

CAWT in Action

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An ending and a beginning for CAWT

The month of June brought both an ending and a beginning for CAWT. We formally marked the closure of our EU INTERREG IIIA programme in Cavan with a celebration and legacy event attended by over 100 people from the health services in the border region. It was a great opportunity to formally acknowledge the achievements of all those involved in delivering our cross border health and social care activities over the past five years. Much of this work has been in addition to peoples' main roles and responsibilities within the health services. Thus we are very grateful to all these cross border champions, working within the CAWT partnership, for the benefit of patients and clients.

Without the dedication, experience and commitment of the staff working within the partner organisations, managing and delivering projects on the ground, much less would have been achieved and I commend all those who have been involved in cross border sub groups and project boards for their work. It gives us a great platform to build upon as we look to the future.

CAWT is also moving into an exciting new phase with the EU INTERREG IV programme. We have passed all the hurdles so far in the application process and await formal confirmation that we have secured substantial funding for 12 large-scale projects.

These projects will make a real appreciable difference to people living in the CAWT border region and also across the INTERREG eligible

area, which includes all of Northern Ireland (excluding greater Belfast) and the Republic's border counties.

The projects we are proposing for INTERREG IV funding touch on many areas of health and will involve CAWT working across the eligible area and in partnership with the community and voluntary sector. We look forward to engaging with as many stakeholders as possible as we begin this new journey for CAWT.

Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive, Southern Health and Social Care Trust and Director General, CAWT



Speakers at the CAWT celebration and legacy event (l to r): Howard Keery, Director; Joint Technical Secretariat, Special EU Programmes Body; Tom Daly, Corporate Management, HSE & CAWT Management Board; Colm Donaghy, Director General, CAWT & Chief Executive, SHSCT; Jim Breslin, Head of Finance and International Unit, Dept. of Health and Children; Bernie McCrory, Chief Officer, CAWT and Dr Bernie Stuart, Director of Mental Health and Disability Policy, DHSSPS.

CAWT legacy report and DVD

A legacy report has been published recently which covers all of CAWT's work from 2003 to mid 2008 in relation to EU funded and commissioned cross border work. It highlights the achievements of individual projects particularly in relation to capacity building, outcomes and impacts. It also includes some very illuminating perspectives from a range of people on the motivations, rewards and challenges involved in cross border work. A supporting DVD profiling different aspects of cross border health and social care has also been produced. Copies will be issued to all those on CAWT contact lists during July.



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CAWT children's services planning and information project

At a major cross-border event in Armagh in April, Mr Brendan Smith, TD, Minister for Children at the Department of Health and Children and Junior Ministers Mr Gerry Kelly, MLA and Mr Jeffrey Donaldson, MLA at the OFMDFM, came together to jointly launch resources to support their strategies for children.



Ministers launching the CAWT Children's Services Planning and Information project resources in Armagh

These resources have been developed by the CAWT cross border Children's Services Planning and Information project and include: -

- ◆ A framework for integrated planning for outcomes for children and families which is relevant to policy makers, service managers and practitioners. It will assist in ensuring that children are placed at the centre of services for them. This was developed by NUI Galway and can be accessed on the CAWT website at: -
http://www.cawt.com/uploads_documents/report.pdf
- ◆ An interactive website system that maps services and measure outcomes for children and young people in the border region. This system allows changes in children and families' lives over time to be measured and allows comparisons in well-being in different geographical areas. This web based resource can be viewed at:
www.outcomesforchildren.org

Rose McCaffrey, Acting Director - Children and Family Services, HSE Dublin North East, outlined the benefits of the resources. She said: *"Both of these products will be very useful for any agency, partnership or community group wanting to plan services for children which are based on improving outcomes for children."* She stressed that the essence of this project is about *'joining the work to make the difference, joining the information to measure the difference.'*



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Major Cross Border Emergency Planning Exercise



In the control room of Ballykinler Training Centre in Co. Down (left to right): Macartan Hughes, Director, National Ambulance Training School; and Lt Col Simon Powell, Commanding Officer 253 Medical Regiment, Territorial Army and Billy Newton, Emergency Planning Officer, Northern Ireland Ambulance Services

A second successful large scale cross border emergency planning exercise took place in Ballykinler Training Centre in County Down in April. The exercise focused on testing the ability of both the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and the Republic's National Ambulance Service to respond jointly in the event of a major medical emergency in the border region. Two simulated and very realistic incidents were staged with the Royal Air Force and the Irish Army Air Corps on hand to airlift the more 'seriously ill casualties' to Craigavon Area Hospital and Cavan General Hospital. The exercise was supported by over 200 people and involved other organisations such as the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Amputees in Action, RAF, Territorial Army, the PSNI and An Garda Síochána.

Exercise participant, Jeremy Cowen of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, gave his view of the event. He said: "it is a great opportunity to work with colleagues from other emergency services, north and south. I think it is important that everyone who may be asked to respond to a major incident, such as those practiced today, understand each other's roles. In this way all operations on the ground can be undertaken in the most coherent manner which will be of great benefit to any potential casualties".

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Steering to Safety

The 'Steering to Safety' project, as part of its education programme, worked with local councils to stage two 'Road Safe' roadshows, one in Sligo and the second in Ardee, Co. Louth. Aimed at encouraging young drivers and those about to commence driving to adopt a more responsible attitude towards their driving, the format is based on the successful PSNI road safety roadshows, which have been running in Northern Ireland for a number of years. In total 1,200 young people who attended heard first hand accounts from people who would typically assist at the scene of a road traffic accident. This included a police officer, a paramedic, a fire officer, and an emergency medicine consultant. They also listened to a person who had lost a close relative in a fatal collision and finally a survivor of a road traffic crash tell their stories. No doubt it had a powerful effect on the audience and drew comments from young people such as:

"It has really made me think about all the people affected when dealing with a road traffic accident."

"Wow, it was brill! Everyone was really touched by it. Having real people, the guard, the doctor really made the event and the mother had us in tears."

"It totally shocked everyone but it definitely made us all wary about going into cars with guys who drive too fast."



Students paying close attention at the Steering to Safety 'Road Safe' events

There are plans underway to organise more 'Road Safe' events in Enniskillen, Monaghan and Donegal, which would be accessible to young people from both sides of the border.

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CAWT Health Inequalities

The CAWT Health Inequalities project is producing a second Health Profile of the CAWT border region due for publication in Autumn 2008. During May the project organised a series of three supporting workshops in Enniskillen, Armagh and Letterkenny. In total 119 people from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors attended to hear about the Health Profile's initial findings and successful community based approaches to tackling health inequalities.

A range of different local approaches to tackling health inequalities was showcased at the three events. Fionnuala Cook, Chairperson of the SHSSB and a member of the CAWT Management Board in closing the Armagh event stated: *"This workshop demonstrates how the many different programmes we heard about today help lessen health inequalities for groups of people; everything from physical activities co-ordinated in Fermanagh to a range of services tailored to disabled children. We learned how simple things can make a real difference. Today's event also taught us how partnerships with the community and voluntary sectors and with local Government achieve the best results."*

Currently the feedback and evaluation of the events are being analysed with a view to issuing a report which will identify priorities for future action.



Speakers at the cross border health inequalities workshop in Enniskillen (left to right): Dr Helen McAvoy, Institute of Public Health; Mary Haughey, Project Manager, CAWT; Caroline Mason, HSE West and Edel O'Doherty, Deputy Chief Officer, CAWT

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Forthcoming Events

Launch event: 'Crossing the Line'
27 August 2008, Manor House Hotel, Killadeas, Enniskillen

The *Crossing the Line* project has supported up to 60 adults with intellectual disabilities to identify their goals for the future through the Person Centred Planning process. Project participants, support staff, families and other professionals from the field of disability on both sides of the border will join together to celebrate the outcomes of the project. A DVD and booklet will also be launched on the day.

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Launch event: TISO (Therapeutic Interventions for Sexual Offenders)
16 September 2008, Manor House Hotel, Killadeas, Enniskillen

Launch of findings from the TISO cross border research project, which aims to increase child and community safety.

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Launch event: Cross border hospital diabetes project

22 September 2008, Seagoe Hotel, Portadown
Launch of report, which has audited hospital diabetes care.

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Launch event: 2nd Health Profile of the CAWT region

24 September 2008 (venue tbc)
Launch of the 2nd Health Profile of the CAWT region. In addition to updating the previous health profile this updated version will focus on health inequalities to support policy development and service planning in the border region.

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Next issue of CAWT in Action – September 2008

If you have news, events or items of interest for future editions of *CAWT in Action*, then please contact the CAWT Development Centre

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