

Feedback from Devon Branch Members Forum 30th November 2010 Totnes Council Offices, Follaton House

The Members Forum began with the years report from the Chair, Dave Sexton. This was followed by a report by the Student Officer, Lee Staples and then the Secretary, Claire Turbutt.

There were reports submitted by the Pollution Sub-Group and the Food Sub-Group these were discussed briefly.

The committee's budget was presented and discussed.

Then there was a presentation by Sharon Smith, Regional Strategic Director on the national and regional agenda for the CIEH. This provoked some lively debate.

There was plenty of discussion and suggestions for improvements, focuses and priorities for the Committee to follow for the next year.

The main points of the discussion are listed below:

- The Julie Barratt style training course was very well received and members felt it was very worthwhile to run a similar course again next year. This course had been organised as a result of the member survey which took place during 2010 and indicated that generic skills based CPD was more desired than general overviews of several areas style CPD which is what had been organised in previous years.
- A training course on how to start your own business/dealing with tax etc would be welcomed as it was anticipated that in the financial savings era there were likely to be some EHP's who would require this type

of advice and the CIEH as a member led organisation should respond to this need. Although it was also pointed out that we should not fall into despondency and should not encourage member's currently in LA employment to give up on LA led public health as the changes proposed in the new white paper could potentially improve job prospects.

- It was suggested that the next member's forum be combined with a professional visit to a premises where members could learn about a process and get some practical CPD. This may encourage more uptake of the Members Forum.

- There is a need for members to be able to feed their opinions on important issues up to HQ. It was felt that there were a number of ways to encourage member participation in consultations:
 - Survey Monkey
 - Focus Groups held over lunchtimes/early evening
 - E-mail circulation
 - Direct E-mails to their TrusteesIt was agreed we would attempt to run some focus groups on specific topics during this year and as a start we would look at the teleconferencing facilities which exist at South Hams.

- We agreed that the student directory which has been discussed for several years will be put on the website this financial year. Each branch rep committed to put at least one ELP opportunity from their Council on the website by the end of January 2011.

- It was agreed that we would put on a student ELP day where students would be able to get access to a variety of ELP worthy interventions in one day. This will be organised by the Branch reps and Student Group. Further details to be published later in the year.

- It was also agreed that the Member's Forum would be advertised in advance to give as many people as possible a chance to attend.
- The website will be reviewed and updated over the coming year.
- Members will be consulted about what would encourage them to take part in a member's forum in future.