

Inform

Issue 55

October / November 2007

New HPA settings course – a first for Northern Ireland

The settings approach to improving, protecting and promoting health acknowledges the influence of the setting, eg community, hospital, school or workplace, in which people live, learn, work and use different services, while recognising the relationship between the organisation and personal factors.

The importance of the settings approach to health improvement has been emphasised in *Investing for Health*, the public health strategy, and the HPA continues its support of the settings approach.

In partnership with the Healthy Settings Development Unit at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), the HPA recently offered a new UCLan accredited course in Northern Ireland, 'Healthy settings: theory, policy and practice'. This course enabled participants to gain a level four university certificate, equivalent to 20 credits at Masters level.

Staff from the HPA, Health and Social Care and Belfast City Council were among those receiving their certificates at the HPA from David Sissling, Chief Executive Designate of the Health and Social Care Authority.



David Sissling, back right, Chief Executive Designate of the Health and Social Services Authority, attended the HPA recently to hand over certificates and congratulate some of the successful participants on the University of Central Lancashire accredited course. Students at the certificate ceremony for the 'Healthy settings: theory, policy and practice' course included staff from the HPA, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Belfast City Council and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

MISSION: To make health a top priority for everyone in Northern Ireland

INSIDE:

- Healthcare associated infections leaflet
- NICORE joins CEMACH at the HPA
- The settings approach – developments
- Training and events: October 2007–February 2008



**Health
Promotion
Agency**

New appointments



Nicola Browne

Nicola has joined the HPA as Senior Manager: Public Health (Physical Activity) on a one year secondment from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust where she worked as Physical Activity Coordinator. She holds a BA (Hons) and PGCE in Home Economics and has previously worked as a secondary school teacher in

England and Community Development Officer with Age Concern Northern Ireland. Within recent years Nicola has completed an MSc in Health Promotion at the University of Ulster.



Siobhan Crilly

Siobhan has joined the HPA as a Research and Information Assistant on a one year secondment from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive Research Unit. Her role will be to support the Health Intelligence Managers and Research Officers in the implementation of research projects. Siobhan has recently

completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Research Methods at Queen's University Belfast.



Nicky McKee

Nicky has joined the HPA as a Senior Manager: Public Health on a one year secondment. Her principal role will involve working in the area of smoking and she will also be undertaking project work in relation to young people and sexual health, and community partnerships for health.

Nicky was previously the Tobacco

Control Coordinator in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board and prior to this worked in a range of areas in health promotion in England. She has a BSc (Hons) degree in Sport and Exercise Science from the University of Southampton.

RIPH Diploma in Nutrition and Health

The HPA, in partnership with The Food Standards Agency, Northern Ireland Food Liaison Group and local dietitians will be delivering the Royal Institute of Public Health's Diploma in Nutrition and Health course to environmental health officers (EHOs) from the 26 councils throughout Northern Ireland. The training is scheduled to take place later in the year.

This training aims to enhance EHO's knowledge of nutrition that can be applied to daily work with food businesses and to equip them with knowledge and skills that will enable them to provide basic nutrition training for caterers throughout Northern Ireland.

If you would like any information on this training event, please contact Angela McComb, Senior Manager: Public Health at the HPA on Email: a.mccomb@hpani.org.uk

NICORE joins CEMACH at the HPA

The staff and Board of the HPA are pleased to welcome the Neonatal Intensive Care, Outcomes, Research and Evaluation group (NICORE) to the HPA.

NICORE joins CEMACH, the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health, as part of a wider maternal and child health office of the HPA. This partnership will be a valuable step in providing enhanced information and quality improvement work in the field of perinatal and child health.

NICORE consists of a network of health professionals working together:

- towards improved outcomes for newborn infants admitted to neonatal care by formulating and delivering a coordinated programme of research, education and quality improvement strategies;
- to provide all health professionals involved in the care of the newborn infant with timely, relevant and easy to understand data;
- to contribute to decision-making processes at local and regional level in order to make a difference to the quality of care provided.

NICORE activities include:

- production of comprehensive reports including details on neonatal intensive care/special care provided, outcomes in terms of mortality and morbidity, quality markers, and patterns of transfer;
- facilitation of benchmarking – locally, through individual unit reports, and internationally, through participation in the Vermont Oxford Network – a non-profit voluntary collaboration of health care professionals dedicated to improving the quality and safety of medical care for newborn infants and their families, and Euroneostat – a European information system on the outcomes of care for very low birth weight infants;
- development and support of in-depth quality improvement projects.

The NICORE project is overseen by a multidisciplinary regional steering group, chaired by Dr Stanley Craig, Consultant Neonatologist, Royal Jubilee Maternity Service.

NICORE has a valuable partnership with Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and remains at its current location at the Department of Child Health, QUB.

For further information contact Emma McCall, Project Manager, Division of Maternal and Child Health, Queen's University Belfast. Institute of Clinical Science, Grosvenor Road, Belfast. BT12 6BJ. Tel: 028 9063 5056; Fax: 028 9023 6455; Email: e.mccall@qub.ac.uk

Annual report for 2006–2007 launched

The HPA has published its *Annual report* for the financial year 2006–2007, marking the completion of another challenging and successful period.

The report highlights many of the partnerships, programmes, training and professional development initiatives, research, campaigns and publications that helped us meet our objectives for the year. It also details the operating and financial review for the year.



The content reflects our continued work in areas such as alcohol and drugs, smoking, nutrition, breastfeeding, physical activity, sexual health, mental and emotional health and health protection. Our achievements in research, evaluation and information, training and professional development, communications, and international collaboration are also highlighted. In addition, our ongoing commitment to *Investing for Health* and the settings approach is detailed, along with work in the area of maternal and child health.

The report can be obtained from public libraries and is also available to download as a PDF file from our corporate website at www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk

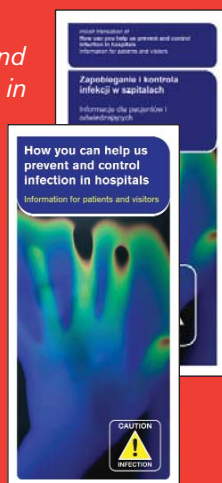
Healthcare associated infections leaflet

Under the *Action plan for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections in Northern Ireland 2006–2009*, the HPA was commissioned to develop a generic hospital leaflet providing concise and easy to understand information on healthcare associated infections for patients and visitors.

The leaflet has now been developed and produced, along with two posters that will advertise its availability. The materials were fully tested with the target audience and the print run of one million leaflets is currently being distributed to hospitals.

New patients will receive the leaflet prior to being admitted, while the posters on display throughout hospitals will make visitors aware of the content and direct them to where they can pick one up.

The leaflet has been translated into nine regional or ethnic minority languages, downloadable from the DHSSPS website www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth

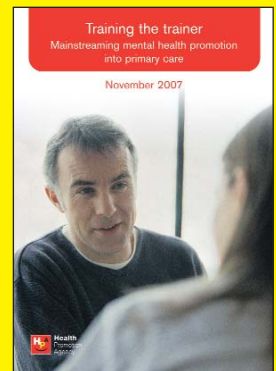


Training the trainer seminars organised

To support the development of a 'whole practice' approach to mental health promotion, the HPA is organising five 'training the trainer' seminars in November.

Entitled 'Mainstreaming mental health promotion into primary care', the seminars will be facilitated by Dr Maryanne Freer from Primary Care Partners, an organisation that specialises in public mental health and primary care.

The seminars are targeted at GPs, practice nurses, practice managers, mental health promotion staff and others interested in mental health promotion in the primary care setting.



Further information is available online at www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk or by contacting Donna Beer at the HPA on Tel: 028 9031 1611 or Email: d.beer@hpani.org.uk

Mental health and suicide strategy training

A number of significant training objectives are identified within the *Promoting mental health strategy and action plan 2003–2008* and *Protect life – a shared vision: The Northern Ireland suicide prevention strategy and action plan 2006–2011*.

In order to inform future training developments, the HPA has been commissioned to carry out a comprehensive audit and evaluation of training programmes related to these objectives.

To assist with this process, a regional consultation seminar will take place in the Tara Centre, Omagh, on 23 November. The aim of the seminar is to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to make a contribution to and influence the process of strategic training developments.

It is vital that as many individuals and groups as possible are involved, and we would therefore encourage anyone with an interest in training provision to attend. Further information will be available on the HPA website, or by contacting Donna Beer on Tel: 028 9031 1611 or Email: d.beer@hpani.org.uk

In consultation with all key stakeholders, a training forum will also be established to ensure a coordinated approach at a regional level.

For further information on the training forum, or if you would like to make any comments about these training issues, please contact Michelle McMaster, Mental Health Promotion Coordinator: Training and Development, HPA, on Tel: 028 9031 1611 or Email: m.mcmaster@hpani.org.uk

The settings approach – developments

Healthy Schools

As part of the ongoing support for Healthy Schools, the DHSSPS made available funding to each education and library board (ELB) in January 2007. The funding was put to great use by each of the boards.

In the South Eastern Education and Library Board, all schools awarded with a certificate of recognition as a healthy school were invited to bid for a share of the funding. All schools that responded were allocated equal funding to further promote school-based developments.

In the North Eastern Education and Library Board, the funding was used to host cluster training days in conjunction with the health promotion department on the topic of 'Pupil participation in monitoring, evaluation and planning'. Substitute cover was provided to the schools participating in the training.

The Belfast Education and Library Board invited schools awarded with a certificate of recognition as a healthy school to submit an application expressing their interest in accessing funds to further support school development planning.

The Southern Education and Library Board used the funding to address the issue of teacher health and wellbeing with schools already registered and accredited as a healthy school.

In the Western Education and Library Board, funding was used to enable Healthy Schools to continue to develop and also to celebrate the success of the Board's involvement in the scheme.

In July, the HPA compiled a report that outlined how each ELB used this funding. This report was sent to the DHSSPS and to each ELB.

Focus on HLCs

The HPA is continuing to work with Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) to provide support on issues such as sustainability, raising their profile and increasing recognition of the services and impact they have within local communities.

The support programme which was funded by BIG (Big Lottery Fund) ended in August 2007. However, recognising

the role that HLCs play in supporting communities tackling inequalities and the challenges presented by the current structural reforms, the HPA has committed to continue working with HLCs. The focus of much of this work will be through the activities of the HLC Regional Alliance and building on the activities already developed.

The alliance has agreed an ongoing plan of action for the remainder of 2007. This focuses on influencing, demonstrating impact, building the evidence base (ie health economics study), and continuing to develop the profile and value placed on the work that HLCs undertake within local communities.

Investing for Health

'Sharing learning and informing the future of Investing for Health' – the third Investing for Health (IfH) conference will take place on Wednesday 5 December 2007 in the Armagh City Hotel.

The conference will reflect on the broad spectrum of work that is contributing to achieving the goals and objectives of IfH, both at a regional and local level. The conference also provides an opportunity for delegates to contribute to the forthcoming IfH strategy review.

Anyone wishing to attend the event can complete a booking form attached to the conference brochure. Alternatively, booking forms are available to download and submit online from the conference website www.ifhconference2007.net

The website also contains further information on the conference programme, speakers and inputs.



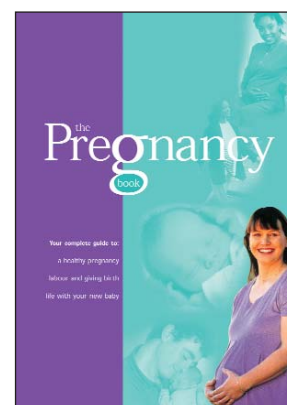
2007 parenthood books

The Pregnancy Book has been revised by the HPA, with advice from the DHSSPS, to include up-to-date information, specifically covering rights and benefits, for 2007.

The Pregnancy Book is a complete guide to pregnancy, childbirth and the first few weeks with a newborn baby and is given to all first-time mothers in Northern Ireland. It is adapted by the HPA, from the Department of Health (England) version, for use in Northern Ireland.

A 2007 edition of the follow-on publication, *Birth to Five*, is also on its way. This complete guide to parenthood and the first five years of a child's life is available to first-time parents through antenatal clinics, GPs or health visitors.

Both publications are distributed by the central health promotion resource services in the local health and social services board areas.



UK inquiry into mental health and wellbeing in later life – Final report

The independent 'UK inquiry into mental health and wellbeing in later life', supported by Age Concern, began in late 2003 out of concern about the neglect of older people's mental health in policy, practice and research.

The HPA was represented on the inquiry board and the inquiry launched its first stage report in June 2006. This stage focused on what helps promote optimum mental health and wellbeing in older people. In concluding its work, the inquiry launched its final report in August 2007 entitled *Improving services and support for older people with mental health problems*.

This report concentrated on the prevention of mental illness in later life and the provision of support and services to older people with mental health problems and their carers. The report draws on a detailed review of literature and policy, a fieldwork study and other evidence from older people, their carers, organisations and professionals.

The report calls for action to eliminate age discrimination in mental health; to challenge stigma, ageism and defeatism; to work on preventing problems; to support older people and their carers to help themselves and each other; and to improve housing, health and social care services.

The final report is available from the official inquiry into mental health and wellbeing in later life website at www.mhilli.org



HPA supports NICMA childminders' conference

The HPA is working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Childminding Association (NICMA) to organise a conference for childminders.



Entitled 'Mind and body', the event on 27 October in Grosvenor House, Belfast, aims to:

- identify the vital role childminders can play in enhancing a child's development;
- assist childminders to provide a healthy and safe learning and working environment;
- enhance childminders' skills in promoting good physical and mental health among children;
- promote self care for childminders.

The keynote speaker, Dr Tony Humphreys, will explore what is necessary for the holistic development of children and young people and outline where the likely blocks to this development occur. He will also facilitate a workshop entitled 'Children feeling good'.

Other related subjects to be addressed at the event include nutrition matters for early years, physical activity for children, and how to provide a healthy and safe environment for children.

Liz Comerton from People Matter will facilitate a workshop entitled 'Relax and energise' which will offer practical tips to help recognise and manage stress.

For further information, please contact NICMA on 028 9181 1015 or Email: info@nicma.org
You can visit the NICMA website at www.nicma.org

Hib resources

A public information leaflet and a question and answer factsheet for health professionals has been produced to support the new immunisation catch-up programme that started on 10 September and continues until March 2009.

A *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) booster immunisation will be offered to young children who have not previously received one. This will give them extra protection against the illnesses caused by Hib infection including meningitis, blood poisoning (septicaemia) and pneumonia.

The programme is designed to catch children who missed out on their Hib booster because their birth date fell between 13 March 2003 and 3 September 2005. These children were too young to have had a booster as part of the Hib catch-up campaign in 2003 and too old to have received the new Hib/Men C booster at 12 months following its introduction in September 2006.



For most children the booster will be given at the same time as the routine pre-school immunisation. Parents will receive the information leaflet from the child health system along with their invitation to bring their child for the vaccine. GPs, pharmacists and the central health promotion resource services will also have limited copies of the leaflet.

The leaflet has been translated into Lithuanian, Polish and Portuguese and further translations can be organised with the DHSSPS, if necessary. These are available on the DHSSPS website www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth

Training and events: October 2007–February 2008

The events/training section on the HPA website www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk will be kept updated with further information. There will be an online booking facility for most events unless otherwise stated.

RIPH Diploma in Nutrition and Health September–December

The Royal Institute of Public Health's Diploma in Nutrition and Health course for environmental health officers from the 26 councils throughout Northern Ireland.

For further information on this training please see the earlier article in this issue of **Inform** or contact Angela McComb, Senior Manager: Public Health at the HPA, Email: a.mccomb@hpani.org.uk

Cook it! tutor training – Northern Health and Social Care Trust

October

Northern board area

The HPA, in partnership with the Community Dietitian from Northern Investing for Health, will be providing Cook it! tutor training in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area.

The Cook it! tutor training will equip delegates with an understanding of food hygiene and safety, basic nutrition principles, an introduction to group skills, and the experience of facilitating a Cook it! session. The training is scheduled to take place during October 2007.

If you would like any information on this training please contact either Laura Donnelly, Email: l.donnelly@hpani.org.uk or Vanessa Stewart, IfH dietitian, Email: Vanessa.Stewart@northerntrust.hscni.net

Depression awareness training for GPs November–December

Various locations

The second phase of the GP depression awareness training is scheduled as follows:

EHSSB

Tuesday 20 November, 12.30pm–5.15pm, Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast.

Tuesday 27 November, 12.30pm–5.15pm, Ramada Hotel, Belfast.

Booking forms are available on the HPA website.

NHSSB

Thursday 29 November, 12.30pm–5.15pm, Rosspark Hotel, Kells.

Tuesday 4 December, 12.30pm–5.15pm, Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus.

Wednesday 5 December, 12.30pm–5.15pm, Bushtown Hotel, Coleraine.

Booking forms are available on the HPA website.

SHSSB

Training took place on 12 September 2007.

WHSSB

Tuesday 13 November, Manor House, Enniskillen.

Tuesday 20 November, Radisson Roe, Limavady.

For booking details and further information please contact Charmaine O'Donnell, Family Practitioners Services Unit, WHSSB, Tel: 028 7186 0086.

Design for Living seminars – Young people and self-esteem October–December Various locations

2 October

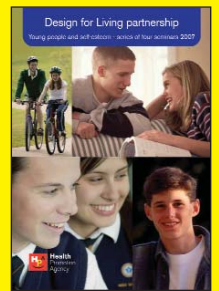
Promoting mental health through physical activity – Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown

7 November

Young men and self-esteem – FULLY BOOKED

10 December

Self-esteem and relationships – Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn



World Mental Health Day events

8 October

Various locations

For further details see the separate article later in this issue.

UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative 11–12 October

Waterfront Hall, Belfast

Annual conference – 'The world of breastfeeding: learning from each other'.

For further information, go to www.babyfriendly.org.uk



4th All Ireland Health Promoting Hospitals conference

23–24 October

Armagh City Hotel

'The hospital with walls: a community asset' conference will explore the potential of, and the challenges for, hospitals and communities, in order to build commitment and inform future work to reinforce hospitals as healthy settings.

Completed registration forms should be returned by Friday 5 October 2007.

For more information see the conference website www.hphconference2007.com



Training the trainer: Mainstreaming mental health promotion into primary care 14,15,16,27 and 28 November

Various locations

These 'Training the trainer' seminars are targeted at GPs, practice nurses, practice managers, mental health promotion staff and others interested in mental health promotion in primary care.

Further information is available in the earlier article in this issue and on the HPA website or by contacting Donna Beer at the HPA on 028 9031 1611 or Email: d.beer@hpani.org.uk

Creating healthy workplaces 6, 7, 13 and 14 November Belfast

This four-day training course has been designed to help develop healthy workplace programmes. It aims to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to either advise and support other organisations in creating healthy workplaces or implement a programme within their own organisation.

The course will be beneficial to anyone involved in either supporting organisations or working within their own organisation to develop healthy workplace programmes or address workplace health issues.

Motivational interviewing 8–9 November and 6–7 December Rosspark Hotel, Kells

This four-day workshop, 'Changing health behaviour: principles and practice of motivational interviewing', has been designed to address the issues of health behaviour change and enhance motivational interviewing skills.



Mental health and suicide awareness training Regional consultation seminar 23 November Tara Centre, Omagh

This seminar will provide an opportunity for those with an interest in mental health and suicide awareness training to make a contribution to ongoing developments related to training objectives identified within the *Promoting mental health strategy and action plan 2003–2008* and *Protect life – a shared vision: The Northern Ireland suicide prevention strategy and action plan 2006–2011*.

World Aids Day 1 December

As part of the plans to celebrate World Aids Day on 1 December, The HIV Support Centre is organising an event in the Long Gallery, Stormont. This event aims to highlight the stigma associated with HIV/Aids and will be supported by the HPA and the Sexual Health Information Exchange Group. For further information contact Kieran Harris on 028 9024 9628 or Email: Kieran@thehivsupportcentre.org.uk

3rd Investing for Health conference 5 December Armagh City Hotel

The 'Sharing learning and informing the future of Investing for Health' conference will reflect on the broad spectrum of work contributing to achieving the goals and objectives of IfH. It seeks to build commitment and explore opportunities to ensure that the potential of IfH is fully realised.



Further details are available on the conference website www.ifhconference2007.net

Schools conference February

A one-day conference on Healthy Schools and extended schools is proposed for February 2008. Further information on this event will be detailed in future issues of **Inform**.

HPA reprints

The annual process to update and reprint the HPA publications has begun. Last year a total of 59 leaflets and posters were reprinted on a range of health promotion topics.

After ensuring that the information in the publications is still current, a list of possible publications will be offered for reprint. It is then up to the central health promotion resource services to decide how many will be required for the whole of their board area and to purchase accordingly.

REACHing out to all older people

Age Concern, in partnership with the HPA, has received BIG Lottery funding for a new three-year programme called REACH.

The project will build on good practice and evidence of further need identified in the evaluation of the Actively Ageing Well programme, funded by the BIG Lottery through the Healthy Living Centres programme. It will deliver the following outputs:

- a series of annual activity programmes for older people delivered through 100 community and older people's groups. Each year these will be based on a specific theme such as physical activity, mental health, diet and nutrition, and will last for six weeks.
- improvement of the existing infrastructure for delivery of these activities by the provision of capacity building training and organisational development support for the 100 groups.
- an annual inter-group activity day.

REACH will give priority to groups from isolated rural areas, are male specific or show willingness to work with men, or have a cross community character.

It will have an overall focus on mental health and wellbeing and will promote and provide many of the factors helping to develop good mental health: support networks, sense of control, creativity, physical activity, stress and relaxation, and enhanced personal development.

REACH will provide practical learning opportunities for older people's groups on health and safety, risk assessment, physical activity, and health and wellbeing issues. Of equal importance is the knowledge gained in working with committees, sharing information with other organisations and in liaison with statutory bodies. Older people themselves will be actively involved in planning, delivery and evaluation at all stages of the project.

HPA Board meeting

The next meeting of the HPA Board will be held on Thursday 8 November. It will take place in the HPA headquarters at 18 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Contact details:

A Healthy Service - Supporting health in hospitals

Barbara Porter – b.porter@hpani.org.uk

Alcohol and Drugs – Victoria Creasy

v.creasy@hpani.org.uk

Breastfeeding – Janet Calvert – j.calvert@hpani.org.uk

Campaigns – Margaret McCrory

m.mccrory@hpani.org.uk

CEMACH – Dr Angela Bell – angela.bell@cemach.org.uk or

Terry Falconer – terry.falconer@cemach.org.uk

Health Intelligence (Research and information)

Gillian Gilmore – g.gilmore@hpani.org.uk

Naomi McCay – n.mccay@hpani.org.uk

Healthy Schools – Joan Murphy – j.murphy@hpani.org.uk

Health Promoting Workplaces – Sarah Reid

s.reid@hpani.org.uk

Mental Health, Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health

Deirdre McNamee – d.mcnamee@hpani.org.uk

Nutrition, Physical Activity for the early years and Oral Health

– Angela McComb – a.mccomb@hpani.org.uk

Physical Activity – Nicola Browne – n.browne@hpani.org.uk

Publications – Ruth Knowles

r.knowles@hpani.org.uk

Public Relations – Jenny Dougan

j.dougan@hpani.org.uk or Rosemary McGaughey

r.mcgaughey@hpani.org.uk

Smoking – Nicky McKee

n.mckee@hpani.org.uk

Training and External Events

Claire Hind – c.hind@hpani.org.uk

World Mental Health Day events

This year, the Mental Health Promotion Network plans to mark World Mental Health day with a series of events throughout Northern Ireland that will focus on the theme of resilience.

The HPA is helping to support the events by providing funding for a keynote speaker Dorothy Rowe, a clinical psychologist and author. Dorothy will attend each event over the two-day period, 8–9 October, and will speak on the theme of resilience across the lifespan.

Events details

Belfast HSC Trust: Resilience half-day conference, 8 October, 9.30am–12.30pm, Knockbracken Hall, Belfast. For further details contact Margaret Woods or Caroline Kelly, Email: margaret.woods@belfasttrust.hscni.net or caroline.kelly@belfasttrust.hscni.net or Tel: 028 9041 7455.

South Eastern HSC Trust: Resilience throughout your life, 8 October, 1.00pm–3.00pm, Ballymore Centre, Downpatrick. For further details contact Esther Lynch, Email: Esther.Lynch@setrust.hscni.net or Tel: 028 9756 3129.

Northern HSC Trust: Resilience across the lifespan, 8 October, 7.00pm–8.30pm, Hollywell Hospital, Antrim. For further details contact Jayne McConaghie, Email: jayne.mcconaghie@northerntrust.hscni.net or Tel: 028 2563 5575.

Western HSC Trust: Making it happen in the west mental health promotion conference, 9 October, 9.15am–4.00pm, Fir Trees, Strabane. For further details contact Marie Dunne, Email: MarieT.Dunne@westerntrust.hscni.net or Tel: 028 7186 5127.

Southern HSC Trust: Celebrating diversity and promoting resilience, 9 October, 1.15pm–4.20pm, Newry Arts Centre. For further details contact Angela Corr, Email: Angela.Corr@southerntrust.hscni.net or Tel: 028 3741 2424.

Inform is published bimonthly by the Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland to provide information on current areas of work involving the HPA.



Health Promotion Agency

We hope that **Inform** is meeting your needs in terms of providing timely and relevant information about the HPA's work. We are always striving to improve our communications so we would welcome any comments you would like to make about **Inform**. Please contact the editorial office by email at t.sheridan@hpani.org.uk or contact us in writing at the address below.

Production team

Linda Giles, Arthur McVeigh and Tony Sheridan.

Editorial office

Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland
18 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast BT2 8HS.
Tel: 028 9031 1611. Fax: 028 9031 1711.

Websites:

www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk
www.breastfedbabies.org
www.drugsalcohol.info
www.getalifegetactive.com
www.hphconference2007.com
www.ifhconference2007.net
www.knowyourlimits.info
www.mindingyourhead.info
www.spacetobreathe.org.uk
www.thesnackpack.net
www.up-2-you.net

Big Lottery fund relaunched

Tackling health inequalities is important in driving health policy in Northern Ireland. The Big Lottery has asked the HPA to draw readers' attention to information that may enable groups and organisations working on tackling health inequalities to benefit.

The Big Lottery Fund has relaunched a major funding programme for disadvantaged communities throughout Northern Ireland. 'Reaching Communities Northern Ireland', an £18 million programme, will support a wide range of projects that bring changes to people's lives and create stronger communities. The grant programme has been reviewed to ensure grants are awarded to projects that best meet the needs of the most disadvantaged communities.

Lottery grants of between £100,000 and £500,000 will still be available for up to five years for voluntary and community led projects that will help local people achieve their full potential, actively participate in communities, boost community ownership and improve physical and mental health.

Breidge Gadd, Big Lottery Fund Northern Ireland Chair, said: "The aim of the review of 'Reaching Communities Northern Ireland' is to make improvements to the programme based on our learning from the first round of applications. The changes we have made mean that applicants will now know from the very beginning what information we require to assess their project effectively."

For more information contact the Big Lottery Fund information team on 028 9055 1455 or go to www.biglotteryfund.org.uk