

The Health Impact Assessment Gateway Website:

Analysis of a Feedback Exercise

11 August – 8 September 2006

on the Use and Future of the Website

Department of Health, February 2007

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Summary

'The Gateway is a vital resource.....its comprehensiveness is key. If this disappears then there will be a series of disparate resources but no locus.'

- The Health Impact Assessment Gateway provides access to Health Impact Assessment (HIA) related information, sources of evidence and networks to assist people participating in the HIA approach. It is currently hosted by NICE.
- Due to changes in NICE core business the future of the HIA gateway is being assessed.
- This Department of Health has conducted a Feedback Exercise with end users of the HIA gateway website. This report is an analysis of the response to this exercise.
- 90 individuals/organisations responded to the Feedback Exercise including the NHS, academic and a range of other public and private organisations. Most responders were either producers or commissioners of Health Impact Assessments.
- The overall response was very positive in supporting the HIA gateway as a one-stop access point for Health Impact Assessment and related assessments. In particular, the importance of a good evidence base and good practice information are highlighted by the responses to this exercise.
- There are issues identified in which the site could be improved, in particular;
 - maintaining and up-dating the existing site
 - adding new content, in particular links to external resources
 - improving links to other web sites
 - linking with other types of assessments, in particular equality, health and social impact assessments
 - adding an interactive element such as a discussion site and
 - creating better navigation in particular for searching the site.
- Importantly, the Exercise has identified a clear willingness to participate in contributing material to the website consequently, any developments to the site needs to make such contributions easy and accessible.

1. Background to the Feedback Exercise

The Health Impact Assessment Gateway provides access to Health Impact Assessment (HIA) related information, sources of evidence and networks to assist people participating in the HIA approach. The HIA gateway was set up by the Health Development Agency, and was transferred to NICE when the two organisations merged. Following the merger, NICE redesigned the website and sent out a web alert to inform end users of changes to the site. NICE is now unable to continue supporting this resource due to a change in their core business.

The changes to the management of the HIA gateway coincided with the UK and International HIA Conference in Cardiff 3-6 April. At a special meeting convened to discuss the situation, conference delegates expressed strong support for the continuation of the website.

DH convened a meeting with NICE 21 April 2006 and agreed a mechanism for maintaining the website as a separate entity, with its own url address, but attached to the NICE website, pending a decision about how to take the website forward. NICE changed the information on its own and the HIA gateway website to reflect the new situation:

“From April 2006, HIA Gateway no longer forms part of the [NICE website](#). This change reflects the need for NICE to focus its resources on its core business of developing clinical and public health guidance.

Despite strong support for the website, NICE data on the usage of the HIA website demonstrated a decline in usage since the HDA/NICE merger: partially explained by the reduced amount of Health Impact Assessment work carried out by NICE because of their commitment to completing existing work only.

The Department of Health has been exploring the future of the website as part of its public health information and intelligence strategy through a HIA gateway end users Feedback Exercise. The Exercise has ascertained views about the existing site, the end users HIA information needs, as well as exploring how the HIA gateway might be improved if re-launched.

2. The Feedback Exercise

A project plan was prepared for assessing the website in the context of developments and changes since its inception. This plan was approved as part of the work on the Information and Intelligence Strategy and the development of Public Health Observatories (PHOs).

A Feedback questionnaire was designed in conjunction with HIA experts in the PHOs and approved by Gateway. The questionnaire covered the usefulness of the current HIA gateway, potential improvements to the site, potential use of other HIA resources and the provision of information to the site by users. The Feedback Exercise was widely advertised to ensure a wide range of end users had an opportunity to take part. This questionnaire was placed on DH, NICE and HIA gateway websites with a webalert. It was also featured on other websites including the PHOs, IMPACT, Wales Centre for Health and the Chartered Institute for Environmental Health. In addition, the Feedback Exercise was included in the Chief Executive's Bulletin and notification sent to members of HIANET@JISMAIL.AC.UK, BRUs and HIA leads in the Regional Public Health Group, the Sustainable Development Commission and contacts in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A copy of the Feedback Exercise questionnaire appears in Annex 1. Ninety feedback forms were received by email and post. A further five individuals/organisation responded by letter (a summary of the letters appears in Annex 2). (There were a couple of emails without attached forms. They came predominantly from the UK, but several were from Australia and other countries in Europe and America NOT SURE YOU NEED THIS). Apart from completing the

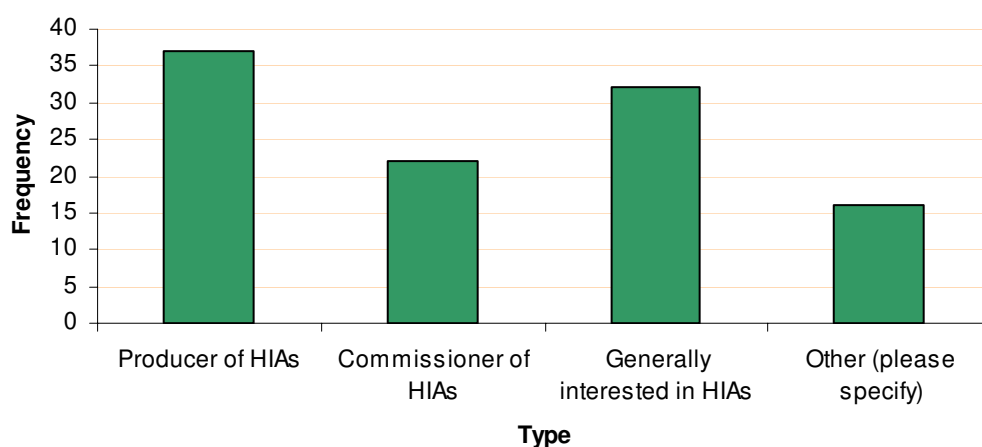
specific questions ranking the importance of the content, there were many suggestions for HIA gateway improvement. These are summarised in Annex 3.

3. About the Respondents to the Feedback Exercise

Most of the respondents were from the NHS (48 of the 90 respondents), however, Local Authorities, Universities and others replied in smaller numbers. Seven replies were from independent practitioners and five from voluntary organisations.

Respondents were asked to describe their interest in HIA Gateway. Graph 1 depicts their answers – most were producers of HIAs, with a significant number describing themselves as commissioners of HIAs. About a third were 'generally interested' in HIA while the final group worked for a variety of public and private sector organisations.

Graph 1: Respondent Interest in HIA Gateway



4. Response to the Feedback Exercise

4.1 Usefulness of the HIA Gateway Website Information and Resources

Respondents to the Feedback Exercise were asked to rank the usefulness of a list of HIA gateway information and resources (see table 1 below). The ranking scale was a five point scale which ranged from a score of 1 where by the item was deemed 'very useful' to a score of 5 where it was deemed 'not used'. Table 1 below shows the average ranking for each category of information/resource. The lower the ranking the 'more useful' the item was seen to be. On average, respondents found most categories of information/resource to be useful. The provision of reports of completed HIA were the only category to be ranked 'very useful'. No category received a very high score but three categories (information on training, contact details of HIA practitioners and news of meetings) had an average score of 3 implying that they are seen as less useful than other categories of information/resources on the site.

This gives a very positive picture of how the HIA gateway is viewed. In fact there were also differences between the various categories of information/resource in terms of how useful they were perceived to be. Table 1 also shows the distribution of scores across the ranking scale. For example, reports of completed HIAs, General Guidance on HIA, Toolkits for methods of HIA and Summaries of evidence were more likely to be scored as either 1 or 2 by respondents than the other categories of evidence.

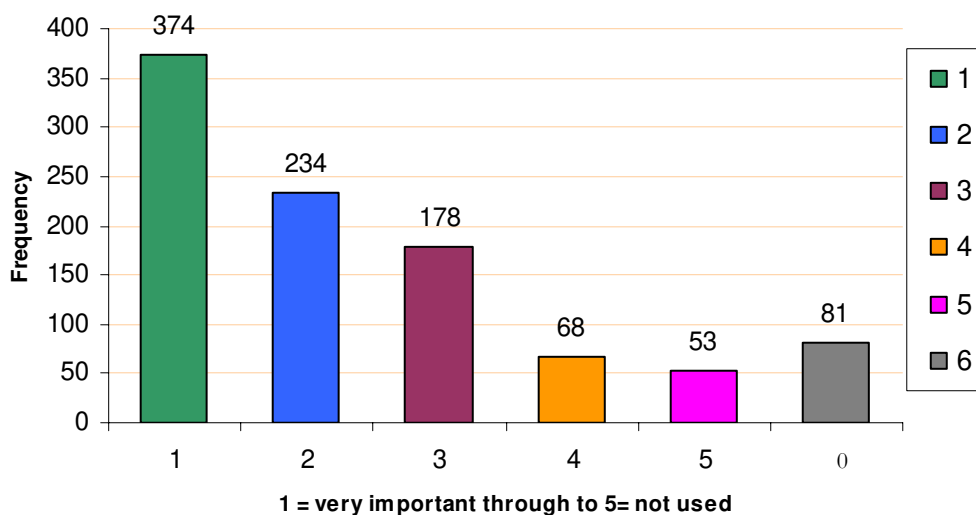
Table 1: Actual and Average Ranking of hiagateway information and resources

	Ranking of usefulness ¹					Average Ranking
	1s	2s	3s	4s	5s	
Reports of completed HIAs	66	13	3	1	2	1
General Guidance on HIA	49	24	8	4	1	2
Toolkits for methods of HIA	50	22	8	2	2	2
Summaries of evidence	43	22	12	3	2	2
Individual topics (eg Transport, Planning)	27	27	19	4	4	2
Information on training	23	16	20	12	10	3
Contacts details of HIA practitioners	17	19	29	8	9	3
Publications (books and articles)	21	30	22	6	2	2
Conference reports and seminars	20	24	19	13	5	2
News of meetings	18	19	25	8	11	3
HIA generally	40	18	13	7	5	2

1= Very useful to 5 = Not Used

Graph 2 below shows the combined ranking of all the HIA gateway information/resources respondents were asked about. Again, the picture is a very positive one with most respondents ranking the usefulness of the various categories of information/resource as a score of 1 or 2 implying they feel the information/resource is useful overall.

Graph 2: Overall Frequency of Scores for all higateway Information and Resources



4.2 Views of Additional Information/Resources which could be added the HIA Gateway

As with existing information on the site, respondents were asked to rank the importance of a number of additional tools/resources that could be added to the HIA gateway website (see

¹ Note there were some non-responders to some questions, hence why the categories do not always sum to 90.

table 2 below). A 5 point scale was used to rank various suggested information/resources that could be added to the existing site. A ranking score of 1 indicated that a suggested type of resource/information was 'very important' while a ranking score of 5 suggested that it was 'not needed'. As a result, the lower the overall average score for a particular additional tool or resource, the more important a specific item of information or resource was perceived to be.

Evidence for HIA was the only potential site development ranked with an average score of 1 – but this you would probably expect as that is the reason most people would be driven to visit HIA gateway. The inclusion of a site map to provide an overview of the website, full document text search, and hyperlinks to other sites all on average scored 2 – so possibly less important than 'Evidence' but does point to the importance of being able to use the site easily. Although both the discussion forum for posting comments and the web seminar were ranked lower – an average score of 3 in both cases – few respondents identified them as 'not needed'.

The Feedback questionnaire also included a section where respondents could suggest changes to the site. Only 12 respondents suggested changes nonetheless similar issues arise from their comments. The main theme continued to be a need for information on good practice and lessons learned in conducting HIAs. There were also requests for better links to other sites (a full list of suggestions appears in Annex 4), information about practitioners and the re-organisation of completed HIAs by topic. In short the extra suggestions, reiterates the need for more evidence on what makes a good HIA as well as the possible need for better site navigation.

Table 2: Actual and Average Ranking of Importance of Potential Developments to the HIA gateway site
Ranking of Importance²

Suggestions for development	Ranking of Importance ²					Average Ranking
	1s	2s	3s	4s	5s	
Evidence for HIA	62	10	6	3	2	1
Site map to provide an overview of the website	40	18	14	3	7	2
Full document text search	36	22	16	4	4	2
Hyperlinks to other websites	39	21	14	9	0	2
Discussion forum for posting comments	15	14	32	13	7	3
Web seminar to set up conversations	10	13	23	23	10	3

1= Very Important to 5 = Not Needed

² Note there were some non-responders to some questions, hence why the categories do not always sum to 90.

4.3 Usefulness of Links to Other Types of Assessments

Respondents, again, were asked to rank the importance of links to other types of assessments (see table 3 below). A 5 point scale was used to rank the importance of linking to a number of types of assessments. A ranking score of 1 indicated that a link was 'very important' while a ranking score of 5 suggested that it was 'not needed'. As a result, the lower the overall average score the more important a specific link was seen to be. All the links to assessments were ranked as 2 – so seen as important by respondents.

Two types of assessments stand out – Integrated Impact Assessments and Sustainability Appraisals – because they were scored as 1 by nearly half of respondents.

Respondents were also given the opportunity to suggest links to other types of assessments. Twenty four respondents made additional suggestions. Two themes emerged from these suggestions – the importance of links to equality assessments (10 respondents – plus an invitation by Age Concern to discuss Age Impact Assessments) and different forms of health assessments (Health Needs Assessment, Health Equity Audit and Health Systems Impact Assessment) (6 respondents). The third theme to emerge as important was social impacts.

Table 3: Actual and Average Ranking of Importance Links on the HIA gateway site to Related Impact Assessments
Ranking of Importance³

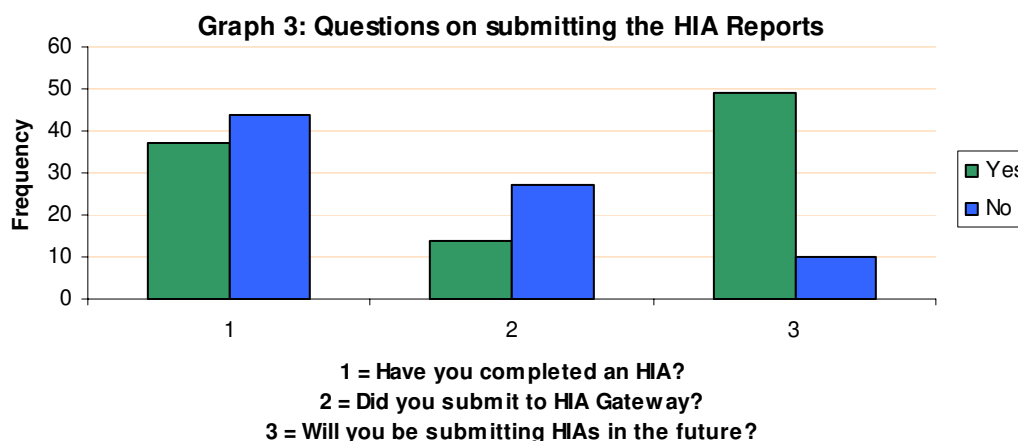
Related Impact Assessments	1s	2s	3s	4s	5s	Average Ranking
Regulatory Impact Assessment						2
Strategic Environmental Assessment	20	20	21	8	6	2
Environmental Impact Assessment	34	24	13	8	0	2
Integrated Impact Assessment	35	27	16	2	1	2
Sustainability Appraisal	41	23	8	4	2	2
	43	23	8	4	1	

1= Very Important to 5 = Not Needed

³ Note there were some non-responders to some questions, hence why the categories do not always sum to 90.

4.4 Participation in Supplying Information to the HIA Gateway.

The provision of information to the HIA gateway was not uniform in that only about a third of respondents (37 of the 90) to the Feedback Exercise reported completing a HIA. Of those, only 14 (37%) had submitted the HIA to the gateway. On the positive side, 49 respondents claimed that they would submit completed HIAs to the gateway in the future (See Graph 3 below).



4.5 Suggested Improvements to the HIA Gateway Website

While few respondents added to this section of the questionnaire, those that did were very positive about the site and saw it as a valuable resource to those needing to undertake HIAs. A large proportion of comments were on the importance of **access to good evidence**. Several respondents commented on the fact that the site needs to be maintained:

'The Gateway is a vital resource.....its comprehensiveness is key. If this disappears then there will be a series of disparate resources but no locus.'

'Most important thing is (access) to up-to-date reports.'

Comments on **maintenance of the site** seems to fall into two categories – keeping what is useful already up-dated and adding newer resources. For example, contact details of HIA practitioners seems to be important as is the speed of adding information to the site.

Another group of comments were on navigation of the site. **Better navigation** is key to the value of the site and searching (or problems with searching) was mentioned quiet a few times as valuable to making the site more user-friendly:

'Better searching mechanism – at present you need to know the authors names or the exact title. Resources should be tagged like the PHO sites'

In terms of **new content** suggestions for links both within the site and to other external resources forms another key theme⁴. For example Links to HIA networks:

'The London HIA network group occasionally meets and shares experience. It would be worth linking these outputs.'

⁴ A full list of suggested websites appears in Annex 4

Others suggested linking to policy documents and to international evidence/expertise.

An interactive element might also be an important new development - respondents also mentioned the value of discussion forums and web based seminars to aid learning and sharing of learning.

A resource for **teaching and research** and support for practitioners using related impact assessment tools. The HIAgateway is referenced in guidance documents.

5. Conclusions

This Feedback Exercise has demonstrated the amount of support in the HIA field for the continuation of the HIA Gateway website. Reports of completed HIAs, general Guidance on HIA, Toolkits for methods of HIA, Summaries of evidence, and general information about HIA being the most used and valued sections of the existing site.

There is a demonstrable interest in information about other forms of related impact assessment including a particular interest in Health, Equality and Social Impact Assessments.

The Feedback Exercise has also identified key areas where the site can be improved by:

- maintaining and up-dating the existing site
- adding new content, in particular links to external resources
- improving links to other web sites
- linking with other types of assessments, in particular equality, health and social impact assessments
- adding an interactive element such as a discussion site and
- creating better navigation in particular for searching the site.

Importantly, the Exercise has identified a clear willingness to participate in contributing material to the website and any developments to the site needs to make such contributions easy and accessible.

Annex 1

Health Impact Assessment HIA gateway website

Feedback on the future of the HIA gateway website

The Health Development Agency (HDA), now part of the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), launched the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) website in September 2002 www.hiagateway.org.uk. The target audience was for health and non-health sector professionals, beginners and those with limited experience of HIA.

NICE has decided to decommission the hiagateway website as it is not part of its core business of developing clinical and public health guidance.

As part of the public health Information and Intelligence Strategy, *Informing Healthier Choices*, the Department of Health is now consulting users on their needs for resources to support HIA, and is looking at the future of the website, including whether it should be continued. The purpose is to find out how useful the current website is and how it could be developed in terms of content and capability to support practitioners.

The hiagateway is intended to be a repository of information on HIA giving easy access to reports of completed HIAs, guidelines and toolkits on HIA and other relevant documents. Currently the hiagateway website is not being actively maintained, though is continuing to be available on a temporary basis.

Your views on the usefulness, functionality and future development will inform if and how the website is developed. Please reply by **8 September 2006**.

- The hiagateway website contains information and resources on HIA. How useful do you find the following?** Please rank the categories according to 1= very useful to 5 = not used

Website categories	Order of usefulness
Reports of completed HIAs	
General Guidance on HIA	
Toolkits for methods of HIA	
Summaries of evidence	
Individual topics (eg Transport, Planning)	
Information on training	
Contacts details of HIA practitioners	
Publications (books and articles)	
Conference reports and seminars	
News of meetings	
HIA generally	

- What other specific resources or functions would you like to see on the hiagateway website?** Examples listed. Please rank the following according to importance: 1= very important to 5 = not needed

Suggestions for development	Importance
Evidence for HIA	
Site map to provide an overview of the website	
Full document text search	
Hyperlinks to other websites	
Discussion forum for posting comments	
Web seminar to set up conversations	
Other suggestions (please specify)	

3. **HIA is often carried out alongside or integrated with other assessments. How useful would you find information and links to the following ?** Please rank in order of importance. 1= very important to 5 = not needed

Related Impact Assessments	Importance
Regulatory Impact Assessment	
Strategic Environmental Assessment	
Environmental Impact Assessment	
Integrated Impact Assessment	
Sustainability Appraisal	
Other types of assessment (please specify)	

4. **What, if any, other HIA websites and resources do you use?** Please list below.

5. **The hiagateway relies on practitioners sending completed HIA reports.**

	Yes	No
Have you completed an HIA?		
Did you submit it to the HIA Gateway? If not why not?		
Will you be submitting reports of completed HIAs in the future?		

6. **What sort of improvements would you like to see on the hiagateway website, or are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make ?** Please specify.

7. **Information about you**

- a) **Do you mostly work for** (x one)

Organisation	
NHS	
Local Authority	
University	
Voluntary Sector	
Independent practitioner	
Government Department	
Other (please specify)	

b) **Which best describes you** (x one)

Type of work	
Producer of HIAs	
Commissioner of HIAs	
Generally interested in HIAs	
Other (please specify)	

c) **What country do you work in?** e.g. England, Wales, Canada

Thank you for taking time to answer the questions.

Please reply by **8 September 2006** to:

Colleen Williams
Impact Assessment Development
Department of Health
Room 580D Skipton House
80 London Road
London SE1 6LH

Or by email to colleen.williams@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Annex 2**Summarised Responses by Letter**

Organisation	Comments
Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution	South clarification that HIA still part of DH policy following a submission supporting HIA to be included in EIA.
Institute of Public Health Ireland	<p>HIAGateway is extremely useful for capacity building on HIA and a resource for developing this programme of work.</p> <p>It supports the development of HIA in UK and internationally and reflects developments.</p> <p>Welcomes inclusion of other impact assessments and ways for practitioners to exchange information and ideas.</p>
Queensland Government	<p>Access to international resources through a single portal has assisted the uptake of HIA as a beneficial and worthwhile tool in Australia. The content is transferable to other countries and provides support and information for practitioners,</p> <p>The Gateway has been used for communicating the value of HIA to non-health agencies and used in lectures.</p> <p>It is a resource that can continue the advancement of HIA outside the health sector.</p> <p>It would benefit the maturation of HIA and achievement of positive health in many countries.</p> <p>Queensland supports the UK DH continued involvement in the development of HIA.</p>
Kent and Medway PH Network	<p>Strongly recommends the retention, maintenance and support of the Gateway as a resource to support new PCTs to work closer with local government, particularly in the planning process. The timing is important.</p> <p>The Gateway is an effective way of raising awareness and supporting the HIA process.</p> <p>The focus on those with little experience can help build experience.</p> <p>For experienced users it cuts down research time and access to the evidence base and it is useful to have a single site for signposting people to HIA.</p> <p>Easy access on the internet is important and it is regarded as a reliable source of information.</p>
Wales Centre for Health	<p>-A 'search' option would be very useful as it saves users valuable time if searching for one item</p> <p>- can never have enough evidence for HIA in the form of systematic reviews etc.</p> <p>-coverage of most impact assessments is extremely good but no link to Equalities Impact Assessment on the site,</p>

Organisation	Comments
	<p>this is important as it is mandatory for organisations and may help promote awareness of HIA especially if a two-way link.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- There were a number of important developments in Wales missing from the present site (although there is a link to our site). WHIASU probably needs to be more proactive in informing the site manager about updates.- the link to other nations on the website needs to be improved by adding the policy framework of the constituent nations of the UK, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. They have developed health strategy, and HIA, in different ways. This needs to be highlighted somewhere or have clearer directions to their sites (this would reduce the need for the three nations forwarding every HIA report and other information). <p>Finally, although the Unit has been involved with producing HIAs in collaboration with other organisations and local community groups, its main function is to develop the use of HIA and support organisations and communities to undertake HIA activity themselves.</p>

Annex 3

All Free Text Suggestions for HIA Gateway Improvements

Question 6. Suggestions for development

Functionality

The search facility is not easy to find HIA resources, this needs to be improved is the site is going to be used by practitioners looking for ideas or approaches to HIA for specific topic areas.
Better searching system – at present you need to know the authors' names or the EXACT title. Resources should be tagged – like the PHO sites
Clear information about HIA which can be easily related to general members of the public or professionals who have no experience of HIA's.
Refine search mechanism within resources section to avoid trawling through alphabetical list of HIA's
Regular maintenance and updating
This is an important hub for HIA practitioners, academics and policy researchers; link it with policy documents that HIA has influenced/ Identify potential / up and coming areas/policies that a HIA eye could influence. Ask HIA authors to demonstrate what difference the HIA made initially then perhaps follow up after 6 months/ one year; Email members of deadline alerts of key decision points of policy development to enable rapid responses by HIA community. We are often so busy we miss key opportunities to respond/ be proactive in policy development
Group reports by topic Give some examples of process / costs / timings of different kinds of HIA to give developers / LA etc some idea of what might be involved from a practical point of view (time and money) Links to practitioners who could be commissioned to do them.
Higher profile for website. Clearer invitation to contribute and instructions Warning that current material is as at 2004 Links to other useful sites, eg WHO Regular updating and maintenance
It is important that HIA does not drop off the agenda and a central HIA 'hub' is vital in ensuring that this does not happen. To make the HIA Gateway more useful, I would suggest a merged website that covers all forms of impact assessment or appraisal (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal). This would help to identify the similarity of approaches and 'mind set' and reduce the impression that HIA is a stand alone technique (which it isn't).
Reports should be updated and hyperlinks should be checked regularly to ensure they are still working. The list of completed HIAs includes some summary documents. Full reports would be more helpful. It would also be improved by having links to items that will not download. For example the MERITS project can be found in a journal or obtained direct from the authors but this is not shown on the website.
Standards/ criteria for presentation of completed HIAs.
conversation room/ easier links to more experienced practitioners. List of those HIA being carried out at present .
Develop discussion groups, expert contact list, tender information, eLearning courses (probably financed by EU Public Health Programme)
Improved speed of hosting, i.e. time between sending a report and it being hosted < 1 month More active seeking of information - sending out email to practitioners asking for completed reports

Content

Excellent site. Keep it simple with faster access... less detailed. Helpful to know which completed HIAs and methods are recommended or good quality and why.
Experiences of Health and Social care HIA's that have enhanced cross-boundary working (or show clear evidence of stakeholder engagement) and subsequently fed into local commissioning processes.
Evidence section is key to making the site more useful and need new examples of HIA added and up to date reports of HIAs
It is a useful summary of work to help practitioners get HIA underway with useful contacts for help as it is rather daunting for those of us not undertaking them all the time.
It would be helpful to have some form of quality control or at least a self scoring system to guide those who do not know much about HIA.
Needs to be maintained somewhere. Needs resource for active updating eg contact lists and reminders to use.
Register of on-going HIAs with contact details for the lead and more events/news info
Some specific information on Race & Disability HIA some models and templates would be useful.
The Gateway is a vital HIA resource. The last HIA Conference featured speakers from throughout the world, some of whom testified to the value of the site. Its comprehensiveness is its key feature. If the site disappears then there will be a series of disparate resources but no locus.
The information on this website was vital in influencing local planners to pilot the use of HIA in regeneration strategies.
Though there are training courses, it is common knowledge that HIA skills can only really be honed by doing HIA. There may be opportunities to provide newcomers to partake in projects and gain valuable experience. Such opportunities might be posted through the HIA gateway site.
Up to date; How they have been implemented; Changes made as a result of HIA
With members of the public and local community groups increasingly consulted over new developments, I think HIA has an important role to play in empowering non-professional people to evaluate proposals in their neighbourhoods. I think this should be recognised and facilitated Concerned that the site is no longer updated and that this may mean it will be ceased because no one wants the financial outlay concerned with taking responsibility for it. This would be a great pity. It is a site of considerable public health importance, with a real role to play for tackling health inequalities and that it should be the responsibility of the DH (which already maintains the healthy urban development site) but with considerable funding and input from the Dept of Communities and Local Government and clear links to http://www.renewal.net/ . Our Health Our Care Our Say adopts a partnership model and states that "Importantly, we need to ensure that there is a strong voice for people using services and for local communities in the way in which the whole health and care system is designed and works. (1.49). Providing people with tools to assist in HIA is one way of strengthening those voices. Planners too need to be more aware of the health related consequences of developments and as yet HIA is not well established as a mainstream planning tool.
Evidence of convergence of impacts in health, social and economic opportunities, within an environmentally friendly paradigm, so that integrated impact assessment can become a viable tool for integrated policy development.
We need to have tools, experience of good practice and information of different methods and fields of application
Completed HIAs around impact of health service changes on the public
Age Concern would welcome an opportunity to discuss age impact assessment
Include referee reports and critiques of individual HIAs
Information on projects in progress so that people who are about to embark on an HIA can see if someone else is working on something similar or planning to. At the moment we only have access to completed projects but there would be opportunities to discuss/share approaches and even pool resources (e.g literature searching)
Problem solving page or device

Links with other countries groups and areas

Links with Health Needs Assessment website, work of Health Cities Europe HIA work, other relevant international bodies, the London HIA network group
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The development of HIA in Queensland, Australia, has been over quite a long period of time and is still underway. The use of the HIA Gateway has provided invaluable information on the international use of and experiences with HIA. Although not formally known outside of the health sphere, opportunities are rising for using HIA in non-health sectors. The HIA Gateway is being used as a “flagship” resource that can be easily used by other agencies to understand how health can be included in their decision making.
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More international focus. Conference and seminar reports section to only include these items. Overall, however it is a fantastic resource as it stands.

Information about HIA activities and reports from other European countries.

General comments

One respondent had not used the site and another did not use it often but said it was always useful to know the site exists and that the resources are available – when and if needed.

It is useful for those just beginning to get involved with HIAs and for people new to the site.

It is comprehensive

“The gateway is a valued and well used HIA resource both nationally and internationally and ‘It’s not broke, so don’t fix it!’”. Several mentioned that they did not know of other websites that were as good as the HIA gateway.

Concern was expressed over the timing of this consultation exercise, during the summer vacation period, and that this might affect its future.

Annex 4**Suggested Links to Other Websites by Frequency of Use and Complete list of all Websites Identified****1. The most frequently used HIA websites:**

Organisation	Web link
Birley HIA Health Impact Associates	http://www.birleyhia.co.uk/index.htm
Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation (CHETRE) NSW Australia	http://chetre.med.unsw.edu.au/
Health Impact Assessment for the United Kingdom and Ireland	http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/archives/hianet.html
Health Impact Assessment Research Unit (HIARU) University of Birmingham	http://www.pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/hiaru/
International Health Impact Assessment Consortium (IMPACT)	http://www.ihia.org.uk/
London Health Observatory	http://www.lho.org.uk/HIA/AboutHIA.aspx
The Liverpool Public Health Observatory (LPHO)	http://www.liv.ac.uk/researchintelligence/issue2/model.html
Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU)	http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?OrgID=522
World Health Organisation - Health Impact Assessment (HIA)	http://www.who.int/hia/en/
World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe	http://www.euro.who.int/healthimpact

2. All HIA websites identified by respondents:

Organisation/resource	Web Link
Australia's New South Wales HIA Project	http://www.hiaconnect.edu.au/nsw_hia_project.htm
Australian Government Department of Health and Aging	http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/Home
Birley HIA Health Impact Associates	http://www.birleyhia.co.uk/index.htm
Birmingham University	http://www.bham.ac.uk/default.asp
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	http://www.cdc.gov/
Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation(CHETRE) NSW Australia	http://chetre.med.unsw.edu.au/
Deakin University Victoria Australia	http://www.deakin.edu.au/hia
enhealth council Australia	http://enhealth.nphp.gov.au/
European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies	http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Studies/
European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)	http://www.epha.org/
Health Impact Assessment for the United Kingdom and Ireland	http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/archives/hianet.html
Health Impact Assessment Research Unit (HIARU) University of Birmingham	http://www.pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/hiaru/
HIA Wiki	http://www.seedwiki.com/wiki/health_impact_assessment/
International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)	http://www.iaia.org/
International Health Impact Assessment Consortium (IMPACT)	http://www.ihia.org.uk/
London Health Commission (LHC)	http://www.londonhealth.gov.uk/
London Health Observatory	http://www.lho.org.uk/HIA/AboutHIA.aspx
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) The Netherlands	https://webcollect.rivm.nl/hiadatabase/
NHS London Health Urban Development Unit (HUDU)	http://www.healthyurbandevelopment.nhs.uk/pages/home.htm
NHS Lothian	http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/
North East Public Health Observatory	http://www.nepho.org.uk/index.php?c=1184
Office of Community and	http://www.ayer.ma.us/departments_oced.html

Economic Development (OCED)	
Public Health Electronic Library	http://www.phel.gov.uk/
The Institute of Public Health in Ireland	http://www.publichealth.ie/index.asp?locID=122&docID=-1
The Liverpool Public Health Observatory (LPHO)	http://www.liv.ac.uk/researchintelligence/issue2/model.html
The Public Health Institute of Scotland (PHIS)	http://www.phis.org.uk/
The Scottish Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Network	http://www.healthscotland.com/resources/networks/shian.aspx
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	http://www.unece.org/
University of Washington	http://www.washington.edu/
Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU)	http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?OrgID=522
Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_Impact_Assessment
World Health Organisation Health Impact Assessment (HIA) site	http://www.who.int/hia/en/
World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe	http://www.euro.who.int/healthimpact