



# Inter-sectoral Group on Obesity

## Implementation



# Establishment of Group



- Established early 2009 by Minister of State with responsibility for Health Promotion.
- Currently chaired by Ms Aine Brady TD, address you this morning.
- Group comprises representatives from all key stakeholders,
  - Government Departments and agencies,
  - the food industry
  - relevant NGOs.
- First task - to review progress on the implementation of recommendations of the National Taskforce on Obesity, which reported in 2005.
- Review, published earlier this year, highlighted the many diverse and wide-ranging measures which have been put in place to tackle the problem.
- Many local initiatives – need to harness these at national level

# Summary

	Significant Progress	Partial Implementation	Action Progressing	No Progress
High Level Government	2	2	1	0
Education Sector	5	10	4	3
Social & Community Sector	5	3	5	0
Health Sector	13	4	5	2
Food production & supply sector	0	6	2	1
Physical Environment Sector	5	4	9	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>32%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>9%</b>

# Action at high-level government



- Significant progress in 2, partial 2
- Coordinated high level Govt action
  - Establishment of Intersectoral Group
- Work through our role within the EU Examples include:
  - High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity
  - Working with FSAI and industry on implementation of EU Common framework on Salt reduction.
  - Reformulation at EU level to reduce sugar & fat will follow.
  - Participating in WHO European Network on reducing marketing pressure on children to purchase food high in fat, sugar and salt - a key priority areas identified by the Group.
- Some research on children's views
- No progress on fiscal measures

# Education Sector

- 22 recommendations - 5 significant progress, 10 partial & work on 4 progressing
- Resources to promote the awareness of healthy eating.
- Most primary schools have devised healthy lunch policies.
- Food & Nutrition incorporated in SPHE and/or SPHE, PE and Home Economics
- Clear policies mean that vending machines are not in primary schools.
- New EU Healthy Eating Campaign '*Tasty Bunch*'. will run alongside the EU's School Fruit Scheme and School Milk Scheme, other initiatives, of which the DAFF are actively involved in.
- Less Progress on Physical activity in schools – difficulty with time available in curriculum.

# Social & Community Sector



- 13 recommendations; Significant progress on 5, action progressing on 5, partial implementation on 3
- All recommendation for this sector have been progressed to some degree.
- The number of school meals increased from some 90,000 in the school year 05/06 to 221,000 in the school year 07/08.
- Many good examples of community initiatives to encourage active living, including
  - programme developed by HSE, IHF & LSP to support parents in getting their children introduced to or involved in physical activity.
  - ISC have developed programmes to promote a wide range of physical activity programmes for older people.
  - Discussions have begun to explore the possibilities of shared use of sports & physical activity facilities between school & communities.

# Health Sector



- 24 recommendations Significant progress on 13, work progressing on 5, partial implementation of 4, no progress on 2.
- HSE working in partnership with a number of organisations to develop both nutrition and physical activity initiatives
- Little Steps Campaign – heard from Minister Brady
- National Guidelines on Physical Activity launched and promoted
- No systematic approach to multiple risk factor reduction/prevention in Irish general practice

# Food commodity, production and supply sector



- 9 recommendations - partial implementation of 6, action progressing on 2, no progress on 1
- Working with BCI on review on marketing to children of foods high in fat, sugar and salt
- Food Dude programme
- Examples of initiatives to promote research and development investment in healthier food choices
- Industry working with statutory sector on labelling and on salt reduction
- NHF work on reduction in portion size

# *Physical Environment Sector*

Department of  
Health & Children  
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- 20 recommendations – significant progress on 5, action progressing on 9, partial implementation of 4, no progress on 2.
- Smarter Travel and National Cycle Policy Framework encourages active commuting, and requires that all new facilities are planned so that they are accessible by means other than just car.
- Planning authorities are obliged to include a number of facilities and amenities in their development plans, including
  - integration of the planning and sustainable development of the area with social community and cultural requirements for the area and its population
  - the preservation, improvement and extension of amenities and recreational amenities.
- Much work has also taken place developing and enhancing sports facilities, playgrounds and recreational areas
- Grants schemes have enabled the building of many amenities, including youth facilities and parks.

# Priorities

- Need for continued and concerted action to halt the rise in the levels of overweight and obesity.
- Key priority areas for action in the short to medium term.
  - Measures to increase physical activity among children.
  - A continued awareness programme of the dangers of excessive consumption of foods high in fat, sugar and salt and of the benefits of regular exercise.
  - Action to control advertising and marketing of food and drink aimed at children.
  - Improved training for health professionals in obesity prevention and diagnosing and counselling those at risk of obesity force's recommendations.

# Sub-Groups

- A number of sub-groups established to progress work in these areas.
  - *Health (Including Clinical Treatment) Sub-Group*
  - *Communications Sub-Group*
  - *Industry Sub-Group*
  - *Children's Consultation Committee*
  - *Physical Activity Sub-Group (new)*
  - *Possible Nutrition Sub-Group*
- Need to re-activate these and give clear terms of reference to groups
- Tighten up on membership

# Conclusion

- By their nature – implementation of the recommendations of the NTFO are medium to long-term
- Current difficult budgetary position will inevitably slow progress
- Much can be done if all sectors work together
- Look forward to continued co-operation of all