

SOUTH WEST GLASGOW LHCC

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Smoking in Public Places Consultation
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Dear Sirs

SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES
- A CONSULTATION ON REDUCING EXPOSURE TO SECOND-SMOKE

The response on behalf of South West Glasgow Local Health Care Co-operative is as follows:

1. Having considered the risks associated with passive smoking we think that further action needs to be taken to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke. Smoking and exposure to passive smoking are both internationally recognised as significant health risks including a known cancer risk (EPA, USA). Adults who choose to make an informed decision to smoke can continue to do so, but not at the risk of exposing those in public places.
2. We would support a law that would make enclosed public places smoke-free. Many people smoke because there are little barriers to smoking. Introducing barriers to smoking not only protects from exposure to passive smoking but also assists smokers to smoke less. Health and Safety laws in this country are designed to prevent unnecessary exposure to known risks. As the responsible agency for public places, the government is under an obligation to protect users of these places (and workers within them) from the known cancer and health risks of passive smoking exposure. Workplaces should continue to be stringently checked under H&S legislation.
3. We do not think there should be any exceptions if a law was introduced. Government should make clear its case for protecting the public from carcinogens.
4. If a law was introduced the following could be done to encourage individual business to take voluntary action to become smoke-free or provide more smoke-free provision.

- ◆ Incentivise introduction of smoke-free measures for businesses
- ◆ Incentivise support to businesses to provide smoking cessation support to their staff – such as time off during work to attend smoking cessation groups or to provide cessation groups within their premises

5. The following could be done to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke

- ◆ By reducing smoking prevalence – expand support available to agencies and communities to reduce smoking prevalence – such as smoking cessation programmes
- ◆ Continue and expand research into the health effects of exposure to tobacco smoke and environmental tobacco smoke as well as the effectiveness of interventions to help smokers quit (especially within Young People, Black & Ethnic Minorities and Mental Health groups)
- ◆ Continue and expand public health campaigns aimed at reducing second-hand smoke, especially in children/young people/people of diminished capacity (those without 'choice').

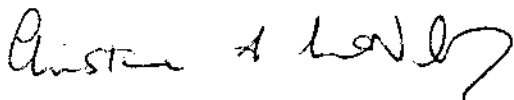
6. Tobacco issues cannot be tackled in isolation.

- ◆ We require a holistic, joined up approach that looks at public perceptions of smoking and Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) exposure (i.e. what are the norms? What ~~is~~ acceptable?)
- ◆ We require legislation (such as that proposed) to ban smoking in exposed public places.
- ◆ We require a concurrent, concerted public health campaign to raise awareness of tobacco and health related issues, including the risks associated with smoking and exposure to ETS.
- ◆ We require support to agencies (including but not restricted to Health) as well as communities, to continue efforts to raise awareness of these issues and related health risks and what we can do as communities to reduce these risks.
- ◆ Most of all, ETS exposure exists because people smoke. We need to continue to support smoking cessation programmes – and those who deliver them – to make them more effective, more accessible and more affordable.
- ◆ Lastly, approaches based on apportioning blame do not work. We need to acknowledge that health risk is caused by smoke and not the smoker. If people choose to smoke they do so through personal choice. Education and protection should be the mainstay of public health messages.

7. These views are on behalf of the organisation.

2c We are happy for our response to be made available to the public via the SE Library and/or on SE website

Yours sincerely



Christine A McNeill
General Manager
South West Glasgow Local Health Care Co-operative