



City of Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 9th Nov 2023

Agenda Item No. 10

To: Health and Wellbeing Board

Report Title: Smoke Free Generation - Proposed Legislation

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision?
Cllr Rachael Blake Cllr Nigel Ball	Doncaster wide	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1) On 4th October, the Prime Minister outlined potential legislation to raise the age of sale for tobacco by one year every year and to tighten restrictions on the sale of vapes to children and young people. The Government's proposals will help Doncaster to achieve the ambition of a smokefree England by 2030 and ensure children and young people do not become addicted to tobacco in the first place.

EXEMPT REPORT

- 2) No

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3) The Board is asked to support the proposed changes to legislations for:
 - a) Age of sale
 - b) Marketing of vapes

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

- 4) This proposed legislative change would have a profound impact on society and could be the most significant public health intervention of our lifetime, saving tens of thousands of lives and billions of pounds for the NHS, social care, and society as a whole.

- 5) In Doncaster, tobacco use impacts many aspects of our community. Around 12% of Doncaster people aged over 18 smoke, which is around 30,200 people. Smoking is still the leading cause of preventable ill health and death, and a major driver of differences in health between rich and poor.
- 6) Most smokers start young, they regret ever starting and try to quit multiple times. Two thirds of adult smokers have started smoking before they reach 18 years old. The proposed age of sale legislation has the potential to phase out smoking in young people almost completely as early as 2040.
- 7) Each year in Doncaster, 5200 people are admitted to hospital and tobacco kills around 675 people. Implementing this policy will mean that some of Doncaster's more vulnerable communities will be able to live healthier longer lives, and ultimately lead to a future free from the harm and death caused by tobacco.

BACKGROUND

- 8) Public Health at City of Doncaster Council supports the recent proposals by the Prime Minister made on Wednesday, 4th October to raise the age of sale for tobacco by one year every year, and proposals to tighten restrictions on the sale of vapes to children and young people.
- 9) The Proposed Legislation

a) Age of Sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed legislation would make it an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1st January 2009, meaning children turning 14 or younger this year will never be able to be legally sold cigarettes. • This will raise the smoking age by one year each year until it applies to the whole population. • The proposed legislation will not make it illegal for any person to smoke, but it will affect the legal age of sale for cigarettes and place restrictions on the marketing of vapes.
b) Sale of Vapes to Children & Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation has been launched on possible measures to curb the rise in youth vaping by reducing the appeal and availability of vapes to children. Options under consideration include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ restricting flavours ○ regulating point of sale displays ○ regulating packaging and presentation ○ considering restricting the supply and sale of disposable vapes ○ whether regulations should extend to non-nicotine vapes ○ It is important to strike a balance on availability of vapes to ensure they are available for adults to help them quit smoking.

Evidence and Impact

- 10) In Doncaster, tobacco use impacts many aspects of our community. Around 12% of Doncaster people aged over 18 smoke, which is around 30,200 people. Smoking is still the leading cause of preventable ill health and death, and a major driver of differences in health between rich and poor. This proposed legislation will have a profound impact on society and will benefit every single constituent across Doncaster.
- 11) Smoking has traditionally been framed as personal lifestyle choice, when in reality it is an addiction to tobacco. For many, this addiction begins in childhood. Most smokers start young, regret ever starting and try to quit multiple times. Two thirds of adult smokers have started smoking before they reach 18 years old. In Doncaster's 2022 pupil lifestyle survey of year 8 and year 10 pupils, 368 young people described themselves as smokers.
- 12) Addiction means people often want to quit but can't. Their freedom of choice has been taken away, causing harm to the individual and those around them, including, through passive smoking and smoking in pregnancy.
- 13) In Doncaster's 2022 pupil lifestyle survey, 37% of 2502 primary school age children in years 4 and 6 reported living with someone who smoked, this rose was higher (48%) to children who are entitled to free school meals and higher (53%) for children with Special Educational Needs.
- 14) Each year in Doncaster, 5200 people are admitted to hospital and tobacco kills around 675 people. Overall, it is estimated that smoking costs Doncaster £121m each year including costs of healthcare, social care, lost productivity, and fire costs.

The Khan Review – Making Smoking Obsolete

- 15) In 2019, the government set an objective for England to be smokefree by 2030, meaning only 5% of the population would smoke by then. The Khan Review is an independent review commissioned by the UK Government in 2022. The Khan Report (2022) found that without further action, England will miss the smokefree 2030 target by at least 7 years, it also noted the disparity between the richest and poorest. The report included the statement:

'The lethal dependence of smoking is not being shared between the richest and poorest. Rates of smoking in areas like Wakefield (18.6%) and Doncaster (18.3%), are decades behind rates in wealthier areas such as Richmond upon Thames (6.2%).'

Current Approaches and Services in Doncaster

- 16) Doncaster already has smoking cessation services for adults, pregnant women and young people. There is also investment in regulatory services. Doncaster's Tobacco Control Network coordinates this alongside wider actions on smoke free places and with schools.
- 17) Alongside the legislation proposals, local Councils will receive additional funding over a 5 year period to support more people who want to quit. Regulatory services will also receive additional funding to inform and, where required, on enforcement. Additional funding will used to enhance and target the existing offer.

CONCLUSION

- 18) The Government's proposals will help us achieve the ambition of a smokefree England by 2030 and ensure children and young people do not become addicted to tobacco in the first place.
- 19) Implementing this policy will mean that some of Doncaster's more vulnerable communities will be able to live healthier longer lives, and ultimately lead to a future free from the harm and death caused by tobacco.
- 20) We owe it to our future generations to put in place measures to safeguard them from the harm caused by tobacco.

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