



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

Agenda Item: 09

Please see attached paper for information.

Obesity: NICE Guidance

1. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the Health Development Agency (HDA) are working jointly to develop guidance on the prevention and management of obesity.
2. The Scope of the guidance has been established following consultation with stakeholders and is available on the NICE website:
www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=63364.
3. A Guidance Development Group (GDG) has been convened to consider the evidence base and develop recommendations for practice. The GDG consists of two sub-groups – one focusing on the management of obesity (being led by the National Collaborating Centre for Primary Care) and the other focusing on the broader public health aspects of preventing obesity and supporting people in maintaining a healthy weight (led by the HDA).
4. Both clinical and prevention subgroups will be chaired by Jim Mcewen, Emeritus Professor of Public Health, University of Glasgow and past president of the Faculty of Public Health. Each subgroup will consist of a core group of members who will meet approximately every 6 weeks. Co-opted members will provide additional expertise on specific issues (and therefore will only be asked to attend meetings or comment on papers on an occasional basis). The full membership of the GDG is as follows:

Prevention Sub-Group

Chair: Professor Jim Mcewen

Members

Miss Elizabeth Biggs	Local and regional co-ordinator of the Healthy School Standards Programme, Hertfordshire
Dr Mary Corcoran	Director of Public Health Public Health, Gedling PCT
Dr Sara Kirk	Research Fellow, Nutrition and Epidemiology Group, University of Leeds
Mrs Esther Kurland	Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
Dr Louis Levy	Nutrition Policy and Advice, Food Standards Agency
Mrs Susan Mabley	Public Health Specialist, Welsh Local Government Association
Dr Harshad Mistri	Consumer representative, nominated by the Confederation of Indian Organisations
Mr Andy Ramwell	Exercise and Sports Science, Manchester Metropolitan University
Mrs Tracy Sortwell	Consumer representative nominated by the National Federation of Women's Institutes
Ms Helen Storer	Dietetic Services, Nottingham City PCT
Mr Malcolm Ward	Public Health Practitioner (Health Promotion), National Public Health Service for Wales

Co-optees

Mrs Anne Hollis	School Nursing, Fareham and Gosport PCT
Mr Lindley Owen	Sustrans
Mr Neil Porter	Local Authority Caterers Association

Mr Andy Worthington	Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management
TBC	Community Pharmacist
TBC	Workplace specialist
TBC	Health Visitor

Clinical Sub-Group

Chair: Professor Jim Mcewen

Members

Mrs Mandakini Amin	Health Visitor, Hinckley and Bosworth PCT
Ms Jude Cohen	Patient Representative, nominated by Weight Concern
Ms Helen Croker	Clinical Research Dietician, University College, London
Dr Penelope Gibson	Consultant Community Paediatrician Blackwater Valley & Hart PCT
Professor Paul Little	General Practitioner & Professor of Primary Care Research, University of Southampton
Mrs Susan Lucas	Patient Representative, nominated by Diabetes UK
Ms Mary O’Kane	Clinical Specialist Dietician The General Infirmary at Leeds
Mrs Sara Richards	Practice Nurse, Slough NHS Walk-in Centre
Dr Ken Snider	Public Health Physician, Director, Co. Durham & Tees Valley Public Health Network
Dr John Wilding	Reader in Medicine & Honorary Consultant, University Hospital Aintree, University of Liverpool

Co-optees

Dr John Buckley	Exercise Physiologist, Keele University
Mr David Kerrigan	Consultant Surgeon, University Hospital Aintree
Dr Nicholas Finer	Senior Research Associate & Honorary Consultant In Obesity Medicine, University of Cambridge
Mr Tam Fry	Honorary Chair, Child Growth Foundation
Professor Jane Wardle	Clinical Psychologist, University College London

- The clinical and prevention subgroups met for the first time on the 8th and 9th September, respectively.
- The evidence on public health / prevention will be captured by rapid reviews produced by two new collaborating centres working with the HDA (University of Cardiff / Wales Collaborating Group and University of Teesside). External stakeholders have been invited to submit evidence (by 11th September 2004). As part of this work, HDA are also working jointly with the Wales Collaborating Group (led by Dr Alison Weightman) to develop methodology for the grading of public health recommendations.

5 A DAY

Primary Care Conference and Video

7. The conference HDA was due to hold on behalf of DH, *Promoting 5 A DAY in Primary Care*, was postponed from 21st June. DH are now leading on the conference.

Cascade Training

8. HDA is co-ordinating the distribution of DH funded small grants to cascade training to NOF and non-NOF funded PCTs, based on local needs assessment. Evaluation of the training will be undertaken in the first quarter of 2005.

Evaluation resources

9. HDA commissioned Dr Pauline McGlone and Dr Julie Dallison to undertake a scoping and collation exercise on evaluation resources for community food projects. The final report, along with many of the tools identified by the researchers, will be available on the HDA website from Autumn 2004.

Maternal and Child Nutrition

10. The HDA has established two new collaborating centres on Maternal and Child Nutrition– one focusing on the development of evidence and guidance and the other on practice development. The Collaborating Centre on evidence and guidance has been awarded to a consortium led by the University of York (Mother and Infant Research Unit) with the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York and Nutritional Epidemiology Group, University of Leeds. The Collaborating Centre will be collating evidence and developing guidance on the initiation and duration of breastfeeding, and reviewing food programmes in relation to nutrition in pregnancy.
11. The Practice Development Collaborating Centre is a multidisciplinary consortium of academic, professional and user/ consumer partners. The consortium consists of:
 - * Mother and Infant Research Unit, University of York
 - * Nutritional Epidemiology Group, University of Leeds
 - * Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York

Academic

- * University of Leeds Biostatistics Unit
- * University of Leeds Department of Paediatrics
- * University of Leeds Centre for Computational Geography
- * University of Warwick (Liz Dowler)
- * National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit
- * MRC Human Nutrition Unit, Cambridge
- * MRC Environmental Epidemiology Unit, Southampton
- * Health Services Research Centre, Coventry University

- * St. George's Hospital Medical School (Dr. Tony Williams)
- * City University
- * Centre for International Child Health, Institute of Child Health

Professional and NHS

- * Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory
- * Strategic Health Authorities
- * UKPHA
- * British Dietetic Association
- * Nutrition Society
- * CPHVA
- * Royal College of Midwives

Users/ consumer

- * Maternity Alliance
- * National Childbirth Trust
- * La Leche League

12. The consortium will also have 14 sentinel sites and will develop capacity and encourage evidence based practice.
13. The HDA will be publishing a systematic review of the effectiveness of interventions to promote the duration of breastfeeding September / October 2004. This will update the systematic review "Enabling Women to Breastfeed", broadening the scope and covering non-clinical interventions. This work will compliment the evidence briefing on the effectiveness of interventions to promote the initiation of breastfeeding.

National Healthy Schools

14. The National Healthy School Standard is increasing its work on the healthy eating theme, and helping more schools to introduce healthier eating regimes. 2,660 schools had achieved the theme by August 2004 and many more are working towards it. In the meantime, the HDA is in discussion with the FSA, Department of Health, and caterers about the possibility of introducing a catering award addressing school lunches, which would become one of the pre-requisites for achieving the healthy school theme.

Physical Activity

15. The HDA has appointed an Evidence and Guidance Collaborating Centre for Physical Activity (a consortium of the British Heart Foundation Health Promotion Research Centre at Oxford University, the National Centre for Physical Activity at Loughborough and the South East Public Health Observatory). They are working to:

- Update the current review of interventions to promote physical activity in adults
- Develop “Effective Action Briefings” based on the Evidence Briefing and on the expertise of practitioners aimed at supporting the development of effective practice in the promotion of physical activity
- Produce a web based information service for professionals interested in physical activity
- Produce an evidence review of primary literature on the effectiveness of interventions in the environment to promote activity.

16. As part of the work on “Learning from Effective Practice” the HDA will also develop a collection of examples of good practice in the promotion of physical activity. This collection is intended to enhance, extend and enrich the public health evidence base and practice, designed to work alongside and add to other types of evidence approaches.

17. In addition, the HDA is developing a review of the effectiveness of transport interventions, including the effectiveness of interventions to promote cycling and walking.

New Publications (available from www.hda.nhs.uk)

18. The HDA's Annual Report for 2003-04.

Calendar of planned publication launch dates for 2004-05 (September 2004).

19. This calendar sets out key HDA publications that will be launched over the next twelve months. The calendar will be updated quarterly, with the next edition published in December 2004. Further publications will be added to the calendar following the 2005-06 forward planning round.

Public health evidence and practice: A summary of the HDA delivery plan for 2004-05

20. Sets out the contribution the HDA aims to make to the cross-government objective of improving public health and reducing health inequalities over the coming year. We will be working closely with the Department of Health on the forthcoming public health white paper. We anticipate that this may require some changes to our delivery plan later in the year and into 2005-06.

Health inequalities: Concepts, frameworks and policy

21. While the health of the British population as a whole may be improving, the health of the least and less well off either improves more slowly than the rest of the population or in some cases gets worse in absolute terms. This is a challenge to policy makers and practitioners. It suggests that while some of our policy and interventions undoubtedly work they also manifestly fail some sections of the population. To sharpen the tools for policy making in this arena, this paper

reviews some of the important conceptual problems associated with discussions of health inequalities.

Evaluation of health impact assessment learning from practice workshops

22. The HDA organised a series of learning from practice workshops to trial a particular method of translating HIA evidence and knowledge into practice. The workshops aimed to support and develop practice in HIA through the use of a learning from practice approach, and share learning and good practice about HIA. This study sought to evaluate the HDA's series of workshops on HIA and resources, and their impact on practitioners.

Community nurses' handbook

23. This personal, social and health education (PSHE) certification programme for community nurses has been developed to enable community nurses to gain recognition for their experience in the support of teaching personal, social and health education (PSHE), including sex and relationship education (SRE). It allows nurses to identify their professional development needs, and enhance their skills and confidence in this area of practice. The programme aims to improve the effectiveness and raise the profile of PSHE, and to address health inequalities and social inclusion by providing good quality PSHE in schools and other settings. It also reflects the broadening public health role of community nurses.

Promoting emotional health and well-being through the National Healthy School Standard

24. This booklet is available to all schools to help them to become more emotionally healthy. It is intended to support schools to meet the specific criteria of the NHSS theme of Emotional Health and Well-Being, and also reinforce and extend good practice in this area, beyond that described in the NHSS criteria.

Promoting children and young people's participation through the National Healthy School Standard

25. The NHSS encourages and supports schools to take a whole school approach to promoting physical and emotional health. One of the key criteria against which schools are assessed is the way in which they are 'giving pupils a voice'. This places pupil participation at the heart of the NHSS, and this briefing provides practical suggestions for facilitating it. The briefing supplements the DfES guidance "Working together: giving children and young people a say".

Making a difference in the West Midlands

26. This document illustrates the impact that local healthy schools programmes are having in the West Midlands. Some of the examples describe work being generated in individual schools; others describe much broader partnership level work. The examples are grouped together under headings to illustrate the link between policy priorities and practice.

Annual Conference

27. The HDA's annual conference, *Mainstreaming action to address inequalities in health*, was held on the 23rd and 24th September 2004 at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, London. See HDA website for further details.

Changes within the HDA

28. Following the Arms Length Review, it has been announced that the HDA's core functions will transfer to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence by April 2005. The joint NICE – HDA press statement following the announcement was as follows:

“The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the Health Development Agency (HDA) are both key players in the drive to improve quality in health and healthcare services. Both agencies welcome today's announcement to create a single organisation with the clear remit to provide guidance covering the full spectrum of interventions needed to tackle the big health and health care issues that face the nation.

Andrew Dillon chief executive of NICE responded to the announcement: "Bringing NICE and the HDA programmes together offers the chance to make more than just the sum of parts. We will work closely with our colleagues in public health to ensure that this is the case."

Paul Streets chief executive of the HDA said: "We welcome this announcement as it brings to an end speculation about the future of the work we have been doing. It is gratifying to know that our work will continue and we look forward to working with NICE to create what will be one of the most influential health and health care guidance organisations in the world"

NICE and the HDA are already working together to produce joint guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obese adults and children. This guidance will be available in 2006. Planning for this work has been underway for some time and it illustrates the complementary nature of the two organisations work.

NICE and the HDA will produce a plan as soon as possible setting out the timetable for bringing the organisations together.

Dame Yve Buckland chair of the Health Development Agency commented, "This change signals an endorsement of our work, it will increase its clout and ensure that it receives added attention across all sectors. The new organisational arrangement will ensure that a strong emphasis is placed on getting guidance that is produced by both organisations into practice"

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins Chair of NICE echoed these views commenting "The HDA has made major contributions to raising awareness about public health issues. We intend to build on this to develop an integrated organisation

that will address the key challenges facing everyone involved in improving the nation's health and healthcare services."