

Report on	Consultation on Creating a Smokefree Generation and Tackling Youth Vaping
Date of Meeting	16 th November 2023
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Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	For Members to agree the draft response to the Department of Health and Social Care Open Consultation: <i>Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views</i>
2.0	Background
2.1	Smoking is the single most entirely preventable cause of ill health, disability, and death in the UK. It is responsible for around 80,000 deaths a year, including about 2,200 deaths per year in Northern Ireland (as reported by the Northern Ireland Department of Health's tobacco control information).
2.2	Smoking causes harm throughout people's lives, not only for the smoker but for those around them. It is a major risk factor for poor maternal and infant outcomes, significantly increasing the chance of stillbirth and can trigger asthma in children. Smoking causes around 1 in 4 of all UK cancer deaths and is responsible for the great majority of lung cancer cases. Smoking is also a major cause of premature heart disease, stroke and heart failure, and increases the risk of dementia in the elderly. Additionally, smokers lose an average of 10 years of life expectancy, or around 1 year for every 4 smoking years. As a result, smoking puts significant pressure on the NHS.
2.3	On 4 October 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published a command paper Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation setting out proposed action to protect future generations from the harms of smoking by creating the first smokefree generation, which devolved administrations are now seeking to consult on. The command paper also sets out measures to deal with youth vaping.
2.4	To understand the impacts on businesses and on people, the DHSC's open consultation is seeking views from a wide range of stakeholders, namely: -

2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the public - from young people, parents, carers, and teachers • the retail sector and the independent vaping industry • local authorities across the UK • clinicians and medical professionals • public health stakeholders and academic experts • employers and trade unions <p>Following completion of the open consultation exercise, the Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider the responses and identify appropriate measures to be taken in relation to a smokefree generation.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Following publication of the command paper “<i>Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation</i>”, the Department of Health and Social Care’s subsequent open consultation poses questions in three areas for which new legislation would be needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating a smokefree generation: on smoking, the case for change is clear and devolved administrations are consulting on the smokefree generation policy and its scope to inform future legislation. 2. Tackling youth vaping: while there is also significant evidence for action to tackle youth vaping, within each proposal the devolved administrations are consulting on several options to ensure we take the most appropriate and impactful steps. 3. Enforcement: the consultation also asks questions on the proposal to introduce new powers for local authorities in England and Wales to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce age of sale legislation of tobacco products and vapes. <p>3.2 The Office for National Statistics’ Adult smoking habits in the UK 2022 reported that 6.4 million people in the UK were current smokers. This equates to 14% of people in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>3.3 According to the <u>Northern Ireland Young person behaviour and attitudes survey 2022</u>, 21.3% of 11 to 16 year olds in Northern Ireland reported having ever used an e-cigarette.</p> <p>3.4 Due to nicotine content and the unknown long-term harms, vaping carries risks to health and lifelong addiction for children. The health advice is clear: young people and people who have never smoked should not vape.</p> <p>3.5 The consultation considers several proposals on youth vaping including:</p>

	<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 • taking action on the affordability of vapes <p>The command paper also focused on new measures to ensure the law is enforced.</p>
3.6	The challenge for any action proposed by the DHSC's is to ensure that a balance is reached between having the greatest impact on youth vaping whilst ensuring that vapes continue to support adult smokers to quit.
3.7	In Northern Ireland, the outcome of this consultation will inform decisions of incoming ministers and the Northern Ireland Executive, or in the absence of ministers, those decisions that can be taken under <i>the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2022</i> . This applies to all proposals in the consultation document.
3.8	All responses to the consultation must be submitted prior to the closing date on 6th December 2023. Members are therefore asked to review and agree the draft MUDC submission which can be found in Appendix A, which consists of a copy of the relevant questions and suggested response.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: None anticipated at this juncture. The Public Health agency currently 100% fund Tobacco Control Officers in Council.
	Human: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Risk Management: None anticipated at this juncture.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this reports and agree the content of Mid Ulster District Council's draft response to the DHSC's open consultation on 'Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views'

6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A – Draft response to consultation on “ <i>Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views</i> ”