



## All-island Obesity News

E-bulletin of the all-island Obesity Action Forum

Volume 1, Issue 2, May/June 2009

Welcome to the second edition of *All-island Obesity News*. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the forthcoming workshop being held by the Forum and supported by **safefood**, entitled **Communicating to Make a Difference**. This event will take place in the Ramada Encore Hotel in Belfast on **16 June**. The workshop will showcase examples of best practice from individuals to populations, retail and mass media perspectives, as well as the challenges faced in communicating the shared issue of obesity on the island of Ireland. In addition to providing key networking opportunities, we are inviting delegates to exhibit and share their own initiatives with their colleagues from across the island of Ireland. We are especially interested in showcasing the work of community projects and a limited number of bursaries are available to minimally resourced community and voluntary groups. We look forward to seeing you there.

Martin Higgins  
Chief Executive, **safefood**

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What's in this issue?

- [Obesity Prevention NI Update](#)
- [ROI Obesity Implementation Group Update](#)
- [General news](#)
- [Nutrition news](#)
- [Physical activity news](#)
- [Research news](#)
- [Resources/publications](#)
- [Campaigns/initiatives](#)
- [Forthcoming events](#)
- [Consultations](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Members of the All-island Obesity Action Forum](#)

If you would like to include any information in this bi-monthly e-bulletin please email us at [obesityforum@safefood.eu](mailto:obesityforum@safefood.eu).

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### Obesity Prevention Steering Group NI Update

The Obesity Prevention Steering Group has been meeting regularly since 2008 to discuss issues raised by its four Advisory Groups and the development of the Obesity Prevention Strategic Framework. The Framework is at an early developmental stage and its basic structure, values and principles are currently being agreed. Short, medium and long term outcomes are also under development and it is hoped these

will be agreed in September 2009. The Obesity Prevention Strategic Framework Development Team is planning to release regular newsletters across a wide audience to update stakeholders and other interested parties on the progress of the Framework. The Newsletter will also welcome comments and will provide contact details and links to associated information. Formal Consultation is expected to take place in early 2010.

*Health Development Policy Branch, Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety, 28 May 2009*

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## **ROI Obesity Implementation Group Update**

The Intersectoral Group on Obesity, established by the Ms Mary Wallace, T.D., former Minister for Health Promotion and Food Safety met on several occasions during the Spring to review progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the National Task Force on Obesity.

Their [progress report](#) was launched by Minister Wallace, on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009. It details progress on the implementation of each of the 93 recommendations, and may be accessed on the Department of Health and Children's website at [www.dohc.ie](http://www.dohc.ie). The next task of the Group is to proceed to oversee and monitor on an ongoing basis the implementation of the Task Force recommendations. The new Minister, Ms Aine Brady, intends to continue with the work of the Group.

*Health Promotion Policy, Department of Health and Children, 29 May 2009*

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## **General news**

### **16.05.09: Official launch of a European obesity day online survey (EU)**

An online survey was launched to encourage formal recognition of the plight of the overweight and obese by European decision-makers through the creation of an official European Obesity Day. [Read more](#).

### **06.05.09: New growth charts adopted (UK)**

The new growth charts, launched to coincide with National Breastfeeding Awareness Week (10 to 16 May), replaced measures which were based predominately on babies fed with formula. They were developed for the Department of Health by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Read the [press release](#) and more about the [growth charts](#).

### **20.04.09: Clinically proven over-the-counter weight loss medicine, alli, launched (ROI)**

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) announced the launch of **alli**, a weight loss aid, which is now available in participating pharmacies. [Read more](#).

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## **Nutrition news**

### **21.05.09: Review of dietary interventions in black and minority ethnic groups published (Wales)**

The Food Standards Agency Wales has published a review of dietary interventions in black and minority ethnic (BME) groups across the UK. [Read more](#).

#### **12.05.09: Healthy eating on the table (UK)**

Some of the most well-known restaurant chains on the UK high street have agreed to work with the FSA to put healthy eating firmly on the menu for their customers. [Read more.](#)

#### **06.05.09: Expert panel presents report on front-of-pack nutrition labelling**

The independent group of experts who have led the front-of-pack (FOP) nutrition signpost evaluation project, today published their final report. [Read more.](#)

#### **06.05.09: FSA welcomes publication of labelling report**

The Agency welcomes the final report on front-of-pack (FOP) nutrition signpost labelling, published today by an independent group of experts (the Project Management Panel). [Read more.](#)

#### **04.05.09: Junk Food Babies – Cheeseburgers and chocolate healthier than baby food (UK)**

New research from the Children's Food Campaign found poor nutritional quality of many foods marketed for babies and young children. More than 50 products from various firms were found to have higher-than-suggested levels of saturated fat, salt or sugar. [Read more.](#)

#### **29.04.09: Kid's breakfasts high in sugar and salt (UK)**

A survey by the consumers' organisation Which? of 100 cereals bought from the main supermarkets found a lower proportion of high-sugar cereals overall compared with 2006. But only eight of the products qualified for a Food Standards Agency healthy "green light" for low levels of sugar. [Read more](#) (note: subscription required).

#### **23.04.09: Caterers work hard to improve workers' health**

Millions of employees are now enjoying healthier meals, thanks to the efforts of 12 of the UK's leading contract caterers and two of the biggest foodservice suppliers, who have been working with the FSA. [Read more.](#)

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### **Physical activity news**

#### **27.05.09: Wicklow recreation strategy launched (ROI)**

Ireland's first county-wide outdoor recreation strategy was launched in Co Wicklow by John Treacy, Chief Executive of the Irish Sports Council. [Read more.](#)

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### **Research news**

#### **29.05.09: Agencies issue invitation to Euro funding seminar (UK)**

Individuals with an interest in food research are invited to find out more about funding opportunities and on-going European research projects at a seminar in Birmingham on Friday 17 July. [Read more.](#)

#### **26.05.09: Can breastfeeding support services be improved? (ROI)**

An Infant Feeding Survey is being conducted by midwifery/public health nursing researchers in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at University College Cork (UCC) on behalf of the Health Service Executive (HSE). It seeks to review breastfeeding support services provided by Public Health Nurses in Ireland. [Read more.](#)

**21.05.09: NNSC seek information on obesity in children (IOI)**

The National Nutrition Surveillance Centre in ROI is currently seeking data on childhood body weight status (0 to 18 years) from researchers on the island. Contact Celine Murrin at the NNSC on 00353 (0)1 7163430/3032 or [npsc@ucd.ie](mailto:npsc@ucd.ie).

**14.05.09: Research into exercise provision for older people (UK)**

The British Heart Foundation National Centre are supporting a piece of research work being carried out by the University of Manchester. The research project is looking at how to engage and maintain older adults in exercise and at this stage simply involves completing an online questionnaire which will take approximately 15 minutes. [Further information and take part in this research.](#)

**01.05.08: Themed call for research proposals into obesity (UK)**

On 10 November 2009 the HTA programme will be inviting research proposals in the area of obesity. [Read more.](#) Note: NI applicants must be in collaboration with colleagues in England to be eligible for funding under this call, i.e. NI applicants cannot lead the project.

**08.05.09: safefood invites tenders for research projects**

To support their knowledge base, **safefood** would like to invite tenders for research in a number of subject areas. The closing date for receipt of tenders is **Friday 12th June 2009 at 4pm.** [Read more.](#)

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**Resources/Publications**

**May 2009: NOO publish briefing paper 'Physical activity surveillance in England - what is measured and where are the gaps?' (England)**

The paper aims to identify and describe the main sources of national-level surveillance data on physical activity in adults and children in England. It also makes recommendations for improving physical activity surveillance. [Read more.](#)

**14.05.09: New 'Every Child Matters' website live (England)**

Developed as part of the Department's for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) work to update its portfolio of websites, the new '[Every Child Matters](#)' site provides a single channel for information aimed at professionals within the children's workforce.

**13.05.09: Department for Culture, Media and Sport publish Third Sector Strategy (UK)**

This new strategy sets out the Department's vision for its ongoing relationship with the third sector. [Read the strategy.](#)

**01.05.09: Outdoor Play - A Communications Toolkit for Local Authorities (UK)**

This toolkit is intended to help local authorities plan, deliver and launch communications activities for the parents of children and young people in relation to their capital build, play refurbishment or pre-existing facilities. [Read more.](#)

**30.04.09: NOO publish Detailed Analysis of the 2007/08 Dataset from the National Child Measurement Programme (England)**

This report presents detailed secondary analyses of the 2007/08 NCMP national dataset to help further understanding of the epidemiology of child height, weight and Body Mass Index (BMI) across England. [Read report.](#)

**20.04.09: National Library for Public Health publish update focusing on childhood obesity: surveillance and prevention (UK)**

This is an update of the evidence from March 2008 to March 2009. [Read more.](#)

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## Campaigns/Initiatives

**21.04.2009: ISCP & INDI launch *Eat Smart Move More!* (ROI)**

To support parents and health professionals to combat overweight and obesity, the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists (ISCP) and the Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute (INDI) have published a comprehensive information booklet entitled ***Eat Smart, Move More!*** This booklet guides parents through tips to make simple practical changes to a child's diet and activity levels through a sensitive family-based approach in order to promote good health both now and in later life. For further information visit [www.eatsmartmovemore.ie](http://www.eatsmartmovemore.ie)

**13 to 21 June: Bike Week 2009 (NI)**

Travelwise NI invites individuals or organisations to celebrate Bike to Work Day (17 June 2009) by organising an event in their workplace to mark the day and to encourage commuters to try cycling as a sustainable and healthy method of travelling to work. [Read more.](#)

**29 June to 04 July: Change your World week (UK)**

The campaign asks people to swap just one of their usual car trips and to walk, cycle, take public transport or car-share instead. The simple message is that if we all drove just one less car trip a week, together we would reduce car traffic by ten per cent, giving us healthier journeys, cleaner air and quieter streets. [Read more.](#)

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## Forthcoming events

Title: [\*\*Communicating to Make a Difference, Workshop hosted by the All-island Obesity Action Forum, supported by safefood\*\*](#)

Date: 16 June 2009

Venue: Ramada Encore Hotel, Belfast

Title: [\*\*Satiation, satiety and their effects on eating behaviour\*\*](#)

Date: 18 June 2009

Venue: Institute of Physics, London

Title: [\*\*Preventive Health 09\*\*](#)

Date: 26 June 2009

Venue: QEII Conference Centre, London

Title: [\*\*Obesity and its Management: 11th Annual Training meeting of the Association for the Study of Obesity\*\*](#)  
Date: 24-26 June 2009  
Venue: Liverpool Medical Institution

Title: [\*\*Tackling Early Childhood Obesity\*\*](#)  
Date: 30 June 2009  
Venue: Central London

Title: [\*\*Development of Food Preferences and Early Feeding Behaviour\*\*](#)  
Date: 08 September 2009  
Venue: Medical School, University of Nottingham

Title: [\*\*19<sup>th</sup> Workshop of the European Childhood Obesity Group\*\*](#)  
Date: 17-19 September 2009  
Venue: Trinity College, Dublin, Republic of Ireland

Title: [\*\*Obesity: Time to Get Serious - 2009 National Obesity Forum Conference\*\*](#)  
Date: 05-06 October 2009  
Venue: Royal College of Physicians, London

Title: [\*\*The Big Food Debate II\*\*](#)  
Date: 20 October 2009  
Venue: Crown Plaza, Liverpool

Title: [\*\*BHFNC 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference National policy to local practice: Working together to deliver physical activity programmes\*\*](#)  
Date: 18 November 2009  
Venue: East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham

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## Consultations

### **UK: Proposed Food Standards Agency strategy for 2010 to 2015**

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is developing their next five-year Strategic Plan for the period 2010 to 2015 and are currently seeking feedback. The consultation closes on **05 June 2009**. [Read more](#).

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## Training

Course Title: [\*\*Measuring lifestyle behaviours: using diet and physical activity assessment tools in practice and research\*\*](#)  
Date: 06 to 07 July 2009  
Venue: University of Bristol

Course Title: [\*\*SCOPE Summer School – Obesity management for medical professionals\*\*](#)  
Date: 02 to 05 August 2009  
Venue: Clare College, Cambridge

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## Members of the all-island Obesity Action Forum

Department of Education Northern Ireland: Ms Louise Warde-Hunter  
Department of Education, ROI: Mr Seamus McLoughlin  
Department of Health and Children: Mr Brian Mullen and Ms Ursula O' Dwyer  
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Mr Rob Phipps  
Food Safety Authority of Ireland: Dr Brian Redahan  
Food Standards Agency: Ms Maria Jennings  
Health Service Executive: Ms Maria Lordan Dunphy  
Institute of Public Health: Dr Kevin Balanda  
Irish Cancer Society: Ms Norma Cronin  
Irish Heart Foundation: Ms Maureen Mulvihill  
Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute: Ms Margot Brennan and Ms Janis Morrissey  
Irish Sports Council: Mr John Tracey  
Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke Association: Mr Andrew Dougal  
Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association: Mr Michael Bell  
Nutrition and Health Foundation: Dr Muireann Cullen and Ms Catherine Bent  
**safefood**: Dr Clíodhna Foley-Nolan, Dr Marian Faughnan, and Ms Marita Hennessy  
Sport Northern Ireland: Mr Eamonn McCartan  
Ulster Cancer Foundation: Mr Gerry McElwee  
University College Cork: Prof Ivan Perry  
Note: A submission has been made to the Public Health Agency for a representative on the Forum

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