

**HIYE**  
***Annual Report***  
***2002 - 03***

**Health In Your Environment (HIYE)**  
**Voluntary Sector Forum**

# HIYE Annual Report 2002 - 03

## To be presented at HIYE AGM - 10 December 03

### 1. A Report from the Chair of HIYE - Richard Eddleston

#### 1.1 Background to Health in Your Environment (HIYE) Forum

The Health in Your Environment (HIYE) Forum is a voluntary sector forum, which brings together groups involved in health, social and economic regeneration and environmental issues. It has a particular focus on the connections between health and the environment, where health is defined not just in terms of ill-health, but in terms of well being and quality of life. HIYE holds a *unique position* in the Greater Nottingham area in terms of the range of groups that are members. Because of this there have been increasing demands placed upon HIYE in the last years by the statutory sector, which now has a duty to consult widely with the public. HIYE is increasingly being used in this way because of its unique position. The many changes within local government and the health services in the last couple of years have exacerbated this effect.

The Forum has contributed valuable ideas and a voluntary and community sector perspective to the Nottingham Health Action Group (NHAG - a multi-sector group working to improve the health and environment of local people across the Greater Nottingham sub-region) and through NHAG to the New Health Agenda. It has also contributed to the Environment sector of the Community Network in Nottingham, and the Sub Regional Strategic Partnership's (SSP's) Environment Strategic Action Team. The Forum has developed Terms of Reference to steer its work and these are available on request. An introductory leaflet is available, which informs people about the forum. There is also a web site giving information about the work of HIYE and NHAG, and this can be found at [www.healthinyourenvironment.org.uk](http://www.healthinyourenvironment.org.uk)

#### 1.2 A Year of Development

Following last year's AGM, HIYE agreed to change the way it works. A Co-ordinating Group was set up, which has met every six weeks, whilst the needs of the wider membership have been met by a series of workshops and the start of a quarterly newsletter. During this time, the Co-ordinating Group looked at possible future structures for HIYE (e.g. becoming a charity, a co-operative, a limited company etc), but concluded that at present there was no need to change from our present status.

The Co-ordinating Group developed an action plan for the year, which we have achieved in large part. Our successes are as follows:

**a. HIYE Workshops**

We have held four workshops during the year as promised.

The first looked at the Earth Summit, 'Ten Years On', held in Johannesburg. We looked at what we could learn from this, and how it could underpin the work that we are engaged in.

The second workshop was a shared one with the Food Initiatives Group. This looked at the advantages and disadvantages of GMO's. We had two national speakers in Professor Conrad Lichtenstein and Dr Mae-Wan Ho. This was a timely debate as it coincided with a national debate. Our conclusions were forwarded to the Government to inform that debate.

The third workshop looked at Chemical pollutants, and whether they can affect our health or not. Professor Jan Plant was the main speaker, with Bex Pleass from Friends of the Earth. The report on this will go to the Nottingham Health Action Group for further action.

Our fourth workshop will be held prior to the AGM. The topic is looking at waste disposal and its effect on our health, as well as what we can do in our local communities in terms of recycling.

Reports on all four workshops are available.

**b. Newsletter**

We have initiated a quarterly newsletter, which has grown in content throughout the year, but is still in its embryo stages. We hope that this will act a means of communicating widely with local groups concerned with health and environmental issues, informing members of what they themselves are doing, as well as informing members about the work of the various strategic groups that we are involved with, so that they can feed in their comments if they wish to.

**c. Funding Bids**

We have had successes and failures here. We were successful in a funding bid for the workshops, this from Nottingham Community Foundation. We were unsuccessful in a large bid through the SEED Programme, which was a great disappointment after the hard work we put in and the encouraging noise the assessor made. We were also successful in a bid through the Health Initiatives Budget to employ a part-time worker for six months to help develop the work of HIYE. Through this we have been able to update our mailing lists and develop an e-mail network for the dissemination of information. We were

also successful in a bid to involve Forum for the Future in a workshop for NHAG as it becomes the Health Strategy Action Team part of the SSP.

**d. Healthy Community Conference:**

After much effort, we now have a written report on this conference, with recommendations based on the Conference, many of which we have already enacted. Copies of the report have been distributed to members of HIYE and NHAG.

**e. Research & Mapping Project:**

This has proved a more time-consuming exercise than we had hoped, but we are now at the stage of the final report being put together, after which it will be distributed to members as a valuable tool for them to use. Bettina Lange will be giving a presentation about it at the AGM. (See Section 2 for further details).

### **1.3 Looking to the Future:**

HIYE has made a great deal of progress this year, and the challenge is to continue that progress into next year. We are already planning four further workshops for next year. Our newsletter has developed over this year, becoming increasingly professional, and the challenge is to get it to become even more representative of the total membership of HIYE, so that it can become a vehicle for a two-way flow of information. In this way HIYE Representatives on the different strategic groups can become truly representative of a much wider voluntary sector that is concerned with environmental and health issues.

To enable us to meet these challenges, it will be essential to find funding to maintain the development support that we have enjoyed since October of this year. To this end, we are looking at different forms of funding. The downside is, that if we are not successful in finding funding, it will be very hard to maintain the work of HIYE at the current level.

Richard Eddleston - Chair  
Health in Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum  
November 2003

## 2. Health in Your Environment - Research project

### Environment and Health Directory

HIYE has commissioned a directory of organisations, projects and policies working in innovative ways in areas connecting environment and health, in broad agreement with HIYE's aims. The directory will have two parts. Part 1 will list organisations and projects in the Greater Nottingham area including HIYE members, while Part 2 will consist of contacts and statements such as policy documents likely to be of use to those aiming to make connections between environment and health. This second part will include regional and national as well as local information. To make it more user friendly, the directory will also include an index. The directory is intended to facilitate networking between organisations, individuals and projects and to provide resources (information and contacts). It will also be an opportunity to "showcase" HIYE and its members and will therefore include an introduction about HIYE.

The directory is now nearing completion, due to be launched in early 2004. For further information contact Bettina Lange on 0115 9228706 email [bettina.lange @cooptel.net](mailto:bettina.lange@cooptel.net) **It is not too late to be included in the directory - contact Bettina asap if you want to be included.**

## 3. Summary of HIYE activity over the past year

HIYE has representatives on the following groups. Please note that the names representatives are those prior to the AGM, this may change with the elections:-

- Sub-Regional Strategic Partnerships (SSP):-
  - Health Strategic Action Team — Nottingham Health Action Group (NHAG) - Richard Thomas (until Nov 03)
  - Environment Strategic Action Team (ESAT) - Richard Eddleston
- Nottingham City Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) — Community Network - Tim Gray
- Broxtowe Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) -Environmental Sector — Richard Eddleston
- Gedling Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) - Pam Wisher
- Rushcliffe Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) - No representative at present
- Ashfield Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) - No representative at present

## **3.1 Summary from HIYE representatives**

### **3.1.1 Health Strategic Action Team**

#### **a. Nottingham Health Action Team**

Nottingham Health Action Group (NHAG) was established in 1996 as a multi-sector forum. The aims of NHAG is to identify action to address health and environmental issues and, through its' networks and project funding, has made significant improvements. NHAG is unique in operating at the point where environmental and health issues meet and can address some fundamental issues at this interface. It relates both to the environmental effects on ill health and to health promotion and has contributed to Local Government and Health Agendas.

#### **b. Up-date**

This year NHAG incorporated the Sub Regional Strategic Partnership's Health Strategic Action Team (SAT) remit into its work. The aim of the Health Strategic Action Team is to contribute to achieving the best possible health, well being and health services for all people living in Greater Nottingham. The focus of the health SAT is the economic agenda of the region and improving the health of local people is a focus of the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs). Close links between the LSPs and the Health SAT, is an integral part of the work.

#### **c. Work Areas**

The main areas of work are identified as follows; -

- To research into the economic impact of the health sector on the economy and to ensure the health sector plays an important part in the local economy.
- To ensure that investment decisions taken by GNP are influenced by health considerations.
- To liaise with LSPs on health issues and, in conjunction with the LSPs, contribute to the best possible health, well-being and health services for all people living in Greater Nottingham.
- Support and influence the work common to all SSP Strategic Action Teams particularly Education and Training and the Environment and the GNP.
- To progress the existing work of the Nottingham Health Action Group including identifying and addressing the environmental causes of ill health

and health inequalities, and specifically supporting Transport & Health Initiatives, Food Initiatives and Health & Housing work.

**d. Voluntary Sector input**

The Health in Your Environment voluntary sector forum (HIYE) makes an important contribution by raising and responding to issues in dialogue with NHAG and identifies useful actions that can be undertaken in partnership. There will be additional voluntary sector input into NHAG next year to help to address the new agenda and it will be important for this representation to co-ordinate with HIYE and the community networks to maximise the benefits.

**e. Thank you**

Many thanks go to Richard Thomas for his thoughtful support as the HIYE rep on the Nottingham Health Action Group this year. He is moving on to develop other areas of work. Richard made a great contribution to the agenda and his contribution to both HIYE and NHAG will be missed.

Helen Ross  
Public Health Development Officer  
Dec 03

### **3.1.2 Environment Strategy Action Team (ESAT)**

Richard Eddleston has represented HIYE on the ESAT over the last year. The ESAT is one of one nine workstreams that come under the Greater Nottingham Partnership. There is a mixture of representatives from the voluntary sector, business, local authorities and other statutory bodies.

Work has progressed on producing a pro forma that can be used to assess on environmental and sustainability grounds all funding applications that come through all nine of the Greater Nottingham Partnership workstreams.

As the money for schemes comes via EMDA (East Midlands Development Agency), there is an emphasis on economic and business development. Most of the funding available to ESAT has gone on promoting environment management systems to small and medium enterprises. The belief is that if businesses can become more aware, it can be good for their bottom line as well as for the environment.

There has also been an effort to encourage the development in Greater Nottingham of businesses that are themselves 'green', or concerned with sustainability.

### **3.1.3 Nottingham City Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) — Community Network**

Nottingham Community Network is a partnership of voluntary sector umbrella organisations set up to feed into Nottingham's Local Strategic Partnership (called One City Partnership Nottingham).

For further information please contact Tim Gray. E-mail address:- Tim Gray <hermes@change-works.com>

## **4. Reports from steering groups set up from FEAT seminars**

### **4.1 Food Initiative Group (FIG) - main achievements in 2003**

Over the past year, the Food Initiative Group has been very active with the employment of two part-time workers undertaking the development and implementation of FIG. Over the year, there has been a change of personnel with the departure of Lauren Kinnersley. Valerie Ponder has recently joined FIG as the new 5 A DAY Food Links Officer on a part-time basis. Valerie will be working alongside FIG's Development Officer, Alison Morris, and will be helping FIG to expand its work around local food. Valerie will be developing links between local farmers, producers and consumers, and promoting the consumption of healthy local food at a both an individual and organisational level.

FIG's activity this year has included:-

- **Events / workshops -**
  - GMO Debate - In July 2003, FIG in conjunction with HIYE and NHAG organised a debate about Genetic Modification to allow local people to explore this important food issue. Two eminent scientists presented at the event, which attracted 40 attendees as well as local and national press coverage.
  - Local Procurement event - In September 2003, FIG arranged an event to explore the benefits, issues and opportunities in sustainable, local food procurement and provision in Greater Nottingham's public sector – schools, LAs, and hospitals. 40 key individuals attended the event.
- **Training -** FIG provided 5 free, relevant training courses to local community, voluntary and charitable organisations. 100 people attended these courses in total.

The courses run were:

- Cook and Eat Groups in the Community
- Foundation Certificate in Food Hygiene
- Community Food Co-op Training
- 2 x 5 A DAY training sessions

2 further courses have been arranged for Jan/Feb 2004, with 35 expected attendees:

- Foundation Certificate in Food Hygiene
- Growing for the Terrified!

- **Funding Guide** - FIG has produced a Funding Guide for local community food projects. The guide includes information on grants, generating income from projects and loans.
- **Lunchbox leaflet** - A survey of packed lunches in local schools was undertaken, in which the contents of lunch boxes of 72 pupils from 6 local schools were surveyed. In addition a leaflet on healthy lunch box ideas was produced for parents and pupils, to be added to the School Food Pack, and distributed to every school in Greater Nottingham.
- **FIG and 5 A DAY** - FIG has continued to support the work of the 5 A DAY Co-ordinator in Greater Nottingham. 5 A DAY information pages have been added to the FIG website and featured in the FIG newsletter, and FIG funded and helped to organise two 5 A DAY training sessions.
- **Small Grants Fund** -16 local food projects were supported by FIG this year, with a total of £8352 being spread amongst the projects.
- **Food, Health and Environment strategy** - FIG has produced a summary of the strategy, which has been designed and printed by the Nottingham City PCT graphics team. FIG has begun to present the strategy out to relevant strategic partners including NHAG and Local Authorities.
- **FIG newsletter** - 4 copies of FIG's quarterly newsletter – 'Get the Taste!' – has been produced and distributed to the FIG network.

Contact: Alison Morris/Valerie Ponder - Food Initiatives Group c/o  
Groundwork Greater Nottingham, 35-37 St. Mary's Gate, Nottm, NG1 1PU  
0115 979 9227 e-mail - fig@groundwork.org.uk

## **4.2 Steering Group - Affordable Warmth, now NEP Health and Housing Task Group**

### **a. Health & Housing Task Group**

This year the HAZ Affordable Warmth workstream merged with the NEP Housing Task Group to become the Health & Housing Task group. It also extended its remit to cover the Broxtowe & Hucknall, Gedling and Rushcliffe areas. It supports policy and practice that increases the use of renewable energy, including solar heating projects and improving energy efficiency.

Contact: Gill Tidey – Nottingham Energy Partnership

## **b. Healthy Housing Referral Service**

The Healthy Housing Referral Service has branched out as a City project to cover the Broxtowe & Hucknall, Gedling and Rushcliffe areas. HHRS delivers training to home care staff about the effects of cold, damp housing on peoples health and what can be done to make homes warmer and more energy efficient in order to improve health. It also makes referrals for grants and services for home improvements.

Contact: Miranda Cumberbatch - Nottingham Energy Partnership

Nottingham Energy Partnership, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Castle Heights Building, 72 Maid Marion Way, Nottingham NG1 6BJ Telephone 0115 985 9057

## **4.3 Steering Group - Transport and Health Initiative Group (THIG)**

### **Aims of THIG**

- To identify and progress policy with a health and transport focus
- To bring together appropriate partners to identify current problems and their causes, identify potential solutions and share good practice.
- To identify key issues concerning transport, health and the environment in the conurbation including undertaking a Health Impact Assessment of the local transport plan.
- To link local regional and national initiatives and strategies through the Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership (GNTP) & NHAG, - encouraging local input to Health Delivery Plans / HIMPs – their development, setting of priorities and delivery and specifically via the CHD National Service Framework
- Input the CHD National Service Framework into other policy areas of relevance eg LA21 policy documents and Local Transport Plan

The THIG has made further progress this year in developing the work on the Health Impact Assessment of the Local Transport Plan. A second stakeholder event was held in April 2003 and a report on progress and recommendations for further work will be available shortly.

The other main area of work has been the development of the Ridewise Adult Cyclist Training Service. The development of Ridewise is a crucial part of the development of a sustainable and healthy transport network. Like many projects, this has been slow to get off the ground, due to a number of teething problems; in our case, such as finding appropriate insurance. It is a tribute to the steering group and to John Clark, the consultant, that we have remained on the right road, and many of the issues are now being resolved. At a national level, Ridewise has contributed to the development of guidance and insurance and these are now available. The service will be parked at Groundwork Greater Nottingham until it can be developed into a service in its own right.

Contact: Helen Ross, Nottingham City PCT, 1 Standard Court, Park Row, Nottingham NG1 6GN Telephone 0115 8454545 Ext 39555.  
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