will be published on the WHIASU website in February 2019.



Collaboration and Partnership Working

Harmonising Public Health and Land Use Planning

Since our last newsletter, the 'Harmonising public health and planning' Working Group has been busy in its endeavour to improve integration between NHS Wales (across PHW and health boards) and local authorities (planning and environmental health departments). The group comprises representatives from Cardiff and Vale Local Public Health Team, WHIASU, and the Environmental Public Health Service in Wales (a collaboration between PHW Health Protection and Public Health England Centre for Radiation, Chemicals and Environmental Hazards – Wales). Other important stakeholders, such as Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales, help the group promote and embed public health as a core consideration in planning policy and practice.

The recent consultation on the draft version of Planning Policy Wales (PPW, Edition 10) incorporated the spirit of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Putting the concept of place-making at its centre has the potential to maximise the policy's contribution to the Act's well-being goals. Collaborative working is the key theme of the consultation draft and provides the public health community the ideal opportunity to embrace this change of vision in land-use planning.

Earlier this year, a survey was undertaken with PHW local public health teams, health board colleagues, local planning authorities and environmental health departments, to assess and understand the extent of current collaboration across agencies, sectors and disciplines. The **results** (next page) suggest there is a disconnect in engagement and divergence mismatch in public health priorities. Encouragingly, there appears to be overwhelming support for closer engagement and appetite to explore practical ways of enhancing engagement and working in a more sustainable manner.

These issues were the subject of a multi-agency workshop which took place in Cardiff on 19th November. A summary of the workshop will be published before the end of the year, and the presentations from the day are available to view on the [WHIASU website](#)

It is recognised more than ever there is an increasing need for public health to engage in the early planning stages of national and local policy and pre-application stages for major developments. Through this work, we aim to encourage and facilitate more 'upstream' engagement in order to take advantage of opportunities to embed public health as a core consideration in planning policy and practice.

For further information please contact Ed Huckle on Edwin.Huckle@phe.gov.uk

Harmonising Public Health and Land Use Planning

All Wales Survey Results



49

complete responses (**35%** response rate) **17** NHS Wales public health professionals and **32** local government planning and environmental health officers

PUBLIC HEALTH

PLANNING



53% have little or no dialogue with local planning authorities



58% have little or no engagement with local health boards

53% have little or no engagement with local public health teams

Top 3 specialist areas of information provided in consultations:

Top 3 public health priorities regularly considered in consultation responses:



Reducing **obesity**



Air quality



Increasing **physical activity**



Environmental public health



Active travel, access to open spaces and **resilient communities**



Active travel



87%

of local government planning and environmental health officers want **closer collaboration** with public health on planning policy, consultations and applications

LOW CONFIDENCE

in the revised **Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017** with regards to the wider definition of human health

FAIRLY CONFIDENT

in awareness of forthcoming health impact assessment (HIA) regulations for public bodies under the **Public Health (Wales) Act 2017**

Over three quarters of respondents wanted a **training workshop** to explore opportunities for greater ways of working between public health professionals and local authority planning teams



Contact Edwin.Huckle@phe.gov.uk for further information

Continued Collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health on HIA Training

WHIASU continue to deliver a 2-day rapid desktop HIA training course in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). During 2018, WHIASU have delivered two rapid competency courses to 22 practitioners from a range of sectors and specialities across Wales. Starting in November, WHIASU are also delivering a comprehensive HIA competency course to 5 practitioners.

Continued Collaboration with the Town and Country Planning Association on '5 years on – planning for health'

WHIASU and the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) jointly facilitated a workshop entitled '5 years on – planning for health' on Tuesday 17th July at Sports Wales, Cardiff. Twenty three delegates from across Wales attended the workshop, representing a broad range of organisations including PHW, Natural Resources Wales, the RSPB, Welsh Government and several local authorities. The agenda for the workshop included local examples of good practice in the field of planning and public health, and group discussions on the current opportunities and constraints faced by both planners and public health professionals. Initial feedback from the session has been very positive.

This workshop was part of a larger piece of work led by the TCPA and represents the second time that they have collaborated with WHIASU to facilitate the integration of planning and public health-related work. In 2016, the Planning for Better Health and Wellbeing in Wales's practical guide was produced to explain how public health professionals and policy-makers can input into local developments plans (LDPs) and meaningfully respond to planning applications. It also considers how planners in local authorities can integrate health and wellbeing when preparing and reviewing LDPs.

Following the workshop in Cardiff, the TCPA facilitated five further events in England to gather a wider range of perspectives. These views, together with the findings from desktop research into the state of National policy and practice, will inform a final handbook which is due to be published at a launch event in the House of Lords on 28th January 2019.



tcpa

WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Urban Environments at the University of the West of England

WHIASU have recently started working with the WHO CC for 'Healthy Urban Environments' at the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol and Liz Green has been appointed as a Visiting Fellow with a focus on HIA and Health in All Policies and developing and promoting this as part of the teaching curriculum for Planning and Public Health students. Liz will also be a key component of one of the Collaborating Centres work Activities in relation to integrating health and wellbeing into planning sectors and designing a new website.

Publications and Presentations

From linear to circular

economies – improving health

Liz Green presented and contributed to the WHO European region technical expert meeting for 'From linear to circular economies improving health' – Liz delivered a presentation about how health and well-being has been integrated into waste strategy and policy in Wales using HIA.

Twenty-five European stakeholders contributed to the meeting and they were mainly drawn from health economists; environmental health scientists and chemical experts. A draft Brief which had been prepared by the WHO commissioned consultants was discussed during workshops. Liz has provided feedback on this and has been asked to contribute further regarding the HIA and policy section and the draft screening template.

European Public Health Association (EUPHA) Conference, Ljubiana, November 28-1 December

Liz Green delivered a skills building workshop in Quality Assuring HIA at the EUPHA conference. She also presented her thinking about how 'HIA can be used to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in practice and decision making'. Both sessions had positive feedback. She is also a member of the HIA section and contributed to the section meeting where there was much interest in the Brexit HIA.

The Landscape Institute CPD Day, 29th November 2018

Lee Parry-Williams presented at the recent Landscape Institute's CPD Day in Cardiff. The theme was *Health, wellbeing and place – how landscape practitioners can deliver positive change*. The day was planned as a multifaceted CPD day experience and attendees could choose between 16 expert-led sessions, 2 site visits and a number of interactive workshops, providing opportunities to:

- Develop their skills and knowledge and find practical solutions to challenges
- Network with peers from across the professions, sharing the latest knowledge and best practise
- Up to 7 hours of structured learning to help meet their CPD

The Institute has received excellent feedback from delegates and they are undertaking a wider survey to gather further feedback.

As a direct result of the popularity and success of the day, the institute are looking to roadshow this event in the future.

Lee's session was repeated twice with both sessions well attended and generating a lot of discussion amongst delegates. The session was entitled *Maximising Landscapes Contribution to Health and Wellbeing*.

The session provided an introduction to Health in All Policies and Health Impact Assessment from a Welsh perspective. Lee was keen to learn from the Landscape sector how HIA methodology could be used to strengthen and inform the planning process from their perspective.



#licpd

Could HIA be one mechanism to maximise landscapes contribution to health and wellbeing?

The day provided an opportunity to network with a range of individuals and organisation across the landscape sector. In addition there was a good level of interest in relation to the training WHIASU offers. It is a sector that WHIASU has not directly engaged with before but the Unit will definitely be engaging further with the Institute and exploring how we can support individuals and organisations further.

Continued Professional Development

Training Opportunities

WHIASU continues to deliver a range of HIA training and awareness raising sessions, from introductory through to comprehensive HIA and Quality Assurance. The training aims to further support and develop HIA practice in Wales to ensure the undertaking of high quality and meaningful HIAs. The Welsh Government is committed to developing the use of HIA as a key part of its strategy to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities across policy sectors. The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 has now introduced statutory HIA in Wales for all Public Bodies within defined circumstances. It is intended this will be implemented fully in 2020.

Please contact WHIASU if you would like to explore further your organisation's potential training needs or if you have identified specific training needs in relation to Health in All Policies or HIA, meanwhile please see below details for some forthcoming training opportunities:

Half day Introduction to HIA: 27/02/19 in Mold



This half-day session is aimed at all public health professionals across sectors and settings who have no prior knowledge of HIA or who wish to refresh their knowledge. WHIASU offer an optional extra at these sessions focused on Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment (MWIA) for anyone who wants to develop an understanding of how to integrate impact on mental wellbeing into their work.

Details on the flier:



HIA E-Learning

WHIASU's free e-learning course enables individuals to gain a basic understanding of HIA. It is aimed at those working across the wider public health workforce in both health and non-health sectors in Wales.



2 Day CIEH HIA Competency Training – Rapid HIA

WHIASU are pleased to announce new dates for their Health Impact Assessment Competency Training – Rapid (Desktop) HIAs, which will run over 2 days and include an assignment. This course is aimed at officers such as EHP's and EH Managers, planners, regeneration officers and other staff who will need to understand and be capable of contributing to, or in some cases, conducting a Rapid HIA and appreciate how to use the findings in practice. Having increased insight into HIA will prepare officers to respond to the introduction of statutory HIA in Wales for public bodies as outlined in the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 (specific circumstances to be determined in the forthcoming regulations). In addition elements of the course will support relevant officers to interpret the introduction of the concept of 'population health' within Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) following the EU Directive.

Day 1 will be held on 2/4/19 and Day 2 will be held on 11/6/19, both days will be in the Media Resource Centre in Llandrindod Wells. The cost for Day 1 only is £95 for CIEH members and £135 for non-members. The cost for both days is £200 for CIEH members and £260 for non-members. Cost includes coffee, lunch, course notes and assessment where appropriate. For full details of the course including content and learning outcomes, please see the course flyer to follow.



Health Impact Assessment Competency Training - Rapid (Desk Top) HIAs 2 Days + Assignment

Dates: Day 1 - Tuesday 2 April 2019 Day 2 - Tuesday 11 June 2019

Venue: Media Resources Centre, Oxford Road, Llandrindod Wells LD1 6AH

Cost	Day 1 only - £95 (CIEH members)	£135 (non members)
	Days 1 & 2 - £200 (CIEH members)	£260 (non members)

Cost includes coffee, lunch, course notes and assessment where appropriate.

This course is aimed at officers such as EHP's and EH Managers, planners, regeneration officers and other staff who will need to understand and be capable of contributing to, or in some cases, conducting a Rapid HIA and appreciate how to use the findings in practice. Having increased insight into HIA will prepare officers to respond to the introduction of statutory HIA in Wales for public bodies as outlined in the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 (specific circumstances to be determined in the forthcoming regulations). In addition elements of the course will support relevant officers to interpret the introduction of the concept of 'population health' within Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) following the EU Directive.

How does the course work?

To complete the full competency training delegates need to attend for the 2 days and submit an assignment. Successful delegates will receive a Certificate of Competency for Rapid HIA. Delegates can register for Day 1 only and following attendance would receive a Certificate of Attendance only. Day 1 & 2 must be taken on the same course - delegates may not switch between cohorts or venues.

Day 1 of the course is designed to provide insight into the process and principles that underpin Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The learning from Day 1 is then strengthened through the undertaking of a Rapid Desk Top HIA assignment.

The learning outcomes include:

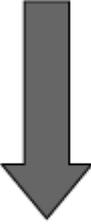
1. Understands the purpose of HIA
2. Know the policy drivers that support the use of HIA
3. Know the benefits and outcomes that HIA can achieve
4. Understand the HIA process and methods
5. Know how HIA can be applied in a range of contexts
6. Understands the ethical principles and values that inform HIA
7. Know the resource, skills and knowledge requirements for completing a HIA - and where your skill set is relevant
8. Identify opportunities for using HIA in practice
9. Applying the learning through undertaking a Rapid HIA.

Day 2 provides an opportunity for attendees to demonstrate their learning and reflect on their experience of applying HIA within the context of their work, it involves:

- Reviewing submitted Rapid HIAs, focusing on issues identified,
- Gaining experience from the HIAs carried out by other participants,
- Allowing for discussion of the system in greater detail.

Time line-

The course has been designed to allow a draft assignment to be submitted and assessed in order to provide additional guidance to strengthen both your learning and final assignment.

	Time line	Outline
	Day 1 2 nd April	Full day attendance by all delegates
	4 weeks 30 th April	Pre-submission of assignment (optional)
	6 weeks	Feedback and comments from assessors returned to delegates (participants will have 2 weeks to make revisions)
	8 weeks 28 th May	Final submission of assignment following revisions
	10 weeks 11 th June	Day 2 review and reflections
	11-12weeks	Final feedback and results sent to delegates

The Assignment

Delegates will be required to undertake a rapid desk top Health Impact Assessment and submit a short report about it.

It can be on any subject or topic area relevant, or directly related to, your work practice. It can be retrospective, concurrent or prospective (further insight is provided on the pre-course instructions)

You are expected to use the methodology, format and tools as outlined in WHIASU's 'Health Impact Assessment: A Practical Guide' (WHIASU, 2012)

https://whiasu.publichealthnetwork.cymru/files/1415/0710/5107/HIA_Tool_Kit_V2_WEB.pdf

The maximum word count for the assignment is 5,000. This includes the main body of the text including headings and titles. It excludes any title page or contents page, tables, appendices and references.

Why HIA?

This is a good time to be developing your skills and knowledge in HIA with the passage of the Public Health Act (Wales) 2017 which makes HIA a statutory assessment. In addition there is the new EU directive for EIA which has expanded the focus on health and wellbeing to consider population health.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a process which supports organisations to assess the potential consequences of their decisions on people's health and well-being. It is increasingly recognised and understood that all policy areas have an impact on individuals and communities health and wellbeing outcomes. The Welsh Government has focused on a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach and recognises HIA as a key tool to be used to raise awareness and increase understanding across sectors on how policies, programmes and services impact on health and wellbeing. In Wales, HIA assesses the implications for health and wellbeing through the broad lens of the wider determinants of health and contributes to a reduction in health inequalities and inequities. HIA is advocated for and implemented at both strategic and operational levels across land use, planning, housing, waste, transport, regeneration and health sectors.

HIA provides a systematic yet flexible and practical framework that can be used to consider the wider effects of local and national policies or initiatives and how they, in turn, may affect people's health and wellbeing. An HIA gathers and assesses a range of evidence and this is then used to build in measures to maximise opportunities for health and wellbeing, to minimise any risks and inform the decision making process. It also provides a way of addressing the inequalities in health that continue to persist in Wales. It does this through collaboration and co-production which is built into the HIA process.

To reserve places:

1. Return this completed form to CIEH at wales@cieh.org
2. Send it to Gail Gerrard, CIEH, Lakeside Court, Llantarnam Parkway, Cwmbran, NP44 3GA g.gerrard@cieh.org

Please reserve me places on DAY 1 of the Rapid HIA Training @ £95/£135 per delegate at MRC, Oxford Road, Llandrindod Wells LD1 6AH on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 as follows:

Day 1 ONLY

Name	Email Address	CIEH Member?

Day 1 & 2

Name	Email Address	CIEH Member?

Please note : cancellations must be made in writing at least 5 working days before the course. After that time monies will not be refunded but delegate substitution will be allowed. If reserved places are not cancelled as above full payment will be required.

The same delegate must attend Day 1 and day 2 of the 2 day course.
Development of this course has been supported by the Wales Heads of Environmental Health Group.

Resources

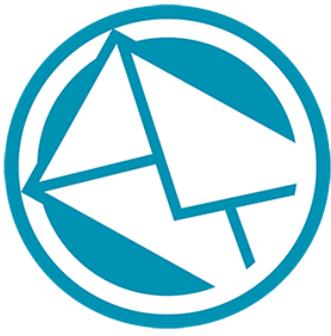
As part of the Unit's role to support the effective use of HIA in Wales, we continue to develop a range of resources such as tools and case studies. These are intended to provide practical support for HIA practice along with insight into the context of applying HIA methodology to aid decision making and understanding of HIA. In many cases we collaborate with others to produce these resources when a gap or specific need has been identified. The Unit welcomes any opportunity to discuss ideas for the development of resources which will support and further the understanding and practice of HIA.

The Unit is currently in the process of re-writing '*Health Impact Assessment: A Practical Guide*' (Chadderton, Elliott, Green, Lester, & Williams, 2012) in order to bring its advice and guidance in line with the latest policy and statutory developments. Further essential guides and tools can be found on the [WHIASU website](#).

Useful Links

A 'Health in All Policies' approach requires a broad understanding across a range of sectors and settings, therefore having a good range of topical information sources really helps. Listed below are some information sources you may already be familiar with and others that you may like to investigate.

- [WHIASU website](#)
- Public Health Network Cymru [website](#) and [ebulletins](#)
- [PHW Observatory](#)
- [WHO CC Health Impact Assessment](#)
- [IN BRIEF](#)
 - This website is produced by Senedd Research, National Assembly for Wales. It provides impartial, authoritative information on the latest topics under consideration at the National Assembly for Wales. [Subscriptions](#) available for weekly or monthly email alerts.
- Healthy People Healthy Places Current Awareness Update
 - This is produced by Public Health England Knowledge & Library Services. The purpose of this update is to provide you with an overview of the latest news, policies, evidence and resources relevant to the health and place agenda. PHE Knowledge & Library Services can be contacted at libraries@phe.gov.uk.
- West Midlands Healthy Urban Development Group
 - A very useful resource which provides weekly updates on a range reports, research and news. Topic areas cover: Sustainable Development Goals, Healthy planning & environment, Housing, Climate change and sustainability, Active travel & transport, Air Quality & pollution, and Food & food security. To receive the update contact paul.southon@outlook.com



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For more information and guidance on HIA, please visit our [website](#).