

Buchanan High School-

Discussion of health concerns

Dr David Cromie

6 June 19

Introduction

- Dr David Cromie
- Consultant in Public Health Medicine NHS Lanarkshire (since 1998)
 - Health protection (identification and prevention of diseases due to infection and environmental sources)
- NHS Lanarkshire employee since 1993
- Previously in general practice in NI

Background

- Individuals with health concerns ~
- Understand potential for wider concern
- Linked with NLC & others
- Investigations (6 months)
 - Several colleagues
- Summarise and discuss findings

Overview of concerns

- Contaminated land
- Cancer cases
- Copper in drinking water
- Arsenic
- Combination of the four

Contaminated land

- History of site known
- Build in light of known issues
- Appropriate building controls
- Current assessment controls are intact
- Health effect needs pathway from 'contaminant' to the person
- Physical barriers in place
- No general health effect

Cancer cases

- Number of people with cancer
- Different cancers but bladder cancer main concern
- Especially around link with blue water
- Detailed interviews with people affected
- Review within department & consultant from Health Protection Scotland & past Director WoS Cancer registry.

Cancer cases 2

- Bladder cancer (Scot)
 - 9th most common cancer
 - M:F = 2:1
 - 100 per year Lan
 - ‘Latency’ time from exposure to cause to cancer occurring typically 15-40 yrs
- Vary
 - Dose
 - Length of time
 - Substance
 - Type of cancer
 - Age
 - Genetics
 - Medical conditions
- Minimum ‘latency’ around 10 years

Cancer cases 3

- Conclusion of the investigation
 - since the Buchanan HS opened in 2012 and that
 - people have been diagnosed in the intervening period and that
 - the minimum time from exposure to developing symptoms is greater than the time people have been at the school then
 - being at Buchanan HS is not a causal factor in the development of these cancers

Copper in drinking water

- blue tinge
- NLC tested +ve two outlets in Nov 18
- 3.7mg & 7.5 mg
- SW test also (higher)
- Copper has permissible limits
 - Based on gastric irritation effects
- Classified internationally as not cancer causing
- Subsequent remediation & tests normal range
- No ongoing PH implications

Arsenic and health effects

- Arsenic 2 forms
 - Toxic poisonous
 - Non-toxic
- PH aware of concerns re. child reported (media)
- Investigation
- Patient confidentiality
- Drinking water tests (undetectable/within permissible limits)
- Conclusion: no PH risk from arsenic due to Buchanan HS

Combination of concerns: conclusion

- We take public concern very seriously
- PH and EH take
 - Methodical
 - Open minded
 - Teased issues apart
 - Thorough
 - Other experts
- Concluded
 - No significant risk to health from attending Buchanan HS

