Building excellence into Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to improve the health and wellbeing of our present and future generations in Wales

Presenter–
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Objectives for the session

• Context for Health Impact Assessment in Wales
• Overview of the HIA training offered and how it has evolved
• Translating learning into practice
Welsh Context - Wales has a devolved Government which has placed emphasis on:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Addressing inequalities within the population
- Sustainable Development
- Citizen centered public services
- Partnership working
- Integrated agenda

- Adoption of a **Health in All Policies** approach
Growing Welsh Legislation demonstrates that ongoing commitment –

- Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014)
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- Planning (Wales) Act 2015
- The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013
- Public Health Bill – ?
HIA & WHIASU

• Welsh Government strongly advocates for the use of HIA and established WHIASU in 2004
• HIA is recognised as a tool to raise awareness and understanding of HiAP

Because HIA:

• Promotes an integrated approach to policy making and supports collaboration
• Requires active participation of all stakeholders
• Enables all sectors to identify and demonstrate their contribution to:
  - reducing health inequalities
  - preventing negative impacts on H&WB
Shared principles

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<tr>
<th>Open</th>
<th>Transparent</th>
<th>Ethical</th>
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<tr>
<td>Democratic</td>
<td>Values and principles of HIA</td>
<td>Equitable</td>
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<td>Sustainable</td>
<td>Participatory</td>
<td>Robust</td>
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Enabling legislation

- Sustainable Development Principle
  - Prevention
  - Integration
  - Collaboration
  - Involvement

- Building resilience across the life-course and settings
- Long-term view
- Co-production
- Only do what is needed

Systems Working

- Addressing harmful behaviours and protecting health
- Addressing wider economic, social and environmental determinants of health
- Co-production
- Use evidence
- Only do what only you can do
- Do no harm
- Reduce variation

Prudent Healthcare Principles
“It speaks our language..”

Well-being Goals

- A globally responsible Wales
- A prosperous Wales
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales

The determinants of health and well-being in our neighbourhoods

Acknowledgement for slide Jo Charles, North Wales LPHT (2016)
WHIASU & building excellence into HIA practice – how?

- Formal training sessions/packages:
  - Introduction to HIA (half day)
  - Rapid HIA Competency (2 day) in partnership with CIEH—first UK accredited competency course
  - Comprehensive HIA (3 Day)
  - Quality Assuring HIA (1 day)
  - Tailored courses for specific organisations

- Mentoring; ‘learning by doing’ support and facilitation

- Launch 2016 – E-learning introductory HIA Course

- Provision of resources, guides and evidence briefings
Growing requests for training and advice – recognition across Wales, UK and international

Diverse range of sectors and organizations

Evaluation and reflection: inform ongoing development on our training to meet partners changing needs i.e. WBFG Act has created new interest

Participatory HIA workshop: A balanced discussion on potential impacts that raised both positive and negative impacts and opportunities (HIA Workshop, National Grid, 2016)

From training- ‘HIA’s make you think of wider implications and also if done early can drastically reduce problems and therefore time dealing with them’ (CIEH Training 2015)

Sectors
- Planners
- Environmental Health/CIEH
- Voluntary
- Housing
- NHS

Organisations
- Public bodies ie LAs, Sports Wales, NRW; National Parks
- Public Health Wales
- Greater London Authority
- CIEH Northern Ireland
Application & Advocacy

putting learning into action

= making a difference
Applying HIA in LDP processes in north Wales – feedback

• ‘Brought together people with diverse roles to work together. Very informative. Intend to build HIA into Supplementary Planning Guidance process’

• ‘the facilitation helped explore a diversity of perspectives that will help make our plan sound’

• ‘Greater understanding of the impacts of the LDP, positive opportunity to contribute to it’s development’

(HIA Workshop, Wrexham LDP Consultation, March 2016)
Advocacy - City of Cardiff Council

- Included in LDP development process:
  - Preferred Strategy 2012
  - Deposit 2013
  - Adopted January 2016
  - Future considerations of health, wellbeing and inequalities

- Led to the development of a Planning Protocol between City of Cardiff Council and Local Health Board which outlines the undertaking of HIA in agreed situations including:
  - Residential developments of 50+ dwellings
  - All major transport and infrastructure projects
EHO’s experience in Wales post HIA training

- Individual officers become advocates within their own local authorities - one has developed an in-house HIA tool and process
- Go on to recommend HIA to developers when appropriate and not currently addressed within development applications
- Enables quality assurance of HIA’s submitted as part of development applications
- Supporting EHO’s interpretation of ‘health’ within the new EU-Directive for Environmental IA’s
- Has led to increased collaboration between PHW Environmental Heath and LA – EHO’s
Evaluation has shown -

• Creation of stronger links and understanding between public health and other sectors
• Strengthened partnerships that maximise positive health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce health inequalities
• A consistent approach across Wales for applying HIA within the public sector
• Led to better informed programmes and policies from a health and wellbeing perspective
• HIA methodology is informing aspects of partners implementation of the WBFG Act: Wellbeing Screening tools (DCC/NRW)
Challenges and conclusion:

- The value partners place on the training leads to challenges to meet the demand across Wales & UK.
- Ongoing refinement to reflect national and local policy developments and meet the needs of partners – keeping up with the pace of change.
- Public Health Bill – potential measure to make HIA a statutory assessment – will bring its own challenges for WHIASU but a positive step to achieve a happier, healthier and fairer Wales for all our present and future generations.