



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Healthy communities-the input of
two medical students into
collaborative projects in
Education and Green Space

A Definition of Public Health

“Public health is concerned with social efforts led by government and actioned by communities, often in partnerships with health and other social organizations, to lessen disease and/or improve health at the broadest population level. These efforts occur through education, improvement of social capital and community development, enactment of laws, partnerships with health services and professionals, and the creation of safe and sustainable social and physical environments”.

(Kelleher, A. (2005). Compassionate Cities. Public Health and end-of-Life Care. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group).

Mission Statement of GEMS

“The graduate medical programme at the University of Limerick will produce doctors who are competent, confident and caring; who understand the scientific basis of medicine

Who recognise the social and environmental context in which health and illness exist and in which medicine is practised

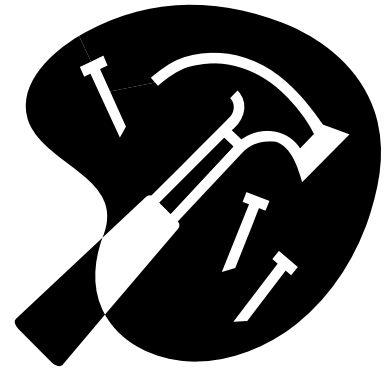
Who have skills for and commitment to service, teamwork, scientific enquiry, self-fulfilment and life-long learning.

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to consider issues and to identify and attempt to solve problems related to individual and population health with due regard to ethics, resources and the concerns of the society in which they work”.

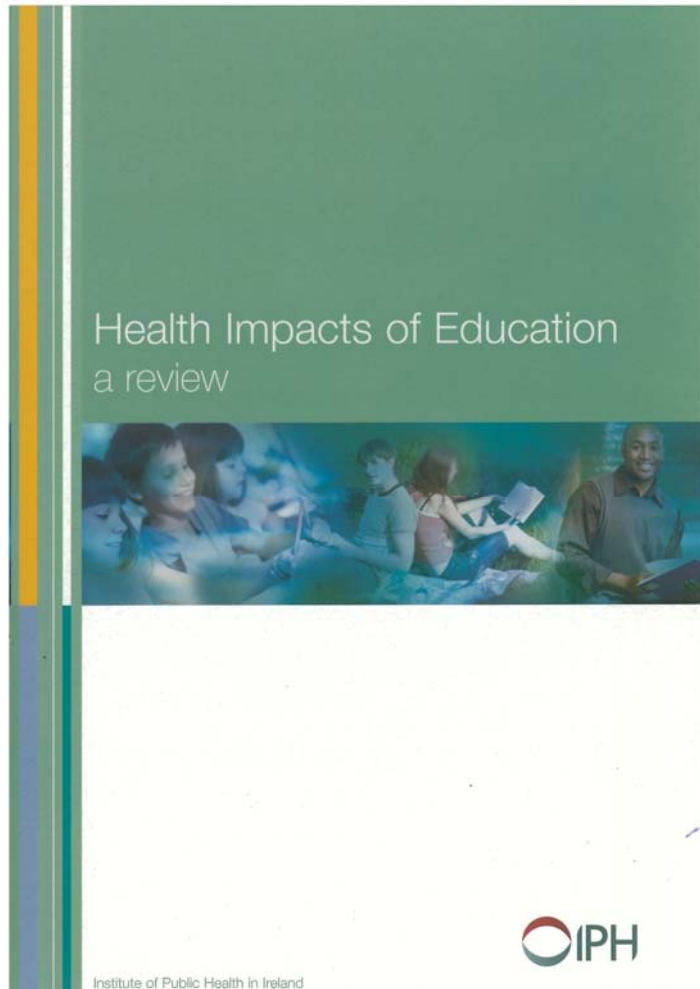
Full toolbox

“If the only tool you have in your toolbox is a hammer, you tend to treat everything as if it were a nail!”

(John Gray).



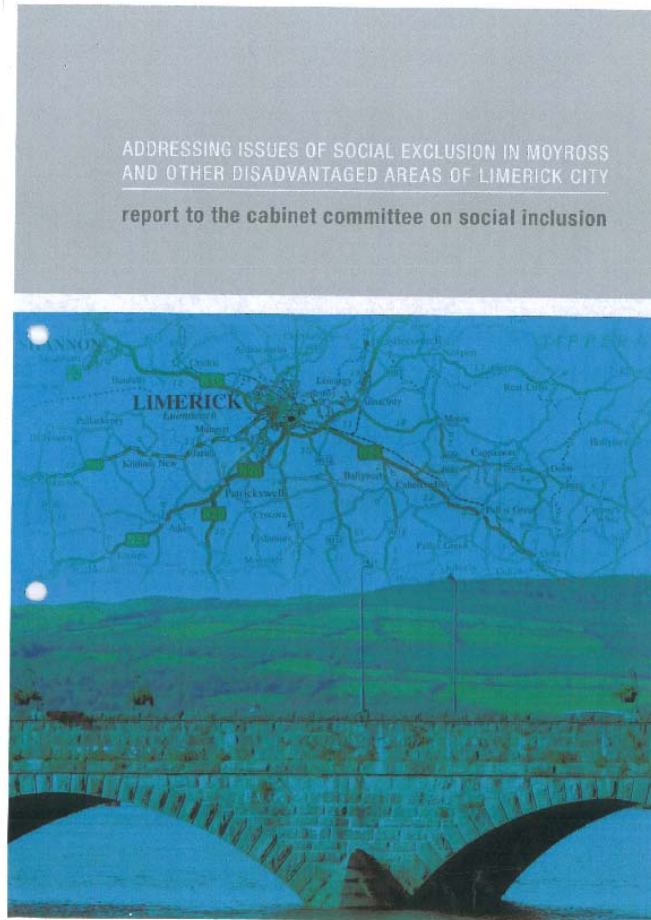
Key Documents



Format

- Proposal IPH- HIA capacity building
- Two proposals-HIA component
- One in collaboration with SAUL
- One in collaboration with SIE
- Two GEMS students applied
- Summer-8 weeks

Fitzgerald Report, 2007



April 2008

- Limerick Regeneration Agencies Health Impact Assessment, Phase 1, Part 1.

Key Recommendations to Maximise Positive and Minimise negative Health Impacts of Physical Regeneration.

May 2008

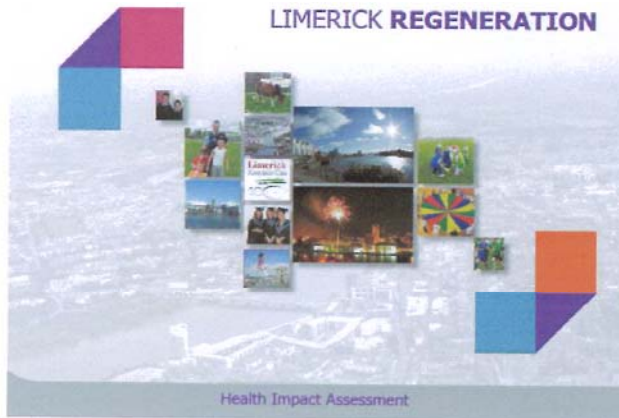
**Limerick Regeneration Health Impact
Assessment Phase 1**

*Key Recommendations to Maximise Positive
and Minimise negative Health Impacts of
Youth Space*

December 2008

'Nilhil Nisi Labore' – 'Nothing Achieved Without Effort'

Health Impact Assessment of Early School Leaving, Absenteeism and Truancy



2008

Limerick Health Promotion
Health Service Executive

Objectives for the GEMS students

- The students expected to study HIA methodology and its application and relevance to health.
- Review the literature that addresses how school environment, organisation and culture affects human health
- Review the Limerick Regeneration Agencies HIAs use the information to collaborate with the SAUL and SIE team
- Gain knowledge through review of about current HIA literature Education and Green Space
- Gain knowledge of interagency collaboration and partnerships.

Student Feedback

“It is clear that the medical profession cannot expect to garner the self-same respect proffered it in times gone-by, if it fails to engage meaningfully with the communities it serves ”.

Collaboration GEMS+SAUL

- “Real insight into the need for this type of engagement
- Clarified how easily one could become engaged and conscious of one’s social obligations
- Imperative for regeneration that all professions, not purely medical invest in their communities and in their obligations in their communities”

Collaborative Approach

- With the support of the Institute of Public Health, an inter-agency, inter-professional collaboration was supported the projects.
- The Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH)
- University of Limerick's Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS)
- School of Architecture, University of Limerick (SAUL)
- Strategic Initiative in Education (SIE) of the Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Limerick
- Limerick Regeneration Agency
- Communities in the Limerick Regeneration Areas

Genesis of Summer Projects

- Collaboration alliances among organisations are touted as a significant strategy that organisations can use to cope with the turbulence and complexity of their environments (Gray, 1989).