

Workshop report

Keeping one step ahead of the Games 2012! Health and safety and licensing focus

12 February 2009

Summary of key issues

- Awareness of training camps, venue sites, road events, Olympic Torch relay
- Cultural and community events- big screen, street events
- Crowd management
- Safety Advisory Groups
- Licensing especially Temporary Event Notification
- Street trading
- Test events

Cross cutting themes

- Joined up approach- consistency, proportionality, flexible warranting
- Partner and stakeholder engagement- communication, widen membership
- Standards and guidance- existing expertise, support business, support professionals
- Exemplar health and safety service

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The CIEH is striving to keep ahead of the Games in terms of environmental health planning. As part of this process, a series of environmental health professional workshops are being organised to bring together environmental health professionals involved in areas that are hosting Olympic/Paralympic venues or events. The first of these took place on 12 February 2009 at Chadwick Court and focussed on health and safety and licensing.
- 1.2. The report outlines the key discussions and outcomes of the workshop. Copies of the presentations are available separately on the CIEH website www.cieh.org.

2. Aims of the workshop

- 2.1. The workshop aimed to explore the issues and impacts of the Games in relation to health and safety and licensing with respect to environmental health. The workshop facilitated the sharing of experience and current policy/practice as well as identifying

areas for further discussion, development and action. The attendees represented a wide range of local authorities within and outside London that either were hosting venues, neighbouring host authorities or were preparing for the potential for increased tourism or cultural events. Over 40 people attended the workshop held at Chadwick Court.

- 2.2. The CIEH role is to help support the environmental health contribution to the Games to ensure the highest standards of public and environmental health. This will be achieved through raising standards, enhancing professional practice and working closely with the Olympic administration and partners. The workshops acknowledge the significant experience and expertise that environmental health professionals have across the country and that through working together the CIEH can showcase how important environmental health action is to public health. The improvements to professional policy and practice, enhancement of skills sets within the profession and the resulting improvements to public health are part of our legacy for the Games.
3. General update on the planning for the Olympics- Steve Miller, Head of Public Protection, L.B. Newham (Summary)
 - 3.1. Steve Miller highlighted the need for common standards and a common approach across environmental health. This is being achieved through joining up host boroughs, London and local authorities throughout the UK. The common approach is being facilitated by the CIEH. With up to 500,000 visitors the Olympics will be the biggest world event in 2012. It will need to be delivered on time and it is a temporary event lasting in effect for just over 90 days. There are still debates around the legacy use of many of the venues.
 - 3.2. The London host boroughs come together in a number of fora to discuss and plan the regulatory aspects of the Games. Joint Local Authority Building Control (JLAB) and the Joint Local Authority Regulatory Services (JLARS) are two examples of these groups. There are also plans to set up a London forum for regulators in relation to preparations for the Olympics. Funding from the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) provides the £5m to the host boroughs for regulatory services. Importantly the profession must utilise the experience and expertise that exists across the country and worldwide- from previous Olympics, Common Wealth Games (1/10th size of the Olympics) and from events held in the large stadia such as Emirates, Wembley, Eastland and the large Greenfield festivals. The key issues that are under discussion in relation to the Olympic Park include:
 - Crowd safety
 - Public safety
 - Barriers
 - Temporary stands
 - Licensing
 - Worker safety (particularly vulnerable workers)
 - Flexible warranting
 - 3.3. The planning does not just encompass the main event venues but a variety of other key sites including: training camps, athlete accommodation outside the Village, cultural Olympiad- big screen events, street events, tourist events.

3.4. It is also important to recognise the potential challenges for environmental health services around planning for the Olympics such as:

- Staffing
- Politics
- Experience and knowledge
- Timescale
- Large number of authorities and stakeholders involved
- Finance and resources

4. HSE's approach to the 2012 Olympics – Sarah Chaker, Co-ordinator HSE

4.1. Sarah Chaker is responsible for co-ordinating the HSE's contribution to the planning and preparation for the Olympics/Paralympics and for HSE partner and stakeholder engagement around the Games. The overarching vision of the HSE is to support an exemplar Olympics with exemplar HSE performance. This will be achieved through encouraging strong leadership and competence, driving up standards of health and safety and creating a healthier, safer working environment. The work is supported through the main HSE strategic framework:

- Construction- working with ODA/LOCOG/DCMS planned intervention a key stages of the project
- Field Operations London- working with local authorities, Royal Parks, docks, waste disposal, broadcasting, transport
- Stakeholder engagement- driving up standards and stakeholder mapping
- Communications- clarifying enforcement responsibilities, consistency and proportionality, cross government working, interfaces, showcasing important messages

4.2. The HSE acknowledges a number of cross cutting issues such as crowd management, security, transport, emergency planning. The interface between partners and stakeholders is critical in these cross cutting themes to ensure a successful outcome of the Games. One of the key challenges is to align corporate structures and systems allowing for the sharing of expertise, knowledge within and across organisations. It will also be important to capture the knowledge and experience of planning for the Games. One immediate application of the experience will be the Commonwealth Games 2014.

5. Safety Advisory Group Olympic Park (SAGOPS)- Steve Miller, Chair of SAGOP

5.1. Although Safety Advisory Groups/Operational Planning Groups (SAG/OPG) have no legal standing, they are an important mechanism for bringing together key stakeholders to plan major events including sporting and community events. SAGOPS is responsible for planning for the whole of the Olympic Park but not the other venues. Although there is specific legislation for sports stadia providing the host local authority with a range of statutory duties, the Health and Safety At Work Act can provide a useful tool to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees and the public at outdoor public events. Licensing provisions also provide a useful tool for controlling public events.

5.2. The main role of a SAG/OPG is to provide specialist advice on the event, venues and immediate environs. It provides a forum for a co-ordinated approach across partners and stakeholders. It also provides a forum that can take on other safety and public functions as agreed.

5.3. Environmental health is very much a key stakeholder and should be represented on the groups that are set up for events/stadia. Some of the areas for environmental health contribution include:

- Health and safety
- Food safety
- Public health
- Crowd management
- Licensing

6. Licensing and cultural events – Adrian Hodgson, RB Kensington & Chelsea

6.1. Adrian is responsible for environmental health and community initiatives within Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, such as Notting Hill Carnival from an event management perspective. The Olympic Games impacts on the royal borough through hosting accommodation for visitors, Olympic route network and managing the increased numbers of tourists to London during the Games time. The borough has appointed a specific Olympic co-ordinator to help support the contribution and impact of the local authority.

6.2. In respect of the Notting Hill Carnival, the carnival floats are not licensed, although there are still 14 premises licences and a large number of temporary licences relating to the event. Licensing is a useful mechanism for managing community events. However, the Secretary of State does have the powers to change the licensing hours for specific events and this is currently being considered for the Olympics. This may also encompass the conditions associated with licences for this time period. The impacts of this could be wide ranging on local environmental health management of the events.

6.3. Temporary Event Notices (TEN) are a short notification of a community event. They were brought in to reduce the administrative burden of licensing. The only means of objection to the event (TEN) is through the Police on crime and disorder issues. The notification is not an application and the local authority can only control the events through ensuring excellent internal and external communications and developing good links with partners in licensing and police to help sort out potential problems associated with the events. There are other ways of controlling the events such as using High ways consent or if the event is being held on public land/owned by the local authority but these still require robust response systems in place within the local authority.

6.4. The Olympics offers a great range of opportunities to local areas. In R.B.Kensington & Chelsea they are developing a local initiative to involve the community called "Treasure our Treasures". In terms of the legacy it is an opportunity to help change perceptions about environmental health help, encourage innovation, as well as improve guidance and support.

7. Summary of questions

- **Training camps and athlete accommodation outside the Olympic Village.** There will be a number of premises that will be used for accommodating visiting teams and for training purposes prior to the Games. It is not yet known where these will be located but possibly in schools, universities, leisure centres etc. LOCOG is not responsible for the facilities their role is to introduce a team to the potential sites. There will be limited funding available (£25k) for these approved locations for refurbishment and overhaul. It is anticipated that there will be 41 locations for elite athletes (possibly including Bath, Loughborough, Sevenoaks, Brands Hatch, Southend) and up to 600 locations for non elite athletes and sporting activities.
- **Crowd management** - This is a priority issue with any significant numbers of people attending an event. Currently in SAGOPS there are experts looking at crowd flow using computer modelling and design issues to help manage problem areas such as over bridges. Security is a key issue that impinges on how the crowds are managed. There is always the tension between the needs of public safety and public order. There is existing experience and expertises as well as well-used standards in relation to how crowds are managed - for instance the standards of barriers. Will new standards be implemented and how will these configure with existing standards?
- **Management standards for existing stadia** - There is existing expertise and experience associated with each venue. Many of the standards are set for the existing stadia being used as venues. It is as yet unclear how the venues managers for the 2012 Games will be working with the management of these venues and whether or not standards will be expected to be changed.
- **Outside broadcasting** - Liaison with the HSE will be crucial around the outside broadcasting as in the past there have been tensions around the safety and crowd management. The Olympics Broadcasting Service will be in control of the arrangements and will come into effect as soon as the Winter Olympics have been completed.
- **Test events** - There will be a series of test events beginning with Weymouth and Portland in 2010 as well as a number of other tests of key strategies and protocols. The main thrust for the testing will be in 2012 leading up to the Games.
- **Use of Safety Advisory Groups** - One of the concerns around the use of SAGs is that the role of environmental health may not be recognised or supported locally. SAGs (from the experience within the SW region) can be led by a range of lead officers within a local authority with varying experience of practical health and safety issues. The Football Licensing Authority, in its guidance, does recommend environmental health as a key stakeholder and contributor. Environmental health professionals can contribute directly to risk assessment and safety management systems. There is currently being set up a national database of chairs of SAG nationally and this could be a useful forum for developing consistency and proportionality. The CIEH is producing guidance for environmental health professionals in their potential role in a SAG.
- **"Joined up working"** - The Olympics clearly is an opportunity to test structures and systems to link and co-ordinate within and across organisations and agencies (including links between County Councils and Districts). Trading Standards are currently not receiving any of the regulatory funds initially allocated to London host boroughs. Clearly there is a function associated with product safety,

merchandising, street sellers and other public safety issues. It is also an opportunity to develop new working systems such as flexible warranting allowing a more effective use of the environmental health workforce throughout London and possibly the UK. A register of interest has been set up by the CIEH to pull together practitioners who would like to be involved in some way. Individuals can also volunteer directly to London 2012.

- **TENs** - There is the potential for a large number of these to be notified to the local authority. LB Westminster received upwards of 30 a day during the Christmas period. This can put a strain on processing systems. Events/pubs/clubs will inevitably start late and go on later and the impact of this will affect neighbourhoods. There may also be political pressure to support community events. The local authority is responsible for enforcement within the parameters of any road closure.
- **Street trading** - This is an area where regulatory services can clearly work together with other partners such as the police. Included in this is the possible increase in street markets and street entertainment. There may be new legislation being developed through DCMS around street and itinerant trading associated with events.
- **Olympic Torch relay event** and the other road events such as the marathon and cycling bring into play more local authorities through the management of crowds, road closures, street trading and traffic management.

8. Summary of issues and next steps from small group discussions

- Communication – capture of all learning and experiences from past events and for London 2012.
- Template of local authority action plan including a list of issues with timescales. Impact of the Games during the beginning of the school year
- Partner and stakeholder engagement - such as consolidate links and processes with local police over TENs. Widen membership of fora and identify and use expertise such as London Licensing Managers, street trading benchmarking group
- Involve wider agencies and associations such as the National Outdoor Events Association and the events supply industry
- New legislation and reviews of guidance - ensure that these are well communicated and that the implications for 2012 are assessed
- Adverse weather contingencies and other incidents
- Transport safety - routes known to local authorities for events, supplies, workers, volunteers etc
- Temporary nature of events and venues
- Inspiration for local people to take up more sport - what impact will this have on local facilities, incidents and health issues?
- Policy/guidance - uphold standards at established venues, communicate best practice guidance
- CIEH support on information packs to businesses and professionals and organisers of events especially for new businesses
- Staffing and resourcing of the preparations and auditing- In addition a CIEH accreditation process for staff supporting the Games. Increase recruitment to environmental health. Flexible warranting and cross border support
- Training of volunteers an consideration of impact of staffing event
- LA resource website on 2012 - CIEH website
- Do nothing as nothing new just bigger scale!

- Street trading- standards/monitoring/enforcement
- Housing accommodation - standards/bedbugs

9. Further action

9.1 The CIEH will be pulling together the key issues and actions arising from this workshop and the remaining workshops and will tie these into the current programmes that are happening or will seek to ensure that they are addressed in some way. The CIEH will continue to work with partners and especially with LOCOG, ODA and the Host Boroughs. The following are examples of CIEH action already being taken:

- There is a multi agency working group addressing the capacity and impact of staffing the Olympics
- There is a mobile catering working group set up under the London Food Co-ordinating Group which will consider widening the membership to address UK wide issues
- The JLARS are addressing flexible warranting and enforcement issues within the London venues
- The CIEH website is available as a resource for environmental health professionals on Olympic issues
- Training solutions for businesses and for professionals are currently being developed by CIEH/CHGL
- The CIEH has produced a draft guidance on environmental health involvement in SAG/OPG
- The CIEH has produced draft guidance on outdoor and mobile catering that is currently out for consultation
- The CIEH will work with partners to develop other resources and support initiatives

10. Further information

- www.cieh.org
- www.london2012.org
- www.newham.gov.uk
- www.hse.gov.uk
- www.lacors.gov.uk

Contact: Sharon Smith, Strategic Projects Director, CIEH
Telephone: 05601712276
Email: s.smith@cieh.org