Solving our Alcohol problem

At a recent cross border conference entitled ‘Working Upstream: Delivering Early Interventions on Alcohol,’ a range of speakers from Ireland and the UK outlined the case for early intervention in order to tackle alcohol misuse. Participants heard about approaches that are showing positive results including initiatives which support families and children, both at community level and also within health and social care services, in the areas of maternity and family support.

Additionally, the ‘under the radar’ work supported by CAWT and other stakeholders at community level, and the activities undertaken by those in local government were also showcased. The conference emphasised collaborative approaches between children’s services and addiction services, which are proving to be successful in supporting vulnerable families due to alcohol misuse. Speakers at the conference included Paul Cavanagh, Assistant Director of Commissioning, Health and Social Care Board (West); Gordon Jeyes, National Director, Children and Family Services, HSE; Edel O’Doherty, Deputy Chief Officer, CAWT and Bernie McCrory, Chief Officer, CAWT.

EU funding - 2014 onwards

Funding for programmes under the current EU INTERREG IVA will end in 2014. The Managing Authority for EU funds in Ireland/Northern Ireland, the Special EU Programmes Body, has commenced consultations on the next round of European Union funding. Representatives from the CAWT partnership have attended public consultation events held in the border region during the past couple of months. In addition, CAWT has submitted a written response indicating possible cross border services/projects that could be developed with future EU funding. Indications are that there will be a smaller number of more focused themes this time. CAWT has highlighted activities under two of the 11 themes presented by SEUPB. This includes theme 2 Information and Communication Technologies and theme 9 Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty. It is anticipated that the new EU INTERREG programme will be defined by 2013 and likely to be operational in late 2014 / early 2015.
CAWT Obesity project - ‘UP4IT!’

Over the past year, 1,816 individuals / 454 families, have benefitted from participation in the UP4IT! Obesity Programmes across the CAWT region. The evidence has shown that participating families are improving their health and wellbeing by making positive healthy lifestyle changes. The knowledge gained and skills learned have been incorporated into everyday lives, and has resulted in health improvements such as children reducing their BMI and waist measurements, and increasing their physical activity levels. Additionally, adults and children are more positive in how they view themselves and are a lot more physically active as a family group.

Two recent showcase events in Monaghan and Derry enabled families to outline the difference participation has made, with many stating that they had “learnt new habits for a new lifestyle” and that “all families should get the opportunity to attend as part of being a healthy, responsible family.” The UP4IT! Programmes were commended by two speakers who are leaders in the fight against obesity: Prof Donal O’Shea, Consultant Endocrinologist at St. Vincent’s University Hospital and St. Columcille’s Hospital and Tam Fry, Honorary Chairman of the UK’s Child Growth Foundation. Both speakers highlighted that the UP4IT! programmes have demonstrated their effectiveness in reducing obesity in children as well as improving their self-esteem.

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Diabetes project

Over 1,500 people, including children and young people, have benefitted from the CAWT Diabetes Project to date. The project is being delivered by all 5 NI Health Trusts and by the HSE in border counties. It focuses on two areas of diabetes care: Pre-pregnancy care for women with diabetes through clinics set-up to support women with diabetes who are planning a pregnancy. Structured Patient Education (SPE) for children and young people with diabetes through the delivery of an education programme called ‘CHOICE’ to help families and children to manage their diabetes more effectively and to reduce the impact on the quality of their lifestyle. It is planned that the CHOICE programme will be available as a web-based e-learning package. This will help children and young people and their parents / carers to revise and reinforce learning, as well as providing information on the programme to other key stakeholders. Both programmes are being delivered by Diabetes Specialist Nurses and Diabetes Specialist Dieticians. Diabetes project staff come together on a regular basis to share progress, discuss issues and reflect on learning.

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Citizenship for People with Disabilities

The Community Awareness Programme, being delivered in Strabane and Donegal Councils, is supporting local communities to make their services more accessible to people with a disability. 7 key projects are being delivered under the Community Awareness Programme. July saw the roll-out of the innovative ‘Change a Little, Change a Lot’ Accessibility Awards Campaign which is supporting local organisations to commit to change so that business and services are more accessible to people with disabilities. The second Disability Awareness Week 2012 was held from the 3rd to 7th of December with a total of 19 events held to raise awareness of disability in local communities and celebrate the inclusion of all people. To date 214 people with disabilities have accessed Day Opportunities Services, with 2,285 hours of activity in total delivered by project staff. An array of organisations are supporting access to locally-based activities by people with disabilities. Opportunities provided include social and leisure activities, vocational training, education, work placements, volunteering and paid employment.

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Outcomes for Children project

The CAWT Outcomes for Children project is coming to an end in December 2012, but the legacy of the work will continue. Over 1,600 people, including children and young people, have benefitted from a range of programmes rolled out in South Armagh, Fermanagh, Cavan and South West Donegal, over the past two years. Programmes include youth-based activities to promote physical, mental and social well-being, programmes to support parents and families, training to service providers to ensure quality of services and the engagement and participation of families in the planning and delivery of services.

The four multiagency local planning groups, set up as part of the CAWT Outcomes for Children project, will continue their integrated planning process with support from the HSE and the Health and Social Care Board. The project website has been updated to enable both strategic and local information to be accessed more easily by those involved in planning services for children and young people. The website, www.outcomesforchildren.org will be maintained by the Health and Social Care Board. The project’s work has influenced both the new Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership in NI, as well as guiding the Department of Children and Youth Affairs on their information gathering and presenting. The project board and staff would like to acknowledge all those who contributed to making the project a success in reaching its targets and objectives.

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Cross border workforce mobility

Coaching and Mentoring: The Connect coaching service is now available within all CAWT partner organisations. Fourteen senior staff from the SHSCT and HSE DNE have recently attended the Connect Mentor Development Programme. The Connect Mentor service is available to middle managers within the SHSCT and HSE DNE. Social Work: The Leadership Development Programme has been successfully implemented within the NHSCT. Discussions are underway with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council, regarding approval of the Leadership Development Programme in relation to the PQ Framework. Moving and Handling: The standardised e-learning Manual Handling Awareness training programme has been successfully implemented across the five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland and in the HSE West, with a pilot underway in the HSE DNE. Over 4,000 staff have successfully completed the programme. The e-learning Display Screen Equipment Awareness Training Programme has been launched as a training tool by the Patient and Client Council, NISCC, NIPEC and the BSO.

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Cross border Acute project

Diploma in healthcare qualification: Utilising EU INTERREG IVA funding, CAWT is supporting the delivery of a diploma in healthcare qualification, on a cross border basis. This is a 2 year programme and is up-skilling healthcare assistants to take on additional specific clinical tasks. This will free up the time of clinical staff to focus on more complex areas of work and also increase workforce flexibility.

This programme, under the validation of the Qualifications and Credit Framework, is being delivered in both jurisdictions and provides an opportunity to develop the skills of healthcare assistants and nursing auxiliaries in areas such as blood collection, theatres and endoscopy, allowing for future staff development. The students, from both the HSE and the Western Trust, will gain the same qualification, therefore providing potential for more cross border education and workforce mobility. During the course the students will also work in clinical areas in both jurisdictions.

Contact for further information: Linda Saunderson, Programme Manager t: 00 44 (0)28 6862 8740 e: linda.saunderson@westerntrust.hscni.net w: www.cawt.com/acute
Progress is well underway in the ‘Recruit and Retain’ project under the Northern Periphery Programme (NPP). In September 2012 a status report for Ireland/Northern Ireland was produced which included details of geography, demographic trends, education provision and employment statistics of healthcare staff across the catchment areas of the project. Surveys were also circulated to staff within categories prevalent to recruitment or retention challenges across Trusts, HSE and other healthcare agencies. Information from these surveys are being analysed to help determine causes and trends in employment in rural areas. A workshop event was also held in Greenland in late October 2012 where all of the NPP partners met. Aspects discussed included progress updates across the NPP area, status report presentations, direction on various work packages and agreement on future milestones. The visit also included a visit to a local small hospital in Ilulissat, Greenland to examine healthcare provision in a rural catchment area.

Wesley Henderson, Project Manager has a series of meetings and semi structured interviews to conduct with senior managers, senior clinicians and institutes, to further explore challenges across a range of themes with the aim of developing solutions through products, services and activities.

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News and Events

Solving our alcohol problem – what is working?

Attendees at the CAWT cross border conference on early intervention and alcohol misuse held in the NW (l to r:) Caitriona Mullan, Project Manager, CAWT Alcohol project; Paul Cavanagh, Assistant Director of Commissioning, Health and Social Care Board (West); Karen Phillips, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Derry City Council; Bernie McCrory, Chief Officer, CAWT; Tony Doherty, Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum and Fiona McCann, Drugs and Alcohol Community Support Services, Western Trust.

Building Sustainable Communities Seminar

CAWT Social Inclusion project staff who participated in a Building Sustainable Communities Seminar in Letterkenny called ‘Social Infrastructure for Sustainable Communities,’ Pictured (l to r): Avril McMonagle, Donegal County Childcare Committee, Ciara O Hanlon and Jacqueline Connolly, CAWT Social Inclusion project; Ann Marie Cross and Máire O Leary, HSE Donegal and Barney McLaughlin, Donegal County Council.

CAWT Citizenship for People with Disabilities project - best practice event

Venue: Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny
Date: 6 Dec 2012
Contact details: Madge Toye Temple t: 00 353 (0) 7491 89083 e: madgetoyetemple@hse.ie

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