

September 9<sup>th</sup> 2010



**WHIASU**

Wales Health Impact  
Assessment Support Unit

Uned Gymorth Asesu  
Effaith ar Iechyd Cymru

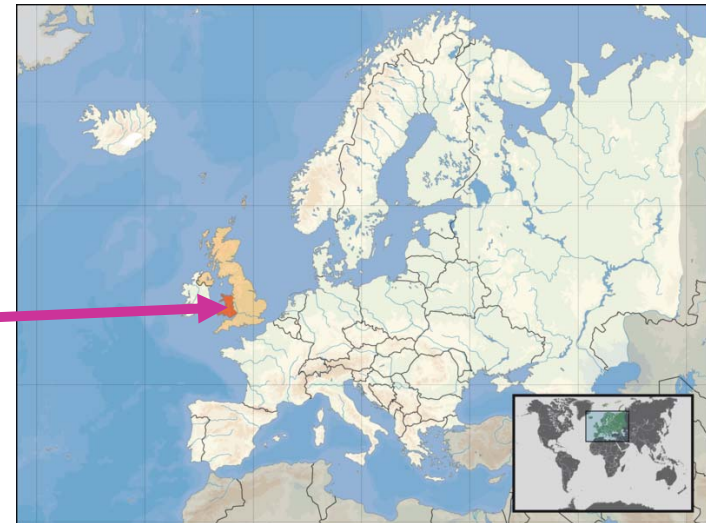


# HIA & Planning in Wales

# Cofion o Gymru!



# Locating Wales





# Wales 1998



# Developing Health Impact Assessment in Wales

‘All policies impact on people's lives, some to a greater extent and with more immediacy than others. The health experience of a population, at national or local level, can reflect the impact of such policies... Health Impact Assessment is a relatively recent idea which is designed to be supportive but critical, and to inform the policy making process.’ (*Better Health, Better Wales*, 1998, section 8.7 and 8.8)

# **Developing HIA in Wales (NAW 1999)**

- Maintains commitment to use determinants of health model
- Advocates participation of people and communities in HIA process
- Impetus for HIA pilots to test approach

# Wales Health Impact Support Unit (WHIASU) (2001- )

- Three aims:
  - Develop the capacity for HIA in Wales
  - Provide information and advice
  - Conduct research and evaluation
- 2 HIA development staff & 1 full-time researcher
- Based at Cardiff University School of Social Sciences in partnership with Public Health Wales



# HIA Officer Activity in Wales

- Training – classroom and apprenticeship models
- Support the process of mainstreaming HIA
- Annual best practice network events
- Training and awareness-raising sessions to relevant groups & organisations: LAs, Local Health Boards, Local Public Health Teams, voluntary & community groups
- Facilitation of rapid appraisal HIAs
- Support for comprehensive ongoing HIAs – e.g. WAG's Regional Waste Plan First Review HIA
- *Ad hoc* advice and guidance – WAG, LAs, LHBs community groups and private citizens
- Research and evaluation



# HIA Research Activity

- **HIA as the subject of research and evaluation**
  - HIA: impact on skills, knowledge and action
  - Public engagement in HIA
- **Case studies: the development of knowledge and theory**
  - Civic intelligence/new knowledge spaces
  - Case study ethnographies
- **Research to support HIA in different policies and developments**
  - Impact of recession
  - Guidelines: opencast mining, waste planning ...
- **HIA as a form of research**
  - Llangeinor housing regeneration (literature review, focus groups, individual interviews)
  - Margam opencast (literature review, focus groups)

# Achievements in Wales

- Launch of Welsh guidelines in 2004
- Over 80 case studies undertaken or supported since 2005
- Building capacities of officers in LAs and partnership organizations
- Recognition of HIA in public health strategic framework
- Partial 'institutionalization' of HIA
- Website ([www.whiasu.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.whiasu.wales.nhs.uk)) – new website with planning section to be launched Nov 2010 - high hit rate
- HIAs on national/and local strategies not just local projects
- Hosted 7<sup>th</sup> International HIA conference in 2006

# PLANNING AND HIA IN WALES



# Planning and health in Wales

The draft MIPPS draws attention to health and well-being as a material consideration in the planning process, and to the assessment of information about health and well-being in the preparation of plans, policies and programmes, and in taking better informed planning decisions. The MIPPS recognises that the proportionate use of health impact assessment can inform decisions, stimulate early community involvement and increase public confidence in the planning process.

**Draft Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement  
'Planning, Health and Well-Being' (DMIPPS 02/2006)**





# Waste



# WAG on Waste

- Regional Waste Plans (RWPs) “should” include an SEA & HIA
- HIA should also feed into the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for waste in the Unitary Development Planning system

**Source:** Technical Advice Note (TAN)  
21:2001



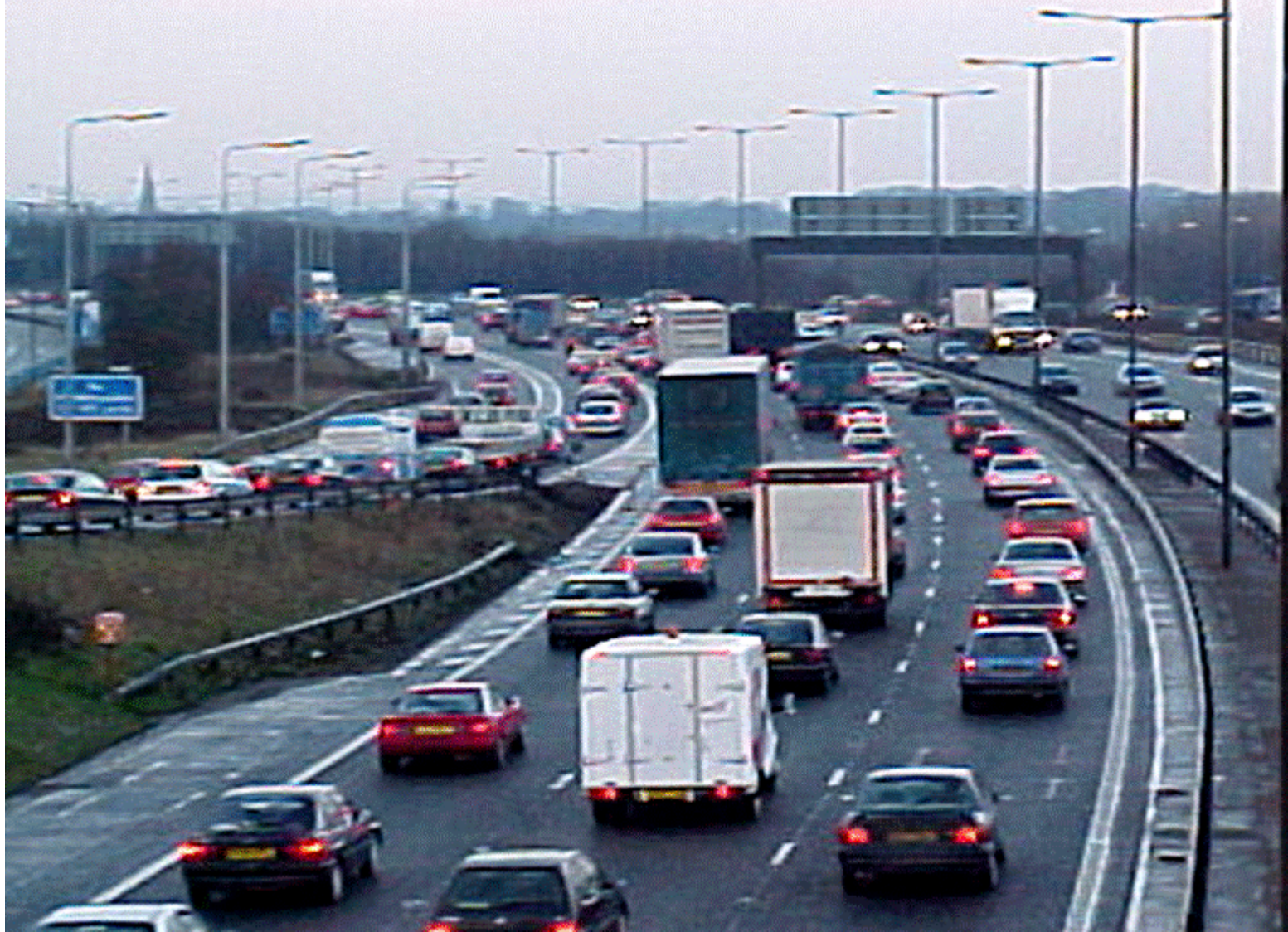
# WHIASU's Role

## **Consultancy:**

- HIA of the Regional Waste Plan (RWP) First Review (Mar 2008)
- Draft Wales Waste Strategy (Apr 2009)

## **Completed HIAs:**

- Viridor Incinerator, Splott, Cardiff (June 2010) (community-led)
- Llangefni Biomass – rapid participatory



**Transport**

# WAG and Transport

- HIAs are now 'mandatory' alongside other impact assessments (IAs)
- Overt links to support from WHIASU

**Source:** Welsh Transport Planning and Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG): 2008

# WHIASU's Role

## **Consultancy:**

- Welsh Transport Planning & Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) (June 2008)
- National Transport Plan (WAG)

## **Completed HIAs:**

- A483/489 Road Transportation Scheme, Powys, Stages 1 & 2;
- Wrexham Industrial Estate Road Access Scheme
- Shotton Bypass, Flintshire
- Builth Wells Transportation scheme
- ... many more





# Minerals

# One Wales

‘We will introduce compulsory Health Impact Assessments for open cast coal applications, together with buffer zones, and with an emphasis on planners and developers working closely with local communities’

***(One Wales: a Progressive Agenda for the Government of Wales – an agreement between the Labour and Plaid Cymru groups in the National Assembly, June 2007)***



# WAG and Minerals

- An HIA should be conducted as part of the EIA
- Affected communities need to participate in appraising all potential health impacts of operation
- Offers best practice guidance

**Source:** Minerals Technical Advice Note 2  
(MTAN2): 2009

# WHIASU's Role

## **Consultancy:**

- Varteg, Torfaen (Advice to consultants, quality control)
- Rhydygar Land Remediation Scheme, Merthyr

## **Completed HIAs:**

- Kenfig Hill (Margam) Proposed Opencast Scheme HIA (Dec 2005) (community-led)
- Ffos-y-Fran Proposed Opencast Scheme HIA (Jun 2007) (community-led)

# The Value of HIA to Local Government

- HIA is a 'focus for community & stakeholder involvement'
- it stimulates and supports partnership working within and between the public, private and voluntary sectors
- it increases confidence in the planning process
- coincides with: *The Local Development Plan (LDP) Manual* (WAG, 2006)

**Source:** Draft Ministerial Advice (DMIPPS):  
2006

# WHIASU and LDPs

## **Local Development Plan (LDP) HIAs completed with WHIASU support:**

- Wrexham CBC LDP (2008)
- Blaenau Gwent CBC LDP (2009-10)

## **LDP HIAs currently being developed:**

- Cardiff Council
- Neath Port Talbot CBC
- City & County of Swansea
- The Vale of Glamorgan

# Current Difficulties/Tensions

- No easy way in for HIA in existing planning processes – timing, language, vested interests in commissioning
- No clear demarcation of roles and responsibilities in planning and health systems
- Lack of clarity where HIA fits with other ‘impact assessments’
- Limited understanding of HIA as more than risk assessment
- Ideas of acceptable evidence contested

# Re-defining health impact assessment

‘Health impact assessment is a process through which evidence (of different kinds), interests, values and meanings are brought into dialogue between relevant stakeholders (politicians, professionals and citizens) in order imaginatively to understand and anticipate the effects of change on health and health inequalities in a given population’

Elliott E, Harrop E and Williams GH (2010) ‘Contesting the science: public health knowledge and action in controversial land developments’ Bennett P, Calman K, Curtis S, and Smith D (eds) *Risk Communication in Public Health*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University





# Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU)

[www.whiasu.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.whiasu.wales.nhs.uk)