

Workshop report

Keeping one step ahead of the Games 2012! Food Safety and healthy eating focus

12 March 2009

Summary of key issues

- Resources and capacity building
- Scores on the doors - a vehicle for improvement
- Food safety is a key part of the LOCOG food sustainability approach
- Awareness of training camps, venue sites,
- Cultural and community events - big screen, street events
- Hospitality industry- bed and breakfasts
- Street trading - front garden traders
- Test events
- Healthy eating is a key work area for EHPs
- Healthy eating awards and other current campaigns to reduce obesity can be maximised

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 in February 2009 at Chadwick Court and focused on health and safety and licensing. This report relates to the second workshop focusing on food safety and healthy eating which took place in March 2009.
- 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 food safety and healthy eating. 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 35 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.

2.3. The CIEH has already undertaken a number of initiatives in preparation for the Games. These initiatives include:

- Review of the Outdoor and Mobile catering guidance (now available for consultation)
- Development of pest minimisation guidance documents for the construction industry and for the hospitality industry
- Close liaison with LOCOG and a place on the LOCOG Food Advisory Group
- Close liaison with Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)
- Scoping and capacity planning for environmental health services
- Environmental health briefing for senior managers at LOCOG
- New CIEH web page
- CIEH register of interest for environmental health volunteers

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 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, Commonwealth 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.

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. Food Sustainability Strategy (LOCOG) – Jenny Morris, CIEH

4.1 Jenny introduced the LOCOG draft sustainable food strategy which was launched in December 2008. The draft strategy has been informed by two pieces of research commissioned by LOCOG which helped identify the framework for the sustainable food strategy and the scope and requirements for catering and food services at the Games.

4.2 The draft strategy has four key themes:

- Food safety and hygiene - encourage and assure world class standards for food and beverages
- Health and nutrition - to facilitate and encourage healthy eating up to, during and beyond the Games
- Environmental impact - enhance and encourage sustainability throughout the food service operation
- Diversity and inclusion - to showcase cuisine and cultural diversity of the UK

LOCOG will be working with others to deliver a sustainable catering operation. This will involve scoping requirements for catering and food services at the Games and establishing a Food Advisory Group to help steer the development of the strategy.

5. Healthy eating and London 2012- Jenny Morris, CIEH

5.1 This is a legitimate area for environmental health work and the Games in 2012 can be used as an inspirational lever to promote health eating messages. The FSA has diet and health as a major stream of work and offers a range of strategies to take this forward (Change for Life, Salt, Fat, Sugar). Small changes can provide opportunities for huge health gains.

5.2 The key messages about the health impacts and costs to services of poor diet are well reported. The economic costs are anticipated to be over £7 billion and the health care costs around £1million (2002). Increased body fat is associated with increased cancer deaths, risks of Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease and cirrhosis.

5.3 There are a number of healthy eating award schemes which enable standards to be set for healthier food options such as the Shropshire County Council healthy eating campaign for caterers. At the recent LACORS/CIEH/TSI workshop there were calls for

a national framework to support the development of healthy eating award schemes. There is project work being undertaken within London to look at a scheme across London boroughs and to be possibly linked to the current Scores on Doors programme.

6. Summary of questions

- **Diversity** – in acknowledging the cultural diversity in the UK there will need to be consideration of information and labelling in different languages.
- **Scores on Doors**- this is an essential part of the process to improve standards within London food businesses and to help promote such standards to visitors. Further discussion and development needs to take place to link this scheme to other initiatives such as health eating awards and to ensure that it is supported by a comprehensive food safety improvement strategy.
- **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.
- **“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.
- **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.
- **Resources** - concern was raised as to the impact of resources in terms of preparations before the Olympics and in managing the demand on services during the Games. All options need to be considered including recruitment, training and bids for funding.
- **Sustainable food** - The issues for sustainability need to be balanced against public health. It is important to tie initiatives into current strategies. WRAP and other related organisations could be useful partners in developing supportive campaigns.
- **Hospitality sector** - this is a priority area and a strategy for supporting the industry will be set up through the LFCG initially. There was a past campaign on “Fitness for Purpose” which may be useful to inform new developments.
- **Olympic Park contracts** - the details of the contracts are still subject to negotiation and determination. However, the larger companies will have extensive experience of managing the size and expectation of the Games. It is the smaller companies that will need to be supported. The set up and management within the Park together with the host boroughs JLARS system should provide a significant enforcement framework.

- **Healthy lives** - acknowledging that EHPs do have a role in promoting healthy eating there is always the concern at competing priorities with other regulatory demands. There is a need to develop a London healthy eating framework to support consistency among those authorities that wish to move forward with health eating programmes.

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

- **Imported food** (particularly for venues outside of the Olympic Park). This needs to be included within any training for volunteers and EH staff. With diversity being a key theme of the food strategy the preparations in this field will be imperative. Attention needs to be given to new business opportunities related to imported food.
- **Sampling** - Intelligence and available funding. Consideration needs to be given to a programme of routine sampling. This has already been started through the LACORS/HPA annual sampling programme which will be focussing on mobile catering in 2009. Further consideration will be needed for mobile laboratory facilities and public analyst support for fast tracking of sampling during Games time. ATP fast tracking
- **Scores on the doors** - visible campaigns registration of food businesses, publicity
- **Meat cutting plant** - where will the meat come from if not approved by FSA. Unsure where the meat cutting plants are in London or other local authorities.
- **Street vending** - consideration of management strategy as likely to set up in front gardens, forecourts etc. Guidance needed to traders and residents who may become traders! Possibility of a London Local Authority Bill for register of street trading
- **Single Point of Contact** - for complaints linked to Olympic park and venues. Need to co-ordinate response and ensure follow up as needed. Details of consumer direct on tickets for example to ensure public attending are fully aware of who they can receive help from
- **Bed and breakfasts and similar accommodation** - need to develop a strategy to address the potential increase in accommodation and the impact of this on other residents and general housing needs.
- **Training** - comprehensive programme to address all needs, diversity and to be sufficiently resourced to be effective. Nutrition, specialist, competency framework, events officers and business, general registration scheme.
- **Capacity**
- **Engagement** of environmental health profession and buy in from local authorities and other agencies
- **Suppliers** ability to gear up for the sudden peak in demand and the storage implications.
- **Nutrition** - Olympic awards and standards
- **Surveillance** - Infectious disease control and flu pandemic
- **CBRN** - malicious tampering of food products
- **Sustainability**- Food waste management/Composting and pest management

8. 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 (Sharon - is this on website or how is it available?)
- The CIEH has produced draft guidance on outdoor and mobile catering that is currently out for consultation it can be found on http://www.cieh.org/media/national_guidance_outdoor_mobile_catering.html
- The CIEH will work with partners to develop other resources and support initiatives

9. Further information

- www.cieh.org/2012olympics
- www.london2012.org
- www.newham.gov.uk
- www.hse.gov.uk
- www.lacors.gov.uk

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