

South East Region News

Welcome to the region



Welcome to the first edition of the South East region newsletter.

The regions were formed in January 2008 and are tasked with providing services to CIEH members that fit local needs. This newsletter will keep you informed on the latest work by the region, advertise upcoming events and provide a way of keeping up to date with what's going on in environmental health in the South East.

About the region

The South Eastern Region covers the same geographical area as the Government Office for the South East ranging from Oxfordshire in the north to Hampshire and Kent in the south. It is the UK's largest region both in terms of geographical area and membership with 1327 members.

The first year

In its first year as a Region the south east has continued to pursue many of the agendas of the previous two southern Centres and their Branches whilst beginning to establish a Regional identity through the Regional Management Board. The central focus of this has been the meetings of the Board and the 4 Open Forum meetings, and one all day seminar, held throughout the Region covering a range of topics including food, housing, climate change and emergency planning and held in such diverse places as Gravesham, Guildford, Crawley and Milton Keynes.

Major achievements during 2008 have been the appointment of a new Executive Officer to support the Board, support to the rejuvenation of the Berkshire Branch and the continuation of the Joint Regions seminar, which was again run successfully.

South East sets out its direction



After a successful first year the region took stock and considered what, in addition to the CPD focussed work already carried out, it believed should be the key objectives of the region.

The Region's vision is a competent and fully qualified Environmental Health workforce, recognised and fully engaged with all levels of regional and local government and other statutory agencies

The Region set out the work which will help achieve this vision in its new 3 year Business Plan for 2009-11. The plan represents a major challenge for the Board and the membership, envisaging;

- the appointment of a full time Regional officer by 2011,
- improved communications between members at all levels (of which this newsletter is a start),
- a focus on providing substantial amounts of CPD both at Regional and Branch level,
- work to improve practical training opportunities and the establishment of links with the Government Office and regional offices of the major statutory agencies and NGO's.

In addition the Board will be supporting those Branches of CIEH within the region which are currently not functioning to help them become a useful focus for practitioners locally. (See article on Hampshire later)

Three pronged attack



The region is undertaking three key projects in 2009 which tackle the key issues identified by the business plan, each is lead by a member of the regional management board.

- Review the communications processes to and from members and implement improvements. To include implement a regular Regional newsletter of activities and opportunities to members.

Lead: Vicki Gracie-Langrick
(southeast@cieh.org)

- Hold an event to include employers, local government, Regional Government and other statutory agencies to explore solutions to the shortfall in student training places.

Lead: Nigel Haverson
(nigel.haverson@horsham.gov.uk)

- Organise and participate in annual meetings with GOSE, the Regional Director of Public Health, FSA, HSE and EA.

Lead: Patricia Jefford (pjefford@cieh.net)

If you would like more information, can offer information, or would like to help with any of these projects please contact the project lead above.

Events

All south east events, both region and branch, are listed on the regions website

www.cieh.org/southeast.

Region forums are planned for 2009 on:

- 12th March – Housing, Horsham DC, Sussex
- 10th June – Berkshire
- 10th September - Hampshire
- 2nd December – Buckinghamshire.

Details of our **free** forums will be advertised in EHN and via EHCnet, and on www.cieh.org/southeast

Joint Regions Study Course: Taking place on 2 and 3rd April, at Surrey University, this year's theme is **Public health 2012**, offering 10.5 hours CPD, all for £240, including accommodation

For details and to book your place go to:

www.cieh.org/southeast

Rejuvenating Hampshire



In the last year the region has been focussing on ensuring that all members have access to the CIEH at a local level. In 2007 we saw the successful relaunch of a branch in Berkshire and have been concentrating in 2008 on rejuvenating a branch in Hampshire.

Hampshire has always had strong network of local authority focus groups with a large amount of CPD and training provided, to Local Government (LG) members, but the region felt it was important that a branch should exist to include those members outside LG.

A branch is important to ensure that all members in Hampshire can access information via the region about national issues and also to ensure that they can influence the regional and national agenda.

Our Chairman met with the Hampshire chiefs and received their support to establish a branch and, after a Regional forum held in Eastleigh, will be meeting with six volunteers in early 2009 to talk to them about how to make the branch fully functioning.

If you would like to be involved in the new Hampshire branch, or want to register yourself as a Hampshire member, contact Vicki Gracie-Langrick southeast@cieh.org

Later in 2009 the region will be working towards establishing a branch in Oxfordshire, if you would be interested in helping that establish that branch please also contact southeast@cieh.org .

CIEH Southern Region

Chairman: Patricia Jefford

p.jefford@cieh.net

Executive Officer: Vicki Gracie-Langrick

southeast@cieh.org

Website: www.cieh.org/southeast