Planning for the future

The five CAWT workshops co-ordinated throughout the border region have provided us with important feedback as we begin to shape the next strategy. There is strong support for the continuation of the valuable cross border networks and activities underway. Some refinements have been suggested in order to consolidate and strengthen the effectiveness of cross border work.

Meanwhile, work continues

The work continues on managing our current portfolio of EU INTERREG IIIA and PEACE II projects. Sub groups and project staff are actively engaged in ensuring that objectives are achieved as planned. Indeed, many cross border projects have reached notable milestones in the past few months. A selection of project progress is outlined in this newsletter.

New projects

We were delighted with the excellent response to our ‘Funding Opportunity’ email issued in April this year. The broad range of ideas still out there for enhancing cross border networks and services is tremendous and augurs well for the future. There were 30 submissions, which have been shortlisted to 9 after a rigorous selection process involving the CAWT secretariat and management board. These projects will now be subject to the official INTERREG application process over the coming months and we wish them every success.

EMART

The energy and commitment of many individuals has enabled significant progress to be made in relation to a number of CAWT cross border projects. One such project is the EMART (Emergency Medical Assistance & Rescue Team) initiative, which is part of CAWT’s North/South Emergency Planning project. Thanks to the input of all involved in the project, a number of vehicles have recently been acquired to support emergency planning arrangements in the border region. The new truck and Ford Ranger (pictured above) are part of an overall investment in vehicles and equipment, which will support the future development of the EMART initiative. Also in the photo are two of the EMART volunteers, wearing the new EMART uniform.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the project board and staff of the cross border project, ‘Health Protection – a new challenge.’ The project has been selected for participation in an international workshop, ‘Cross border activities – good practice for better health’ in Germany in Jan 06. The event is being co-ordinated by the Institute of Public Health NRW (Germany).

Europhamili – European mobility

Interested in increasing your skills in healthcare management and broadening your horizons? If so, the accredited trans-national Europhamili programme maybe for you. It is a 3-month intensive course on various aspects of health care management from a European perspective. It is open to hospital & health service managers and clinicians. The next course takes place in Granada, Spain from March to June 06. Information and application packs are now available.

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A round-up of the latest news and updates from our INTERREG IIIA funded projects………..

Cross border renal services

A cross border strategic alliance, committed to improving renal services for people in the border region have concluded phase 1 of their project which lays the foundations for future collaborations and initiatives. This entailed the installation of the eMed renal software system in four sites: Cavan, Sligo and Letterkenny General Hospitals and Daisyhill Hospital in Newry. Vital support for this phase was provided by the health service ICT professionals who successfully facilitated the installation and testing of computer software.

The next phase includes the recruitment of a project co-ordinator to build on the work done to date and lead on the development of the cross border renal information network.

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Health Impact Assessment

The cross border Health Impact Assessment (HIA) project is making a real impact with 11 training days completed and attended by over 200 people.

The training sessions were attended by representatives from the community and statutory sectors, health and social services, housing, architecture, planning and environmental health to name but a few.

The project has reached out to other agencies in the CAWT region in keeping with the Health Impact Assessment approach. HIA emphasises the importance of policies in the areas of housing, agriculture, law and order, economy and education on health and that impact on health needs to be considered early in the development of projects, programmes and policies by all sectors.

The evaluation of the training provided has been very positive with some interesting quotes:

“Very good course and very well presented”
Audrey McClune, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Armagh County Council

“A whole new way of thinking”
Maggie Reilly, Chief Officer, WHSSC

Contact: Dermot Glackin, SHSSB, T + 44 (0)28 3741 0041 E dermotg1@shssb.n-i.nhs.uk

GP Out-of-Hours Pilot Project

The aim of the pilot is to take forward the recommendations from the initial 2001 feasibility study into the provision of cross border GP Out-of-Hours services which recommended the setting up of two pilot areas in the CAWT border region. The project manager, Edel O’Doherty will be working closely with the cross border project board, whose members include Directors of Primary Care, GP Out-of-Hours Managers and Nursing Managers, GP’s, ICT and Pharmaceutical professionals from the CAWT region.

Due to the relatively long time period since the study was completed, the first phase of the project will focus on testing a range of geographical, technical, professional, pharmaceutical and financial issues identified within this initial feasibility study. The first stage of the pilot will last until Dec 06 and the decision on the actual location of the pilot sites will be confirmed shortly once consultations have been completed.

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Art Therapy / Make Your Mark

The summer period provided an excellent opportunity to network and introduce other professionals and community groups to the process and benefits of art therapy. Nicola facilitated a weeklong workshop as part of an annual Art Therapy summer school at Queens University, Belfast. She also facilitated some training days with counsellors and psychologists, which will hopefully raise awareness of the Art Therapy profession.

In terms of work with clients, things are currently very much back on track, with the school term re-commencing. The demand for continuing input from schools and services throughout Inishowen in particular has been overwhelming, following this initial two-year pilot project.

All in all, Nicola remains very excited about the provision of the services Make Your Mark is currently offering to traumatised children and young people on both sides of the border.

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Meeting the Needs of Carers in the Border

The aim of this PEACE II project is to bring together carers of people with mental health problems from both sides of the border (Sperrin and Lakeland Trust and HSE – NW areas) in order to provide them with the knowledge, skills and confidence to deal more effectively with their role and improve their quality of life.

An initial 3-day training course which took place in June, was facilitated by experts from the Meriden Programme, Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust. Following this, groups of carers and professionals are now engaged in delivering an 11-week support programme for further carers. This innovative programme will be fully evaluated when concluded later this year.

Cognitive Therapy Awareness Training

This project, funded by Peace II, continues to deliver awareness training in Cognitive Therapy to front line mental health staff throughout the four Health Boards and Trusts in the CAWT region delivered by the Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma and Transformation (NICTT).

By the end of Jan 06 the project aims to have trained a further 80 participants from the CAWT area. This will bring the total trained to 216 participants, thus exceeding the initial project target.

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Cross Border Health Protection – a new challenge

A number of events in the area of cross border health protection are planned over the coming months:

Launch: Infection control leaflet / poster – 25 Oct 05 in Armagh City Hotel

A cross border working group comprising the Consultants in Communicable Diseases and Specialists in Public Health medicine from the CAWT region have recommended a leaflet distribution and poster campaign through GP surgeries to highlight basic prevention of the spread of common contagious respiratory diseases. This will be co-ordinated alongside national and local publicity campaigns on flu immunisation.

Launch: Legionnaires’ Disease Cross Border Plan – 22 Nov 05 in Slieve Russell Hotel, Cavan

Further to a conference on the management of Legionnaires’ disease in Feb 05, it was recommended that a cross border plan, dealing with outbreaks of Legionnaires’ Disease should be produced. This plan has now been developed by a multi-disciplinary cross border working group and aims to increase collaboration on a cross border basis between health professionals. It also deals with the investigation of cases of the disease and in ensuring that any outbreak is contained.

Launch: Outbreak of Food Bourne Illnesses Plan – 18 and 19 Jan 06 in the Radisson Hotel, Belfast

This plan will be launched as part of a national conference organised jointly by the FSPB (Food Safety Promotion Board) and the two national health surveillance centres - Health Protection Surveillance Centre in Republic of Ireland and the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre in Northern Ireland. This conference will provide an opportunity to highlight lessons learned and examples of good practice in prevention and control of infectious intestinal diseases.

A new chance – cross border foster care


At this consultation seminar, an invited audience of decision-makers and stakeholders in the provision of services to children in care, will have the opportunity to consider and discuss the implications of introducing a particular model of intervention which has demonstrated very good outcomes for young people in the USA and other locations in Europe. Speakers will include international experts in the area of high support foster care for children with challenging behaviour.

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Children’s Services Planning project

Seminar: ‘Developing & Delivering Positive Outcomes’ – 9 Nov 05 in the Manor House Hotel, Enniskillen

The aim of the seminar is to agree a methodology for delivering better outcomes for children and young people, through a collaborative multi-agency approach in the border region and is targeted at senior decision makers and policy makers. Con Hogan will be facilitating the event along with a panel of local experts from the project.

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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:

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