



Paper for information: DfID update

Agenda Item: 6

Please see attached paper for information.

Background

1. At the SACN meeting in June 2007, the CMO report “Health is Global: Proposals for a Government-wide Strategy” was mentioned and that a response to the report, which describes how the UK can contribute to promoting global health, was currently being composed. The working group felt that the report should emphasise more strongly the importance of malnutrition as a leading cause of death and the importance of nutrition in promoting global health.
2. Members noted that the advice on maternal and child nutrition from Department for International Development (DfID), spans all government departments and that it is not easy to identify nutrition priorities. It was agreed that a representative from DfID would be invited to a future SACN meeting to provide an update on nutrition activities as it was agreed that advice on nutrition for DfID was within the remit of SACN.

Update from DFID

3. Unfortunately, due to heavy travel commitments in January and February a representative from DfID can not attend the SACN meeting on this occasion. DfID can report that as agreed in last years health strategy they are looking to increase their capacity in this area and will develop a clear policy statement of what they do, where they could do more and where DfID could add value to existing efforts. The expanding research budget will enable them to fund future programmes on NCDs and nutrition. DfID will be working closely with a number of programmes such as India where nutrition is substantial part of the country portfolio and where the DfID office is seeking to raise the profile of under nutrition and get senior government officials engaged.