

South East Region Report Sept 2008 to Sept 09

Introduction

It has been a successful year for the SE region, both in terms of continuing to support members by providing free CPD, and in laying the foundations for the three key projects we hope to complete by 2010.

All SE Board members have actively participated in both board meetings and individual members have taken the lead on our projects and developing relationships. This has meant a significant workload for several of our volunteer board members but the additional hours secured this year for the executive officer has meant that they have been supported, and effective monitoring and planning has been in place.

The board are confident that the work streams will continue to run in 2009/10, milestones so far and planned work can be seen in greater detail in the work plan monitoring document at: [://www.cieh.org/members/south_east_annual_report.html](http://www.cieh.org/members/south_east_annual_report.html)

CPD Hours for 2008/9

An indication of the Region's CPD hours from 1 October 2008 – 30 September 2009 is attached in a spreadsheet.

Highlights of 2008/9

This year the Region has, in addition to routine work such as newsletters, ELP training, highlighting appropriate communications from HQ etc:

- Organised 2 full day and two ½ day Forums around the region, providing free CPD for members.
- Organised a successful two day conference for members.
- Reinvigorated the Hampshire Branch (now completed)
- Made contact with a number of potential regional partners, including HPA (meeting to discuss joint working arranged but cancelled due to recent Godstone Farm outbreak, to be rearranged before December) and Food Standards Agency (attendance at regular regional meetings and discussions underway on a regional joint project) and GOSE.
- Held a one day seminar on lack of availability of student placements in the SE. This has resulted in a number of actions to be undertaken, most in 2009/10, but

the region already working with London to include SE authorities in the successful London collaboration project.

All our Branches have continued to organise high quality low cost CPD events on a local level, with Sussex in particular providing a huge number of events.

2009/2010

Next year we intend to build on the foundations so far established by continuing the programme of work set out in our business plan. In addition to organising another two day conference, and encouraging the Branches to continue with their programme of CPD events, we also plan to:

- Reinvigorate the Oxfordshire Branch
- Continue to work on the actions identified at the student placement seminar, including beginning to establish a student training placement directory for the SE, and working with SE employers to raise the profile of the profession with LG employers.
- Meet with further potential regional partners to discuss joint working and continue to work with FSA & HPA to facilitate regional projects.

Finances

The Region has managed to hold its financial position during the year despite the worsening financial position which has affected some areas of income. Whilst attendance at the Joint Regions Conference was slightly down on last year good cost control and a change in the mix of delegates ensured that the event was successful financially as well as professionally. The Region has used some of its reserves to continue the funding of activity in those Branch areas that have needed support to reinvigorate activity in those areas. The Region continues to seek new areas of financial support and is in discussion with Regional Government agencies to support member development.

Communicating with Members

We have made full use of our website, newsletter and AGMs. We advertise all our events via emails direct to members, on our website and in EHN.

We have held our forums in places around the region (Gravesham, Horsham, Reading & Winchester) to ensure members from all areas can attend at least one.

Who's who / more information

Further information about the Region and its Branches, including our full business plan, key project reports and contact details, is available on our website: <http://www.cieh.org/southeast>

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