

CIEH South West region support and development

Meeting of South West Regulators Forum

12th December 2008

Report from Sharon Smith, Strategic Projects Director, CIEH

1.0 Aim

- 1.1 The aim of this report is to provide a brief introduction to the vision and aims of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) Strategic Projects Director's role within the South West Region to help inform discussion and further planning.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The CIEH is a registered charity and the professional voice for environmental health. The mission of the CIEH is to maintain, enhance and promote improvements in public and environmental health. This is achieved through setting standards, accreditation of courses and qualifications for the education of members and other environmental health practitioners. The CIEH provides information and policy advice to local and national government and environmental and public health practitioners in the public and private sectors.
- 2.2 The CIEH has a regional structure based on London, the eight English regions, Wales and Northern Ireland. Every member (over 10,500) belongs to a region. The CIEH regions mirror those of the Government Offices and this helps to maximise our impact and influence regionally as well as nationally. The 11 CIEH regions are led by a management board and members meet on a more local basis in Branches. The CIEH regions in Northern Ireland and Wales have Directors and a London Policy Officer supports the London Region. Their role is to facilitate direct liaison with the National/Regional Assemblies, local authorities and non-governmental organisations within the regions, promoting, developing and representing the CIEH policies in a regional context.
- 2.3 The CIEH has worked closely with LBRO in the drive towards reducing regulatory burdens for both business and regulators and supports the need to develop more effective regulation. The CIEH supports partnership working and closer co-ordination between national and local regulators to improve efficiency and to provide services that are in line with the principles of better regulation. Protecting consumers,

workers, public health and the environment can be balanced with a greater emphasis on achieving compliance through education, advice and support.

3.0 CIEH South West Regional co-ordination and support

- 3.1 The CIEH views the regions as the professional voice and hub for co-ordination and development of regional environmental health policy and practice. The South West Region of the CIEH is the largest of the regions and the role of the Strategic Policy Director is to facilitate further development, co-ordinate and support environmental health in the region. One of the key aims of this role is to provide links to strategic decision making and delivery structures within government and other partnerships in a similar way to the Policy Officer in London and Directors in Northern Ireland and Wales.
- 3.2 The Strategic Projects Director's role is to facilitate liaison with the regional government, local authorities and non-governmental organisations within the South West, promoting, developing and representing environmental health policies and practice in a regional context. This will be achieved through:
- Supporting the development and implementation of national, regional and professional policy
 - Supporting and promoting engagement of environmental health professionals within regulatory and non regulatory services
 - Establishing an environmental health presence within relevant decision making structures and working to enhance and promote environmental health policies across all relevant agencies.
 - Raising the profile and supporting the sharing of best practice/ experience/ effective protocols
 - Establishing opportunities for collaboration/partnerships with Government departments, government agencies and other regional stakeholders
 - Working in association and partnership with the CIEH Regional Management Board, Environmental Health Management groups and affiliated specialist groups
 - Developing project, intelligence and research initiatives to advance environmental health policy and practice.
 - Supporting regional environmental health development through enhancing and facilitating communication pathways and networking
 - Linking to the CIEH policy, education and professional support services
 - Supporting student development and the continuing professional competence within environmental health
- 3.3 Sharon Smith is the Strategic Project Director and reports directly to the CIEH Chief Executive, Graham Jukes. The role spans the full breadth of environmental and public health. Sharon is also involved in the co-ordination of the CIEH contribution to the planning and implementation of the Olympics/Paralympics in 2012.
- 3.4 Sharon is a Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner and has worked for the CIEH for three years, working initially as the London Policy Officer. Previously, Sharon worked for the Association of London Environmental Health Managers where she gained experience of initiating, developing, co-ordinating and implementing London wide policies and initiatives. Prior to this Sharon has worked within environmental health services in inner and outer London authorities including at a senior management level.

Contact details

Sharon Smith
Strategic Projects Director
CIEH
Tel: 0560 1712276
Email: s.smith@cieh.org