



Northern Ireland

Teachers' Health and Wellbeing

Newsletter

December 2003

Strategy Update

A big thank you to all those teachers who took part in the Health and Wellbeing Survey which was completed in 2002. Over 23,500 of you completed the questionnaire. This has allowed the Teachers' Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group to begin the work of writing a plan for the implementation of your recommendations, along with those identified by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The Strategy Group comprises representation from the Employing Authorities, the Department of Education, Teachers' Unions, the Health and Safety Council and the Health Promotion Agency. It is chaired by Mrs Helen McClenaghan, Chief Executive of the SELB and has recently appointed an Adviser, Mrs Miriam McAttackney, to assist with the process.

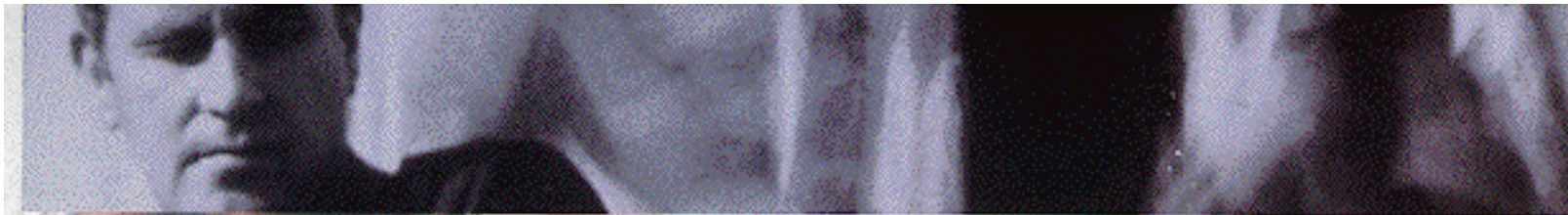
As well as analysing the current situation, the plan will identify the next steps in making the right strategic changes for improving teachers' health and wellbeing. It will also consider the associated costing, timescales and partner responsibilities. The plan will be ready for formal consultation in Spring/Summer 2004. You will be consulted and will have the opportunity to comment on its contents.

In the meantime we are providing information in this Newsletter that you may find interesting and useful: firstly, on support services available to you and, secondly, on the 'Health Promoting Schools' initiative, which is currently operating in schools across Northern Ireland.

Support Services

In your responses you identified the need for greater welfare support. The Strategy Group is currently examining this area. A range of services is already in place and it is the aspiration of the Strategy Group that current best practice will be recommended. The Welfare Managers and Officers across the Employing Authorities are currently establishing their own forum; this will contribute to the sharing of ideas and a consistency in approach. You may find the following contact details useful.

CCMS	Briege O'Neill	9039 3865
CCMS	Mary Keegan	8772 7935
BELB	Mark Marshall	9056 4016
NEELB	Frances Jackson	2566 2417
SEELB	Lynette Bailey	9056 6276
SELB	Marian Ferguson	3751 2559
WELB	Mary Ferris	8241 1336



Health Promoting Schools

'Health Promoting Schools' is an 'Investing for Health' partnership. It builds on work already undertaken for the European Network of Health Promoting Schools project (1995-1998). 'Health Promoting Schools' aims to enable schools to provide an environment where the physical, social, and mental wellbeing and the health and safety of all staff and pupils are supported in partnership with the family, community and external agencies.

Policy direction for this initiative comes from 'Investing for Health', the public health strategy for Northern Ireland (DHSSPS 2002). Dr Brian Gaffney, the Chief Executive of the Health Promotion Agency, which has a leading role in the initiative, is a member of the Teachers' Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group.

The objective of the initiative is to support 10% of schools in Northern Ireland in developing policies and programmes that underpin a sustainable healthy lifestyle. The whole school is involved in an audit of its current status. This audit forms the basis of a plan identifying areas for improvement and results in a set of actions based on agreed priorities. A number of schools have specifically identified teachers' health and wellbeing as a priority.

This phase of the initiative has been funded for two years. Funding has allowed for the appointment of five Education and Library Board based Co-ordinators and a Northern Ireland Regional Co-ordinator. There is also management support from Board based multi-agency management groups and each school has put in place multi-disciplinary health teams.

The Co-ordinators have introduced schools to a range of auditing tools and have provided a handbook to enable them to follow the planning process. A series of training events has been provided to enable a greater understanding of the purpose and processes. An evaluation scheme has been built in to show evidence, validate the benefits and allow for continuous improvement.

This initiative is an example of what is already happening on the ground in Northern Ireland schools. The current phase of the initiative ends in June 2004, however it is currently providing a role model for the possible future development of similar schemes.

Such schemes reflect a success story in terms of bringing the major partners together in the interest of health and wellbeing. For further information you may wish to contact.

Regional Co-ordinator Mr David Porter
d.porter@hpani.org.uk

BELB Co-ordinator Daphne Wilson
daphneW@belb.co.uk

NEELB Co-ordinator Una Cosgrave
unacosgrave42@hotmail.com

SEELB Co-ordinator Glen Aiken
glenn.aiken@seelb.org.uk

SELB Co-ordinator Mary Loughran
mary.loughran@selb.org

WELB Co-ordinator Sheila Gamble
Sheila_gamble@welbni.org



Seasons
Greetings