



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
18th January 2023

ITEM 10

Report sponsor: Dr Robyn Dewis, Director of Public Health

Report author: Karielle Webster, Public Health Registrar

East Midlands Regional Public Health Vaping Position Statement – for information

Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on the East Midlands Regional Public Health Vaping Position Statement that has been developed.
- 1.2 To outline that Derby City Council Public Health endorses the regional position statement as our local public health position on vaping.

Recommendation

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board to note the:
 - East Midlands Regional Vaping Position Statement
 - Endorsement of this Position Statement by Derby City Council Public Health as our local public health position on vaping.

Reasons

- 3.1 To support the provision of a local public health position on vaping, which aligns with the regional consensus.
- 3.2 To provide clarity on the local public health position around vaping to support:
 - System partners in the development of their own policies and practice
 - The provision of clear, consistent and unified communications, messaging and information around vaping for the public.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Vaping is an effective smoking cessation aid, which many addicted smokers find helpful for supporting them to quit. Given the multiple and serious health risks associated with smoking, switching to vaping to stop smoking is much safer for people who smoke. However, vaping is not risk free – the long-term health effects are unknown. Therefore, non-smokers and children and young people should not start vaping.

- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
 - E-cigarettes 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.
 - E-cigarettes 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.
 - E-cigarettes 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 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.

- 4.6 Derby City Council Public Health endorses the Regional Position Statement. This aims to provide clarity on the local public health position on vaping to support:
- System partners in the development of their own policies and practice
 - The provision of clear, consistent and unified communications, messaging and information around vaping for the public.

Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1 N/A

Other options

6.1 N/A

Financial and value for money issues

7.1 None

Legal implications

8.1 None

Climate implications

9.1 None

Socio-Economic implications

10.1 None

Other significant implications

11.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)	Dr Robyn Dewis, Director of Public Health	20/12/2023

Background papers: List of appendices:	Appendix 1: East Midlands Region Public Health Vaping Position Statement
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