THE SoPHE JOURNAL

2019 Issue 1

Your update from The Society of Public Health Engineers

Have your say on the future of THE SoPHE JOURNAL with our online survey
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THE FUTURE’S BRIGHT

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Plus all the News, Regional Round-Ups and forthcoming events
SoPHE membership
Includes members, affiliates, associates, fellows, honorary fellows, industrial associates and student members.

UK 947
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Hong Kong 127
Australia and New Zealand 48

We are also keen to hear from you, so please get involved, write an article and have your voice heard! If you have an interesting subject, knowledgeable or captivating project you would like to produce an article please contact the SoPHE Newsletter team.

Many thanks for reading.

James Ziebarth
Editor

Although risk, cases of Legionnaires’ disease have been seen in the UK and represent a life-threatening risk. ASCOB Dr. Richard Beattie sets out the three key changes to the BS to recently updated Legionella guidance that responsible persons and occupiers need to know to manage this threat effectively.

Contaminated tap water poses a serious threat to health, in particular for those with weakened or impaired immune systems, and recent studies show an increase in infections in healthcare facilities. For example, in 1996 a hospital was fined £200,000 and a private care home £5 million in the UK for health and safety breaches that resulted in patients’ deaths due to Legionnaires’ disease.

Employers, occupiers and others responsible for the control of hospitals and premises across sectors need to ensure that the quality of water they provide is safe, and actively work to reduce the risks of exposure to infection.

To help with this, the BS recently published BS6868-1:2019 Water quality, risk assessments for Legionella in healthcare facilities. The three key changes to the BS to recently updated Legionella guidance that responsible persons and occupiers need to know to manage this threat effectively.

The views and opinions expressed in this edition of the SoPHE NEWSLETTER are not necessarily those held by Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers. SoPHE NEWSLETTER is circulated to Public Health Engineers who are members of SoPHE, as well as CIBSE.

The term ‘competence’ is often used in water guidelines, but rarely defined in detail. And prior to the 2019 guidance, no minimum level of qualitative experience has been required to undertake risk assessments.

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Welcome to the latest edition of the SoPHE Journal. As I am sure you are all aware, it has been a little while since we last published an edition of the Journal that has landed on your doorstep and I am pleased to announce that we have now received the first of our requests for more issues to be issued. We are, however, developing plans for the future of the Journal and we will be looking to launch a new series in the near future.

In this edition, Jonathan Gaunt talks about new society growth, the shifting shape of SoPHE, importance of education within the discipline and Bursaries to promote our valued youngsters.

Jonathan Gaunt
Chairman@sophe.co.uk

The Journal from The Society of Public Health Engineers

A word from the Chair

Continuing the work to improve the future of the industry

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The Journal from The Society of Public Health Engineers

An education masterclass

Continuing the work to improve the future of the industry

Jonathan Gaunt
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The Journal from The Society of Public Health Engineers
Considering the legionella risk in domestic water services

Richard K. Beattie, Associate Engineer at AECOM Glasgow

Due to the modern advances in technology combined with the strive to conserve water (e.g. low flush toilets, low flow devices) it is clear there is a need to object current and reliable data on building water consumption to allow building water demand to be more accurately assessed. Without considering the evolutions of current practices which reduce or limit building water consumption, demand and water turn-over rates can lead to stagnation of water in domestic installations and result in public health issues. i.e. bacteria growth.

If Legionella are stressed via, starvation, low oxygenation, or physical stress, e.g. UV light or treatment they can opt for a VBNC state rather than continue to thrive. In this VBNC state they can remain viable for very long periods of time. To become active again they need to be exposed to a nutrient, which cells stick to each other and often also to surfaces. These adherent cells become embedded within a slimy extracellular matrix that is composed of extracellular polymeric substances (EPS).

Other risk systems include smaller and larger water systems, e.g. domestic water systems within private homes, city water systems, water and melting snow systems etc. [1]

Legionella must however reach the water system to colonise. This means that Legionella bacteria to multiply requires 2 factors; growth and proliferation is 37°C - 45°C. Water at temperatures below 20°C, e.g. drinking water, does not support the growth of Legionella. For Legionella to proliferate there are a number of conditions required [2]

1. Water temperature in the system between 20°C - 45°C.
2. Potential for water aerosols to be formed and become airborne.
3. Presence of deposits in the system, such as scale, organic matter, rust, scale and nutrient.
4. Airborne or water born in a){2} a){2} to the intended reader and cover the following.

Contamination:
- An evaluation of the risk at source, including assessment of the levels and integrity of the water supply.
- An evaluation of the probability of the cultivation conditions within the assessment of the likelihood of Legionella to water droplets (2). These measures include:.
- By avoiding water temperatures 20°C to 45°C.
- Control water spray.
- Avoid water stagnation.
- Reduce contact of the water with other water droplets or other water.
- Air treatment.
- An assessment of whether droplets or water droplets are likely to form and spread.
- A risk assessment of the risk of droplets or water droplets in water contaminated or water contaminated water aspirated.
- Risk susceptibility.
- An evaluation of the nature of the exposed population taking account of their potential to be exposed to Legionella. The following list describes the different ways in which Legionella can enter a building or system risk options which can help prevent Legionella proliferation within domestic water systems: 1. & 4. but has been extended from the references)

Cold-water system:
- The cold-water outlet, mains or stored water above 20°C.
- Suspected cold or hot water outlets are disconnected or run full flow until temperature stabilises weekly also to achieve a temperature >60°C.
- Dead legs are removed and piped fully. If possible if not then they should be managed as per L8 paragraph 80 and specifically flow through the Legionella risk assessment.
- The cold water storage tank shall be an appropriate size for the demand.
- Through flow of water from inlet to outlet of the tap, for good turbulent flow.
- A 4ink and required is installed on overflow, warnings pipes and air vents.
- The exit flow fits with the appropriate backwater protection.
- And the temperature achieves >60°C - with pipes fitted where possible to prevent heat gain.

Hot-water system:
- Storage temperature >60°C.
- Check for temperature variations regularly.
- Check a temperature, usage and recovery rates.
- All hot water outlets achieve >60°C within 1 minute unless fitted with an L8 TMV.
- Remove any dead legs, if possible.
- Install or extend secondary pipework if required in the design.
- The above measures should not be excessive, but may contribute to minimising Legionella growth in domestic hot and cold water installations.

Legionella risk scoring systems
- The implementation of a risk scoring system or ‘risk algorithm’ as an aid to understanding the relative risk of the systems assessed. However, assessing the relative risk associated with Legionella in the water system, exposure has to be avoided so far as is reasonably practicable. Where the risk is not reasonably practicable a Written Scheme for controlling the risk should be implemented and properly managed. The scheme should specify measures to be taken to ensure it remains effective.

Controlling the risk
- The risk of exposure is typically controlled by means which may include physical growth and also by reducing exposure to settled water droplets (2). These measures include:
- The results of checks indicating that: the temperature of the water is consistent with the temperature of the water distribution system only causes shearing of biofilms. If Legionella are stressed via, starvation, low oxygenation, or physical stress, e.g. UV light or treatment they can opt for a VBNC state rather than continue to thrive. In this VBNC state they can remain viable for very long periods of time. To become active again they need to be exposed to a nutrient, which cells stick to each other and often also to surfaces. These adherent cells become embedded within a slimy extracellular matrix that is composed of extracellular polymeric substances (EPS).

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SoPHE Technical update

A technical forum was organised on the 4th June 2019, primarily to gather designers’ opinions and concerns associated with lack of guidance on the provision for ventilation in drainage systems.

The forum’s objective was:
- To provide an insight from professionals with regards to three key categories associated with ventilation in drainage stacks.

Designers’ Perspective – Peter White – Director, FRITAC-HLS

Manufacturers’ Perspective – Steve White – Head of Building Drainage

Global – Albasim Group

Researchers’ Perspective – Dr Michael Gomery – Heriot-Watt University

To get under and understand the Industry’s concerns about UK current practice.

Open forum to discuss the way forward to assist the industry, in particular, the designers of drainage systems.

The design of ventilation in drainage stacks are limited to the provision made in BS EN 12056 Part 1 and design guides. However, it is understood that there is no clear guidance on the subject, particularly when considering the design of high rise building drainage ventilation system.

The current practice within our industry is to use our best engineering judgement to incorporate the “appropriate and adequate ventilation system within our drainage design. This approach is resulting in an inconsistency and lack of standardisation for the provision of ventilation in drainage systems. Some design engineers start to introduce secondary ventilation for 15-storey buildings and above, whereas some will choose to use 20-storey as a threshold. Which one is right?

Some questions that the next TB will hopefully be able to answer include, when do we need to start considering secondary ventilation in drainage system? Do we have clear guidelines in our BS and other Standards?

What is the UK current and best practice? Is hydraulic modelling of Drainage systems becoming a new International standards, including American Standard 1415 and AS1045? What is the necessary relevant calculations and methodologies to be used in the design associated with ventilation in drainage stacks? Loading of statics and Ventilation requirements?

Your comments and feedback on the next TB are welcomed and please send your comments to technical@sophe.co.uk.

Technical Events

For future SoPHE events please visit us at www.sophe.co.uk

Contact SoPHE’s Events team at events@sophe.co.uk if you wish to propose some ideas on future events.

Technical Publications

If you would like to see future publications in relevant topics please send us your suggestions at technical@sophe.co.uk.

Project Specific Chambers

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Join the SoPHE Masterclass Scheme

The SoPHE Young Engineers Network committee has been working hard developing a training scheme to help young engineers at the start of their career. Our aim is to prepare a range of comprehensive courses, material for approximately 8 hours of training in Public Health Design related subjects including:

- Rainwater Drainage Design
- Domestic Water Design
- Domestic Waste Water Services Design
- Pressure protection (with inclusion of domestic and residential sprinkler design)
- Gas Services Design
- Medical Gas Design
- Below Ground Drainage Systems

If you are interested in joining our mission to help provide young engineers with robust training, please contact the organisers within SoPHE technical@sophe.co.uk.

Designers and Contractors now have the opportunity to consider factory-fabricated products designed to improve installation programs and enhance on-site safety. The selection of white built valve stacks and assemblies and modular boiler rooms is also becoming standard procedure by mechanical engineers as they are a proven and effective alternative for traditional site installation.

For DMRB to be considered for project utilisation, early engagement with the manufacturer is essential in order to ensure that the manufacturer can deliver the specified interconnecting pipework between the manholes, such as cast iron, vitreous clay or other thermoplastic pipe systems, ensuring that the internal bore diameters correspond. Mechanical type joints can be used for manhole connections, alternatively Electro Fusion jointing or interconnecting PP-4 pipe can provide a fully welded drainage system thus preventing any potential groundwater issues or root attack into the drainage system.

During manhole selection it is important that Public Health Engineers are aware of current manufacturer standards and the relevant testing required for associated specifications.

Thermoplastic manholes should be designed and manufactured to BS EN ISO 12459, which is also mentioned is known for Adoption of DMRB thermoplastic manholes can be fabricated to suit specific project drainage layouts, with branch sizes and angles corresponding directly with the drainage layout design. The thermoplastic manhole has a smooth finish and also provides superior resistance to the build-up of fats, oils and greases.

Pipework dimensions will need to be altered by the manufacturer to suit the specified interconnecting pipework between the manholes, such as cast iron, vitreous clay or other thermoplastic pipe systems, ensuring that the internal bore diameters correspond. Mechanical type joints can be used for manhole connections, alternatively Electro Fusion jointing or interconnecting PP-4 pipe can provide a fully welded drainage system thus preventing any potential groundwater issues or root attack into the drainage system.

The majority of thermoplastic manholes are manufactured using either high Density Polyethylene (HDPE) or High-density Polypropylene (PP-4). Both of these materials have good corrosion resistant properties however PP-4 offers an increased operational temperature.

DMR thermoplastic manholes can be fabricated to suit specific project drainage

Stay on track by going off-site

In no way reflect any one specific project or AECOM design. The issues and mitigation measures have been compiled from the experience of multiple engineers from many sites over several years.

REFERENCES

[7] AECOM design. The issues and mitigation measures have been worked hard developing a training scheme to help young engineers at the start of their career. Our aim is to prepare a range of comprehensive courses, material for approximately 8 hours of training in Public Health Design related subjects including Rainwater Drainage Design, Domestic Water Design, Domestic Waste Water Services Design, Pressure protection (with inclusion of domestic and residential sprinkler design) Gas Services Design, Medical Gas Design, Below Ground Drainage Systems.

SoPHE Technical update

Incorporating offsite manufacture into drainage solutions by DfMA Thermoplastic Manholes

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Regional round-up

Thank you to all SoPHE members, including our Technical, Industry and Contractors group members for their continued support for the various regional groups.

SoPHE North West

Technical events occur on a regular basis and topics must go to all the Industrial Associate (IA) members willing to provide these, as well as those individuals willing to attend. I know that on some nights the football fan (Man Utd or Man City) may appear to be more important but these evenings are provided for your benefit. At the time of writing, the next available date slot for an to provide a technical evening is NOVEMBER 2022!

An example of some may have been seen in the CBSE Journal, the SoPHE Northern Dinner took place on Friday 10th May in which we had 50 people attend the guest speaker was Graham Poll, ex-premiership referee who is infamous for booking the same player 3 times in the same match at the World Cup!! Great stories were told by Graham who had the audience captivated by his humour & entertaining insight into the world of professional football.

Normally, the SoPHE Northern Dinner takes place on the Friday immediately after the May Day Bank Holiday Monday. However, for 2020 – due to the Government having moved the Bank Holiday – it has been necessary to hold the next dinner (our 10th!!!) to Friday 1st May 2020.

We do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend & that as many of the IA members are willing to sponsor this event. Thank you to all those that have attended & sponsored over the past years, I hope that this one will be a bit special.

If anyone should have any ideas / suggestions for an event or wishes to be more involved in what the region or doing then please contact me. I need the help in making the events a success and I will of course, help me. I hope you can get to one.

Upcoming events

Technical sessions for the Region are held on the first Thursday of every month and the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Rain Bar, Grosvenor House Hotel, Manchester. For more information, please contact the Technical Co-ordinator.

SoPHE West Midlands

SoPHE West Midlands have had some interesting technical evenings this year with presentations from Water Technologies and Other Vacuum Systems, Blucher UK Ltd, Sentinel Performance Solutions Ltd and Sam-Goban FAM UK.

We have two more technical evenings arranged later in the year with presentations from Zip Water and Gutter UK. Our current technical events are held at Curdall Offices in Birmingham with easy access to road and rail links.

We will aim for 8 more technical evenings next year and already have interest for 4 evenings.

I would like to thank all those who have supported the events to date and we are a friendly bunch and there is plenty of banter. All are welcome and it would be great to have a few more people come along to hopefully learn something from the event and catch up with the invited colleagues.

SoPHE South West

Recent events include:

10th June 2019

Water Hygiene CPD

A presentation held at Aspin’s office from Water hygiene Centre (Jordan Rickett) and from Malcolm Atherton who presented on Water Safety and best Grouping Practices, covering the following:

- Temperature monitoring (WH)
- Water sampling (WH)
- Appropriate components and tools (WH)
- Record keeping & log books (WH)
- Best engineering practices (MA)
- Do’s and Don’ts (MA)

18th September 2019

Blue Roofs from an Engineers perspective by Gavin Vaughan - Media Rotana Dubai

SoPHE UAE

SoPHE UAE has managed to retain the sponsorship of Polypipe Middle East E2E for the 4th year running, for which we are very grateful, and have shown our gratitude with a presentation of a ‘Certificate of appreciation’ at the inaugural CBSE-UAE dinner in February of this year.

The sharing of knowledge is one of the keys drivers for SoPHE in the region and we are very successful CPD seminars that are held at Media Rotana Dubai have continued with events in March, April and future events in October and November. The seminars are very popular with regular attendance figures of 50+. We provide a varied agenda of knowledge based seminars and CPD certificates for the attendees, which is deemed as especially significant for Engineers in this region.

Challenges in the region are ongoing. To facilitate an easier route in design, SoPHE and CBSE have collaborated on regional design guides for building services in Dubai which will be officially released before the end of the year.

SoPHE UAE will continue to flourish with a joint effort with the CBSE UAE. There is a strong focus for all membership categories but in particular on University Students membership. We would particularly like to thank Supheer-Rezquapa and the CBSE-UAE committee members, for their continued support.

SoPHE Scotland

SoPHE Scotland since Dr Richard Beattie was handed the reins by Jonathan Coulter to develop the SoPHE Scotland branch in March, it’s been slow but building progressive momentum to show SoPHE Scotland at its best. To bolster SoPHE, Richard had the privilege of attending the DSIBC Scotland Conference, Glasgow – ‘Evolving Building Technology’ on the 18th March this year. Where standing at our SoPHE stand we received some attention and some potential new joiners.

Richard was then fortunate to be invited to the Northern Dinner organised by Malcolm Atherton, kindly sponsored by John Wilson of Towsley couplings, this allowed him to discuss the Scotland branch further.

With the holiday season appearing rapidly, we decided to have some technical evening CPDs after the holiday period and after the Edinburgh Festival.

Going forward then, we have been in discussion for two technical evenings, with a different manufacturer, details TBC. Each is expected to be held at the Edinburgh Training and Conference venue, City Centre.

Richard will also be attending the Healthcare Estates Conference and Exhibition, Manchester Central in October. Where he will be presenting in the main conference hall as a SoPHE representative and then stationed at the SoPHE stand for the remainder of the day.

SoPHE LinkedIn Group is approaching 900 Members

The SoPHE LinkedIn group is growing and is fast becoming an important membership connection. The CBSE UAE group members include designers and consultants from the UK and abroad, also members from other SoPHE regions like academic & contractors, planners and local authorities, also equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

“The SoPHE LinkedIn group is a very convenient hub to share information on any upcoming events organised by the Society in all regions, also a share point for the industry announcements. It is used to exchange ideas or just to explore on other members experience and advice” says Steve Vaughan from AECON, one of the group managers.

Be inspired to join the group share your views, experience on any technical subject and add to our discussion!

To join us on LinkedIn search CBSE-SoPHE.
Collaborative Working Group updates

**Water Management Society (WM Soc)**

**Steve Vaughan**

The Water Management Society (WM Soc), for those of you who are not aware are a society that endeavours to provide definitive and informed guidance on the control of Legionella, Legionnaires’ disease, Pseudomonas, other water-borne organisms and all related aspects of water management. They also strive to maintain and improve associated standards within the industry and provide a high level of expertise and knowledge as part of comprehensive training schemes.

Future partnership plans include developing a SoPHE training event at the WM Soc facilities where their practical training area has test rigs which allow faults to be replicated within domestic hot and cold water systems for diagnostic analysis.

It has also been agreed that SoPHE members can attend WM Soc technical events and CPD’s at member rates. Their next conference is titled “Designing Out 3” on 20th November will include presentations on Smarter Healthcare design, New hospital with new problems and Engineering for Public Health which will be presented by our very own Chair, Jonathan Gaunt.

For further details and registration please go online at https://www.wmsoc.org.uk

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**IHEEM Collaborative**

**Malcolm Atherton**

Due to the good working relationship between SoPHE Northern & IHEEM NW region that has grown over many years, it was felt appropriate that the Northern region representative should approach IHEEM with a view to creating a collaboration to work together for a “common goal”.

This, obviously, has had to be carried out on a formal basis and as a result, the Memorandum of Understanding document was provided to the local region for review and comment, before being forwarded onto the Institute’s head office committee for their comments.

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**Industrial Working Group update**

**Alan Flight**

Less than 12 months ago Mike Darvill hung up his gloves as Chairman of the IWG following several years of stewardship. We thank and congratulate Mike for his years of hard work as Chairman of the IWG, by guiding the group through Annual Dinners, enhancing the IWG organisation to grow membership and keeping pace with the busy events calendar. His positive influence on the industry is highly evident. Mike has now taken a back role as IWG Events Manager.

I was sworn in as temporary Chair at the end of last year to be officially sworn in at the IWG Annual General Meeting in the summer.

To give an overview to the strides taken over the last 12 months by the IWG these include:

- Our 13th SoPHE Annual Dinner at the Royal Garden Hotel with a successful Young Engineers award ceremony, a £1000 charitable donation to the chosen SoPHE charity – “Engineers Without Borders” and a healthy profit to help fund other SoPHE activities.
- The Northern Dinner organised by Malcolm Atherton who has tirelessly worked for many years in running a great event with the usual IWG Charitable donation and profits.
- The IWG holding its first manufactures exhibition at the Building Centre in London. This had approximately 30 companies exhibiting. An informative presentation on ‘The successful drainage design of flat roofs’ by Dr. Malcolm Wearing was well received.
- We have a contractors Group within the IWG which is guided by Sanjay Modasia from J.A. Brooks. Sanjay has been working on training programmes with colleagues for plumbing apprentices and has now officially represented SoPHE in assisting the setup of the Plumbing Centres of Excellence at Havering college. Please refer to the Education Group update for further information on this.
- We have a larger range of CPD training presentations offered from within the IWG of which details can be found on the CIBSE website. There has also been a number of Young Engineers training events this year sponsored by the IWG.
- Our IWG membership has also grown healthily to over 70 manufacturers.
- The IWG meets its objectives through the hard work of 15 very active committee members that meet quarterly. We also meet bi-monthly with the main SoPHE Steering Group Committee to review the objectives, activities and goals.

If you would like to know more about the Industry Working Group or would like to contribute, please contact me. Email: alan.flight@bwater.eu

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**SoPHE and CIPHE partnership goes from strength to strength**

**Martin Shouler**

SoPHE and CIPHE have been collaborating for many years, especially developing new guidance for the public health engineering practitioners. The two professional organisations are now building a more formal structure and have agreed to work to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). As well as collaborating technically, this collaboration will bring the opportunity to develop a common position on issues affecting the sector.

SoPHE Chairman Jonathan Gaunt commented that ‘this collaboration will help further the art and science of public health engineering’.

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**Contributions**

We would welcome any contributions to future editions, please let us know about:

- Future events
- Items or comments you think may be worth raising or informing your fellow members.
- Technical articles from members, giving situations encountered and how they were overcome.

Email: info@sophe.co.uk

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**Feedback**

We’re always open to suggestions about how we can make this publication better for our members. Please share your opinions and ideas about what we should be providing to our members.

Email: info@sophe.co.uk

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**Social**

The SoPHE LinkedIn group (Society of Public Health Engineers (CIBSE SoPHE)) is an ideal platform to reach out to your SoPHE colleagues to discuss new technologies, raise technical queries and keep up-to-date with what’s going on with SoPHE in your region. You can also follow the latest updates on Twitter @The_SoPHE

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**Contact SoPHE**

Telephone: +44 (0)20 8675 5211
Email: sophe@cibse.org
Find out more at www.cibse.org

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We would welcome any contributions to future editions, please let us know about:

- Future events
- Items or comments you think may be worth raising or informing your fellow members.
- Technical articles from members, giving situations encountered and how they were overcome.

Email: info@sophe.co.uk

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**Feedback**

We’re always open to suggestions about how we can make this publication better for our members. Please share your opinions and ideas about what we should be providing to our members.

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**Social**

The SoPHE LinkedIn group (Society of Public Health Engineers (CIBSE SoPHE)) is an ideal platform to reach out to your SoPHE colleagues to discuss new technologies, raise technical queries and keep up-to-date with what’s going on with SoPHE in your region. You can also follow the latest updates on Twitter @The_SoPHE

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