

UKOTs Public Health Programme Newsletter

July 2023

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Welcome! This publication provides updates for colleagues and partners across UKHSA, OHID and the Overseas Territories. If you have any queries, feedback or contributions please contact: UKOTs.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk

UKOTs Hazardous Materials Risk Management Project **Reflections by Rob Green**

After a mere two weeks with UKHSA, some slick work from the UKOTs Programme Team had me en route to the Cayman Islands for a month in June to support the UKOTs Hazardous Materials Risk Management Project. The aim of this project is to develop a Code of Practice to help partners reduce the risks posed by hazardous materials on the Islands – from importation, through to transportation, handling, storage and disposal. Ultimately it is hoped that this will prove an efficient way of reducing the risks posed by hazardous materials which can be adapted to the needs of other UKOTs, and small island states.

During the visit I worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, and Hazard Management Cayman Islands to re-engage stakeholders and reinvigorate their own Hazardous Materials Technical Working Group. We also kicked off the consultation process with a business consultation event, which was well attended (and well received) by representatives from 18 different businesses.

Since returning to the UK we have launched the UKOT wide steering group for the project to ensure that the project meets the objectives beyond the needs of the Cayman Islands. Hazardous Materials pose an increasing threat as populations grow and industry expands, while the technical expertise and capacity required to develop complex bespoke responses pose a significant barrier to smaller administrations. This project offers an opportunity for UKOTs to try and reduce their hazardous material risk, learning from the experience of the Cayman Islands.



WHO's Ministerial Meeting

In June WHO's Ministerial meeting for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) members, NCDs and mental health took place in Barbados. Six of the UKOTs are associate members of this UN network, and Sarah Williams (UKHSA), was invited to present alongside UKOT colleagues. The key outcome of the meeting was the Bridgetown Declaration which all associate and member states have signed up to. SIDS which are part of this network are encouraged to agree a commitment for NCD and mental health policy and practice implementation. Montserrat has prioritised a focus on addressing stigma related to mental health on the SIDS commitments for NCDs and mental health (who.int) portal. We are looking forward to seeing the other commitments and supporting UKOTs to implement these.



WHO Public Health Emergency Workforce Roadmap



NHS and WHO held a workshop on the 25th July to test part of the WHO Public Health Emergency Workforce Roadmap methodology for mapping and measurement of the occupations that contribute to the delivery of the Essential Public Health Functions. Lara Kontos, Workforce Development Lead and Sarah Payne-Riches, Public Health Consultant attended as representatives from UKHSA as this pilot will inform the upcoming pilot in one of the UKOTs. Mapping and measurement of occupations will be critical to help understand the size and profile of workforce, identify gaps in workforce capacity, access training needs, and to use data for evidence-based workforce planning and policymaking.