

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

**Paper for information: Update on the Work of the
Health Development Agency
(HDA)**

Agenda item: 13

Please see attached paper for information.

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

Update on the work of the Health Development Agency (HDA)

Obesity guidance with NICE

- The HDA are working jointly with the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) and with the National Primary Care Collaborating Centre to develop guidance on the identification, prevention and management of obesity and the maintenance of weight reduction.
- The guidance will be developed in accordance with established NICE processes. The first stage of this process is to develop a 'scope' which defines the parameters of the guidance and which is the subject of consultation. The scope will be placed on the NICE website from 27th January until 24th February and registered stakeholders may submit comments. In addition, a meeting for registered stakeholders will be held on 2nd February providing an opportunity to comment and to hear about the guidance development process. The scope can be found at www.nice.org.uk
- At this stage, the scope proposes a broad approach that will consider both the NHS in its clinical role, and in its broader role working alongside partners from other sectors such as local government, and the voluntary and private sectors. It is proposed that the guidance considers both adults and children over the age of five. The guidance will be in development from July of this year and is expected to be complete by the summer of 2006.

Maternal and Child Nutrition Collaborating Centres

- The previous update reported that the HDA were in the process of appointing two collaborating centres for maternal and child nutrition. The first of these will focus on the development of evidence and guidance and the second on practice development.
- The Evidence and Guidance Collaborating Centre has been awarded to a consortium led by the University of Leeds Mother and Infant Research unit and Nutritional Epidemiology Group, and the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York. The consortium also consists of a wide range of academic, professional, NHS and consumer and user groups. The Collaborating Centre will be focusing on: collating evidence and developing guidance on the initiation and duration of breastfeeding; and on developing the evidence base on nutrition during pregnancy, drawing evidence from both the literature and practice.
- Work is at an earlier stage on the Practice Development Collaborating Centre, which has not yet been formally appointed.

Physical Activity Collaborating Centre

- The HDA is also in the process of appointing an Evidence and Guidance Collaborating Centre for Physical Activity.

Supporting 5 A DAY co-ordinators

- As reported in the last update to SACN, the HDA is supporting 5 A DAY co-ordinators with a training programme. In December a workshop was held on 'Evaluation skills' and a further workshop is due to be held in February. This will focus on 'Exit strategies and sustainability'. A conference is also being planned for late April which will focus on promoting fruit and vegetables, as part of an overall balanced diet, within the primary care setting.