

15 November 2023**Agenda Item:5**

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

CHAIR'S REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The report provides an update by the Chair on local and national issues for consideration by Health and Wellbeing Board members to determine implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022 – 2026. This particular report focusses on the new national plans to bring forward legislation to create a smokefree generation.

Information

Context

2. Smoking damages and cuts short lives in extraordinary numbers. It increases stillbirths and can trigger asthma in children, increases the risk of strokes and causes disability and death throughout the life course. It drives many cancers, particularly lung cancer which is the most common cause of cancer deaths in both women and men in the UK. It also causes and accelerates heart disease.
3. It is the UK's biggest preventable killer, responsible for 64,000 deaths a year in England and is the single largest driver of health inequalities. It puts a significant pressure on the NHS, with almost one hospital admission every minute attributable to smoking and up to 75,000 GP appointments each month taken up by smoking-related illness. It is also highly addictive, with 4 in 5 smokers starting smoking before the age of 20 and remaining addicted for the rest of their lives.
4. In Nottingham (21.2%) and Nottinghamshire (12.6%), smoking remains the leading cause of preventable ill health. In 2022, smoking rates in adults were above the national average (12.7%) in Nottingham and in parts of Nottinghamshire County, where smoking rates ranged from 21.4% in Mansfield down to 4% in Rushcliffe. Smoking remains the single biggest contributor to the difference in life expectancy that separates Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's most affluent and disadvantaged communities.

Creating a smokefree generation

5. On 4 October 2023 the Government announced plans to introduce a new law to protect future generations from the harms of smoking. Drawing on recommendations made in the [2022 independent Khan review](#), the Government's proposed legislation will make it an offence for anyone born on or after 01 January 2009 to be sold tobacco products, raising the legal smoking age by a year each year, to create the first smokefree generation. It will also make it an offence

for anyone at or over the legal age to purchase tobacco products on behalf of someone born on or after 1 January 2009.

6. As is the case with current age of sale legislation, the emphasis would be on those who sell tobacco products and the phased approach means that anyone who can legally be sold cigarettes now would not be prevented from doing so in the future. These changes would be brought in following an implementation period, alongside ongoing support for current smokers to quit.
7. Preliminary government modelling focussed on 14- to 30-year-olds forecasts that the proposed legislation could further reduce smoking rates in England among this age group such that, within 3 to 10 years of implementation, they could be half of current rates and close to 0% as early as 2040 (although modelling is to be further refined ahead of the publication of a full impact assessment).
8. The smokefree generation policy is part of a set of proposals, which are outlined in the [Stopping the start](#) policy paper. A consultation regarding the new legislation and wider proposals was launched on 12 October 2023. The consultation asks questions in three areas, which include the smokefree generation policy, youth vaping and proposed enforcement powers for local authorities in relation to age of sale legislation. The consultation is open until 06 December 2023.
9. The smokefree generation policy proposed by the Government provides a unique opportunity to protect future generations from the harms of smoking. Therefore it is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board provides a response to the consultation in support of the new smokefree generation legislation. It is also proposed that a wider discussion focussed on the local system approach to smoking and tobacco is added to the work programme of the Board for 2024.

Other Options Considered

10. There was the option to not provide the Chair's Report, however this option was discounted as the Chair's Report provides important updates relating to the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Nottinghamshire.

Reasons for Recommendation

11. The Board is asked to agree for the Chair to submit a response to the smokefree generation consultation on its behalf, in support of the proposed legislation to create a smokefree generation, as it has the potential to have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of residents in Nottinghamshire and is aligned to the delivery of the tobacco priority within the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#). The legislation is also supportive of the ambition outlined by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Smoking and Tobacco Alliance in the Smoking and Tobacco Long Term Vision to create a smoke free generation by 2040.
12. The Board is also asked to agree that a future item is added to the Health and Wellbeing Board work programme to provide members the opportunity to discuss the sustainability of the local system's approach to smoking and tobacco and the potential impact of the new smokefree generation legislation if introduced.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public-sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked-

- 1) To agree that the Chair responds to the smokefree generation consultation on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2) To agree to add a future item to the Health and Wellbeing Board work programme in 2024 which focusses on the local systems approach to smoking and tobacco.

Councillor Dr John Doddy
Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board
Nottinghamshire County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Lizzie Winter
Public Health & Commissioning Manager
T: 0115 9774700
E: elizabeth.winter@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (KA 05/11/2023)

15. The recommendations fall within the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board (24 May 2023). The Board, a formal committee of Nottinghamshire County Council, tasked with promoting greater partnership between the National Health Service, public health, and local government, is able to respond to the smokefree generation consultation.

Financial Comments (DG 06/11/2023)

16. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All