



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DERBYSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

28 March 2024

Report of the Director of Public Health

East Midlands Regional Public Health Vaping Position Statement for endorsement and Update on Additional Stop Smoking Funding

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
- a) Endorse the East Midlands Regional Public Health Vaping position statement.
 - b) Note the update on additional stop smoking funding and initial ideas for planned spend.
 - c) Commit to supporting work to encourage more people in Derbyshire to quit smoking.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 14% of adults in Derbyshire smoke (2022) which is higher than the national average of 12.7%. It is higher in routine and manual workers, those with serious mental illness (40%) and those living in more deprived areas. Smoking is still the biggest avoidable cause of premature mortality and of inequalities in healthy life expectancy. It has a significant financial impact on the NHS, social care and wider society with an estimated cost to Derbyshire of £256 million (including £27.7m in NHS costs, £19.2m in social care costs and £203.2m due to lost earnings and unemployment. Further costs arise from house fires.) Smoking in pregnancy is also higher in Derbyshire (11.8%) than England (9.1%) and leads to increased rates of miscarriage premature birth and low birth weight.

- 2.2 Progress has been made during 2023 in terms of strategic approach with publication of Health Needs Assessments for both Derbyshire and Derby City and launch of a new Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Tobacco Control Board that will bring key stakeholders together to work in partnership to reduce tobacco use. Reducing smoking prevalence is a significant contributor to meeting all four key aims of the Derbyshire ICS Strategy, Stay Well element, with a commitment to increasing the number of people referred to smoking cessation programmes as part of the prevention of ill-health, with a particular focus on people living in the most deprived communities and people with SMI.
- 2.3 Local authority stop smoking services are provided to those in Derbyshire through the in house 'Live life better Derbyshire' offer which offers a health and wellbeing MOT and then access to a local stop smoking service with 12 weeks of behavioural support. LLBD has since late 2022 begun to deliver the JUCD Tobacco Dependency Treatment (TDT) programme aimed at all adult inpatients, pregnant women and their partners, and mental health inpatients. To date the TDT programme has helped over 400 inpatients and pregnant women to quit smoking. As of January 2024 vapes are also part of the offer in the community and as part of the TDT programme to adults only, alongside Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) which is always offered as a choice.
- 2.4 In recognition of the rapidly developing evidence base, policy environment and increasing public interest and debate around vaping, The East Midlands Tobacco Control Community of Improvement has developed a Regional Vaping Position Statement. This brings together the latest evidence and information to provide clarity on the public health consensus around vaping across the region. The East Midlands Tobacco Control Community of Improvement is a network of professionals (including Local Authority Public Health Teams) who aim to reduce smoking prevalence across the East Midlands through regional collaboration.
- 2.5 The Regional Vaping Position Statement has been endorsed by:
- East Midlands Local Authority Public Health Tobacco Control Leads
 - The Association of Directors of Public Health East Midlands
 - Trading Standards Leads across the East Midlands.
- 2.6 The Regional Vaping Position Statement outlines the following evidence-based key messages on vaping:
- For people who smoke, vaping is much safer; if you don't smoke, don't vape.

- Smoking is a leading cause of death and ill health in the East Midlands and is a significant contributor to health inequalities in the region.
- Though not risk free, vaping is considerably safer than smoking. As such, smokers across the East Midlands are encouraged to switch to vaping to reduce the harm from combustible tobacco.
- Vapes are an effective stop smoking aid, especially when combined with behavioural support. Smokers who want to switch to vaping (to quit) are encouraged to do so with the help of their local stop smoking service.
- Vapes are an age restricted product, and we are against inappropriate marketing practices that promote them to under 18's. Trading Standards should be given the tools necessary to undertake enforcement work and other measures to protect children and young people across the East Midlands.
- Vapes are not for children, and their use should be reserved exclusively for adult smokers. The increase in youth vaping is concerning, and public health teams across the East Midlands should continue to monitor the situation. Furthermore, those working in trading standards, and education settings, should be supported in addressing this issue.
- There is currently insufficient evidence to assess whether vaping is absolutely safe during pregnancy, however, the harms of tobacco smoking are well known and all pregnant women who smoke should be supported to quit. The current consensus is that pregnant women who want to switch to vaping (to quit) should not be discouraged from doing so providing they understand that e-cigarettes are not medically licensed.

2.7 The most robust evidence on nicotine vaping is contained within the [Nicotine Vaping in England: 2022 evidence update](#). The report is the most comprehensive to date, its main focus being a systematic review of the evidence on the health risks of nicotine vaping. Based on the evidence within the review, a summary of conclusions is that:

- In the short and medium term, vaping poses a small fraction of the risks of smoking, but that vaping is not risk-free, particularly for people who have never smoked.
- There is significantly lower exposure to harmful substances from vaping compared with smoking, as shown by biomarkers associated with the risk of cancer, respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. However, there is similar or higher

exposure to harmful substances from vaping compared with not using any nicotine products.

- There is no significant increase of toxicant biomarkers after short-term second-hand exposure to vaping among people who do not smoke or vape.

2.8 There is a national ambition to achieve smokefree status in England by 2030 (defined as smoking prevalence 5% or less). To achieve this ambition the government is adding significant resource to local authority led stop smoking services from April 2024 for a 5-year period.

2.9 The detailed grant conditions for the Stopping the Start additional funding has yet to be released but the expectation is that this additional funding can be used for:

- Building demand for local stop smoking service support and services by marketing and promotion of services and improving referral pathways.
- Building capacity for local stop smoking support and services including additional specialist staff to deliver stop smoking interventions, improving the knowledge and skills of non-specialist staff (other healthcare professionals like nurses and pharmacists), to extend the reach of stop smoking interventions and increasing the spend on stop smoking pharmacotherapy such as nicotine replacement therapy.

2.10 For Derbyshire the additional funding in 2024/25 will be £1.083m.

3 Alternative Options Considered

3.8 Not to endorse the East Midlands position statement on vaping. This is not the recommended option as it will continue the current situation where stakeholders across Derbyshire have different views and positions on vaping which makes strategic planning difficult and is confusing for the public.

4 Implications

4.8 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

5 Consultation

5.1 N/A

6 Partnership Opportunities

6.8 Opportunities have been identified to engage with stakeholders through Health and Wellbeing partnerships and place alliance meetings, where approaches to further encourage people into local stop smoking services are being discussed. Further work with system stakeholders to develop partnership involvement in order to reduce smoking prevalence will be undertaken. Examples of opportunities for partners to increase the number of people stopping smoking include:

- Ensuring front line staff complete Very Brief Advice (VBA) training and use the Ask, Assess, Act approach in their work to encourage smokers to quit in a non-judgemental way
- Promote the support available to local people to stop smoking in buildings which the public access e.g. leisure centres, cultural venues, offices etc.
- Promoting stop smoking to staff to encourage them to quit
- Asking front line staff to promote stop smoking to other organisations e.g. EHO's undertaking health and safety inspections
- Working with ALMO's and other social housing providers to promote stop smoking to social housing tenants

7 Background Papers

7.1 [Nicotine Vaping in England: 2022 evidence update.](#) (OHID, 2022)

8 Appendices

8.8 Appendix 1 – Implications.

8.9 Appendix 2 – Copy of East Midlands Vaping Position Statement

9 Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- a) Endorse the East Midlands Regional Public Health Vaping position statement.
- b) Note the update on additional stop smoking funding and initial ideas for planned spend.
- c) Commit to supporting work to encourage more people in Derbyshire to quit smoking.

10 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 10.8 Endorsement of the East Midlands position statement by the Health and Wellbeing Board will support system partners to develop their own policies and practice with regard to vaping. It will enable provision of clear consistent and unified communications, messaging and information around vaping for the public.
- 10.9 To support work to reduce the prevalence of smoking in Derbyshire to improve the health of the local population and improve health inequalities.

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Implications

Financial

1.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

Legal

2.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

Human Resources

3.1 There are no human resource implications of this report.

Equalities Impact

4.1 There are no equalities implications to this report. LLBD has recently completed a Health Equity Audit to help improve service accessibility and outcomes.

Partnerships

- a) 5.1 Health and Wellbeing Board members are encouraged to use the East Midlands Regional Public Health Vaping position statement to develop their own policies and practice.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities

6.1 The issues discussed in this report contribute to the following Health and Wellbeing Board priority:

- Enable people in Derbyshire to live healthy lives.

Other implications

7.1 N/A