

CAWT IN ACTION

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CAWT Strategy and Business Plan

Following on from the FPM Evaluation and the Strategy development process for CAWT, the Chief Officer has produced a 5 year Business Plan for the development and continued delivery of cross border collaborative working arrangements which was accepted at an extraordinary CAWT Management Board meeting in January.



CAWT Management Board

The Business Plan focused on a number of key elements, in particular, ensuring that CAWT structures are fit for purpose and capable of adapting to an ever-changing health service in both jurisdictions.

Specifically there is likely to be significantly more funding available for cross border health and social care in the next round of EU INTERREG funding. Furthermore the focus on all-island collaborative working is likely to feature in CAWT's future activities, as will the management of commissioned projects on behalf of both Departments of Health. These factors are being considered by the CAWT Management Board and Secretariat in agreeing the best structures to deliver CAWT's future work plan. We will keep our sub groups and partners informed on developments.

The CAWT Strategy and Business Plan for 2007 – 2013 has been distributed to CAWT sub groups. Both Departments of Health have yet to issue guidance to the Health Authorities and CAWT on the priorities and process for accessing future European Union funding for cross border health and social care activity.

However, we are aware that both Departments of Health are keen to encourage large scale cross border health and social care projects which directly impact on patient / client care. In the meantime CAWT is happy to receive project ideas which is reflective of this. We will communicate the funding application process as soon as guidance is received.

Stakeholder engagement

We continue to update stakeholders on project progress and to raise the profile of cross border health and social care, through availing of presentation opportunities. Recent presentations include:

- ◆ Health Service Executive – Regional Health Forum, Kells, Co. Meath
- ◆ Louth County Council, Dundalk
- ◆ Banbridge Council

Cross border emergency planning

Both Departments of Health are collaborating with CAWT in implementing a series of practical exercises designed to test the emergency plans of hospitals in the border region. The first of these was held recently in the Royal Air Force (RAF) in Aldergrove, Co. Antrim and involved the ambulance services from both sides of the border staging a very successful 'Major Medical Incident' exercise' over a 3-day period. This training is based on the 'Major Incident Medical Management System' (MIMMS). The RAF, the Territorial Army and the Irish Army Air Corps provided this highly specialised medical and aviation training to the cross border group of 24 ambulance personnel, in order to help foster a common approach when dealing with a major incident.

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GP Out-of-Hours (OoH) pilot project

2007 kicked off with a very significant event for cross border primary care. The first phase of the cross border GP Out of Hours pilot project went live on 11 Jan 2007. This means that people living in border areas of Inishowen, Co Donegal may avail of the GP Out of Hours Service (Western Urgent Care) in Derry.



Reaching this important stage has been due to the determination of the Project Board chaired by Miceal Crilly, SHSSB and supported by Project Manager, Edel O'Doherty. Their efforts to overcome the legal, technical and financial differences in dealing with two health systems, plus the support received from the DHSSPS (NI) and the Department of Health and Children in the Republic of Ireland has enabled the pilot to be realised.

The pilot will be closely monitored over the coming months to address any issues that may arise and to determine how it could be extended further in the border region.

To support the project a consultation report conducted in the border region '*Attitudes to the development of cross-border health services: The case of GP Out-Of-Hours Services*' is now available from Edel O'Doherty.

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Good Morning Inishowen - launched

The Buncrana – based 'Good Morning Inishowen' (GMI) service was formally launched in Dec 06 by Mr Aidan Browne, National Director, Primary and Continuing Community Care for the Health Service Executive. He congratulated all those involved saying: **"..... it is a superb example of how the community, voluntary and statutory sectors can co-operate to enhance existing services to older people. This unique, rural based service enhances and compliments the services currently available to older people to help them keep safe and well in their own homes. I wish you every success for the future."**



Mr Aidan Browne, National Director, Primary and Continuing Community Care officially opening the GMI offices

The service is managed by local volunteers, many of whom are retired, who provide a regular telephone call service to older people living alone or in isolated areas. Project manager, Anne Gill is using the high level of media interest generated by the launch to raise local awareness and to extend the client base over the coming months. The project is planning an induction session for volunteers in February.

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Protection of Vulnerable Adults

In Dec 06 the 'Protection of Vulnerable Adults' project delivered a well attended cross-border event at the Cavan Crystal Hotel entitled '*The Barriers to Effective Cross border Adult Protection.*' The aim of the day was to bring together a range of key personnel from both jurisdictions to consider the issues raised for affective adult protection in relation to cross-border mobility. A report is now being prepared for submission to both Departments of Health.



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Continance Awareness and Support

The cross border continence awareness project held a successful workshop in Nov 06 in Enniskillen to explore practical opportunities to improve both public and professional awareness of Continence problems. The event was attended by a wide range of representatives from the statutory, voluntary, community sector.

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Steering to Safety – research launched

November 06 saw the successful launch of the Safety to Safety research study into Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) in the border region of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. This study provides for the first time a clear picture of the factors which contribute to RTCs in the border region and highlights the key issues which need to be taken into consideration by all those engaged in road safety.



CAWT Health Promotion sub group members at the launch of the Steering to Safety research findings and reports.

The research process itself was managed by a cross sector Steering Committee comprising representation from the Garda, Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Department of the Environment Road Safety Division, Road Safety Authority (RSA), National Roads Authority (NRA), Department of Roads Division (DRD), Public Health, Health Promotion and Trinity College Dublin.

The research output consists of five reports and one summary report and is available for download from the CAWT website or hard copies from the project office. The project is now at the implementation phase and is holding four road shows, one in each of the CAWT areas to promote the findings more widely and to consult with and engage local stakeholders.

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Health Inequalities in the border region

The Health inequalities project is progressing well. One of the objectives of the project is to establish a web-based database of projects that are tackling health inequalities in the CAWT region. This database has now been developed on the CAWT website and the process of uploading project details to the database has begun.

This will enable those with an interest in health inequalities to view examples of good practice in tackling inequalities in the border area. Also, it is hoped that the database will support joined up working between the statutory, voluntary and community sectors and help promote more cross sector partnerships in addressing inequalities in the CAWT region and beyond.

In the longer terms it is hoped that the database will be a lively and dynamic site with new projects coming on line on a regular basis, with the aim of linking to a European Health inequalities site in the near future.

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Cross Border Water connections

The cross border Health Protection Policies Project co-ordinated a cross border water connectors conference in Dec 06 and attended by representatives from the both sides of the border. The event focused on the challenges which need to be addressed in order to ensure that health risks associated with a contaminated water situation can be successfully managed from a cross border perspective.



CAWT cross border health protection policies Project Manager Joan McCaffrey (seated), Dymrna Gallagher, DRD and Dr Peter Finnegan, HSE DNE

A cross border initiative underway to map all cross border water connectors using specialist technology was highlighted at the event. A useful publication recently produced, which lists the key contacts on both sides of the border in a water contamination outbreak situation was also distributed at the event.

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CAWT PEACE II PROJECTS

News and Events

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Certificate in Cognitive Therapy – PEACE II

Diarmuid O'Donnell has taken up post in Dec 06 for a period of 18 months as the Project Co-ordinator for the cross border Certificate Course in Cognitive Therapy Methods. Most recently a member of the Employee Relations Team in Westcare Business Services, Diarmuid is planning the first of three courses scheduled to commence in Feb 07. Funded by PEACE II and delivered by the Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma & Transformation, the course will enhance the skills of professionals working in mental health and related services.



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Mental Health and Young People



The CAWT mental health sub group utilised part of their European Union PEACE II funding to develop a youth-led emotional well-being initiative which was launched in Dec 06. Young people worked alongside

representatives from the National Children's Bureau to develop a resource pack which can be used by young people on their own or in groups and also by parents, adults & professionals who meet or work with young people.

Also in Dec, the findings from the evaluation of the pilot training project, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) were launched in Armagh. The training enables participants to recognise and provide initial help to people with symptoms of mental illness. MHFA is a cross border collaboration between the Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland (HPA), CAWT and Aware.

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Workshop: Steering to Safety 21 February 2007 in the Cavan Crystal Hotel.

To enable wider communication of the research findings and consultation with local stakeholders. This is the last in a series of four workshops.

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Training event: Action Learning Training Course 20 – 22 February 2007 in the Cavan Crystal Hotel

To promote and develop cross border health and social care services through building the leadership and management skills of participants. The programme will be delivered by ITS and Paul Flynn Associates.

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Information event: Children's Services Planning and Information project 21 February 2007 in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin

To update partners and key stakeholders on the Geographical Information System (GIS) being developed to map Children's Services indicators and services on a cross border basis.

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Communications

Thank you to all CAWT sub group and project board representatives and staff who took the time to provide updates for the CAWT annual report 06. We hope to have delivery of the final report towards the end of Feb 07.

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Next issue of 'CAWT in Action'

If you have any news, events or items of interest for future editions of *CAWT in Action*, then please contact the CAWT Development Centre T: 028 7186 5191, F: 028 7186 5193, E: sadie.bergin@cawt.com