



The Faculty of Public Health

Working to improve the public's health

Bulletin - Issue 37 - February 2008

In this update:

- [From the President](#)
- [FPH Annual Conference](#)
- [Working in Developing Countries workshop](#)
- [Rep sought for Obesity in Pregnancy programme](#)
- [CPD reminder](#)
- [Economic evaluation of cost-effectiveness](#)
- [ADPH 2008 Annual Conference](#)
- [Milroy Lecture](#)
- [2007 public health workforce census](#)
- [NICE commissioning guidelines](#)
- [Events](#)

From the President

Spare a thought for Chancellor Alistair Darling, preparing for his very first budget speech on 12 March. Just by juggling a few percentage points here and there, he can do more for the nation's health and wellbeing than the rest of us put together.

This year he will be faced with powerfully persuasive arguments to hike up the tax on alcohol. The Alcohol and Health Alliance (of which FPH is a prominent member) and other influential groups such as the BMA are making concerted efforts to gain substantially above-inflation increases.

The main triggers have been the worrying rise in alcohol-related liver disease, especially among younger people, and the scandalously low prices of special offers in the nation's supermarkets. What we need now is less talk about responsible drinking and more action around responsible regulation.

Why not add to the Chancellor's bed-time reading by sending him your thoughts on how he can save thousands of livers and lives by emailing the Treasure Department.

And, talking of chancellors, we've just had a letter from previous incumbent Gordon Brown, responding to our report *Sustaining a Healthy Future* and expressing the desire to work together to deliver 'our shared vision of environmental care'. Trumped only by a letter on the same subject from Prince Charles' private secretary saying that HRH is 'full of admiration' for the work FPH is doing.

Hey - friends in high places!

Best wishes

Alan

FPH Annual Conference, Cardiff, 3-5 June 2008

The FPH Annual Conference takes place in Cardiff on 3-5 June and is being organised in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government. The programme for the conference has been drafted and will be available on the website shortly.

To date, confirmed keynote speakers include:

- Derek Wanless,
- Michael Pitt (Chair NHS South West),
- Jonathon Porritt (Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission), and
- Deidre Hutton (Chair of Food Standards Agency).

Registration will open mid-March and members will receive a registration alert when it does.

In the meantime see www.publichealthconferences.org.uk/annual for further details.

Working in Developing Countries

In response to a number of important UK Government initiatives on global health, FPH's International Committee is hosting a one-day workshop on 'working in developing countries'.

The event will bring together some of the UK's key players in developing global health and should provide a stimulating and informative day for anyone interested in working overseas.

The workshop is to be held on **23 April 2008** in central London. Download the registration form and view the draft programme on the [FPH events website](#).

FPH representative sought for national Obesity in Pregnancy Programme

The [Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health's](#) national [Obesity in Pregnancy](#) programme will run till 2010 and will include:

1. a national survey of maternity units;
2. development of consensus standards of care and service provision; and
3. a national audit.

CEMACH is establishing a Consensus Standards Group to develop and agree standards of care which will be used to evaluate the care provided across the UK.

The multidisciplinary group is seeking an FPH representative with expertise in obesity in pregnancy. An initial meeting will be held on 12 May. CEMACH would meet all reasonable travel expenses.

If you would like to represent FPH on this group please complete the [application for nomination form](#) and email it to Lindsey Stewart by **Friday 14 March**.

CPD reminder

CPD returns for 2007 (or applications for exemption) must be submitted to the Faculty office **between 31 December 2007 and 31 March 2008**.

All Faculty members must meet minimum CPD requirements in order to remain in good standing *either* by submitting an annual return *or* by ensuring that the Faculty has formally agreed to the reasons for your exemption.

- To submit a **return**, go to: www.fph.org.uk/prof_standards/cpd/portfolio_diary
- To apply for **exemption**, go to: www.fph.org.uk/prof_standards/cpd/exemptions

If you have any queries about the completion of your return or your application for exemption, please contact the cpd administrator.

If you wish to discuss your CPD requirements, please contact your [regional/country CPD Co-ordinator](#).

Economic evaluation of public health interventions

Good quality evidence on cost-effectiveness is essential if those commissioning public health services are to make informed decisions.

A recent review undertaken by Public Health Research Consortium (PHRC) examines the challenges of assessing the cost-effectiveness of public health interventions and suggests how these might be best addressed

The PHRC, funded by the Department of Health Policy Research Programme, brings together researchers from 11 UK institutions and aims to strengthen the evidence base for interventions to improve public health and reduce inequalities.

Full details of this review are available to download from the [PHRC website](#).

ADPH 2008 Annual Conference

The Association of Directors of Public Health's annual conference will be held jointly with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Association of Directors of Children's Services.

The conference, *Inequalities and Wellbeing - Working Together*, will be held on Tuesday 20 May at Central Hall, Westminster, London (9.30 to 15.30), and will be followed immediately by the ADPH Annual General Meeting.

The conference will explore ways in which Directors of Public Health, Adult Social Services and Children's Services can work together to reduce health inequalities and promote and improve wellbeing.

Further details of the conference and a booking form will be sent to all ADPH members shortly.

Milroy Lecture on state medicine & public health

The Royal College Physicians of London invites applications to deliver the Milroy Lecture for 2010. The lecturer is appointed by the RCP Council and the subject should be of relevance to state medicine and public hygiene, although the interpretation of this can be broad.

A copy of Dr Milroy's "suggestions" on the subject of his bequest and a list of recent lectures may be obtained on request from the [RCP Conference Department](#).

Applications, consisting of a brief CV and a short paragraph of no more than 400 words on the subject selected, should be submitted to: Academic Registrar, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE, Tel: +44 (0) 20 7935 1174 Ext 564

The closing date for application is: **29 August 2008**.

2007 public health workforce census

The Information Centre published the 2007 public health workforce census in December 2007. The survey response rate (at 97%) was very high for a collection of this type.

The Workforce Review team (WRT) has produced two tools to make use of the data collected. The tools are intended to aid workforce planning within public health and allow comparisons of any two organisations in the country.

The tools and further information are available on the [NHS Healthcareworkforce website](#).

NICE commissioning guidelines

In January the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published six new commissioning guides to help the NHS in England effectively commission evidence-based care for patients. The guides cover the following services:

- memory assessment
- hysterectomy
- endometrial ablation
- female urinary incontinence
- intrauterine devices and the intrauterine system
- bariatric surgery.

Each commissioning guide signposts and provides topic-specific information on key clinical and service-related issues to consider during the commissioning process. They also offer an indicative benchmark of activity to help commissioners determine the level of service needed locally.

Further details are available on the [NICE website](#).