

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OCS – 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2008**  
**SUMMARY OF ACTION FOR SMOKEFREE IMPLEMENTATION**

**Head of Service:** Keith Parker, Head of Leisure and Environmental Services

**Report Author:** Jackie O'Reilly, Environmental Health Officer

**Recommendation: that the report be received.**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

In response to the serious ill health effects from smoking and second hand smoke, legislation (Health Act 2006 and a range of smokefree regulations) was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 to prohibit smoking in enclosed public places and require signage to state that smoking is prohibited. Local Authorities were the designated authorities to enforce the requirements of smokefree legislation.

After a lead in period smokefree legislation is expected to be largely self-enforcing. The Department of Health (DoH) awarded time limited non-ring fenced grants to local authorities to assist with approaches to ensure compliance by businesses and the public with smokefree legislation.

The 2007 Health Profile for Copeland\* shows that the levels of smoking are above the national average and that the known ill health effects of smoking of chronic heart disease and lung cancer result in levels of early deaths from heart disease and strokes that are significantly worse than the national average and that early deaths from cancer are worse than the national average.

The 2007 Health Profiles for Copeland\* also show that parts of Copeland are in the most income deprived fifth of England.

*\*Source Department of Health*

## **2. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GRANT ALLOCATION**

The DoH awarded grant to local authorities based on a per head of population criteria. Copeland was awarded:

2006 – 2007 - £6, 495 (received late March 2007 and carried forward to 2007/8)

2007 – 2008 - £31,712

## **3. APPROVED ACTION**

A report to Executive on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 proposed the following options:

1. Recruit full time smokefree compliance officer for 2007/08
2. Carry forward the allocation for 2006/06 of £6,495
3. Provide 1 full time equivalent (FTE) on smokefree issues made up of a new post for 0.5 FTE (shared post with Allerdale Borough Council) and 0.5 FTE from existing staff in the food safety, health and safety team

## **THE EXECUTIVE AGREED THE RECOMMENDED OPTION OF 2 & 3**

### **4. SUMMARY OF SMOKEFREE IMPLEMENTATION ACTION**

#### **4.1 March – June 2007**

- 4.1.1 Officer training – 5 officers from food, health & safety team attended DoH training courses
- 4.1.2 Cross department training - training session provided by Environmental Health to planning, enforcement unit, communications, licensing and the environmental protection team
- 4.1.3 296 businesses visited to provide free signage and information on the smokefree legal requirements
- 4.1.4 Information sessions and talks to pub watch schemes in Millom, Egremont, Cleator Moor and Whitehaven
- 4.1.5 Recruitment and selection of smokefree compliance officer – start date 20.5.2007
- 4.1.6 Local advertising including beer mats to licensed premises and adverts on buses.

#### **4.2 July – Sept 2007**

- 4.2.1 315 compliance monitoring visits – including evening visits
- 4.2.2 Investigation of 12 complaints
- 4.2.3 Information sessions – Cleator Moor business centre
- 4.2.4 Local media articles and press releases.

#### **4.3 Oct – Feb 2008**

- 4.3.1 170 compliance monitoring visits – including evening visits
- 4.3.2 Investigation of 9 complaints
- 4.3.4 Stop smoking group advisor training - the smokefree compliance officer attended a Primary Care Trust (PCT) funded training course to become a session leader to provide stop smoking support in group settings

Providing a range of support methods for those who want to give up smoking in a mixture of ways has been recognised by the DoH, PCT and Stop Smoking Service. Informal support in a short group session (run at times to fit in with the demands of the working day) with those wanting to give up smoking support each other under the guidance of a trained advisor have been shown to be a successful route for some.

- 4.3.5 Advertising of stop smoking group at the Copeland Centre – for use by staff, councillors and local workers and residents.

## **5. FUTURE**

- 5.1 Maintain the high levels of compliance from businesses and the public – compliance checks will be combined with programmed inspections and investigation visits.
- 5.2 Encourage and support smokefree choices to reduce the levels of smoking in Copeland, reduce associated ill health and reduce health inequalities – in partnership with Primary Care Trust, Department of Health, South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Partnership and other relevant agencies.

As mentioned in section 1 the Health profile for Copeland shows that there are above national average levels for smoking and associated ill health and there are areas in the most income deprived fifth of England.

- 5.3 Provide group stop smoking sessions – plans in place to set up group at the Copeland Centre and a local secondary school.
- 5.4 The smokefree compliance officer contract is due to end on 20.5.2008 – the post holder has just successfully obtained permanent part time work but is willing to extend the contract period working one day a week. This arrangement would allow group stop smoking sessions to be continued and allow further work to promote smokefree choices. Liaison with finance will now take place to seek permission to carry over unused DoH funding into 2008/09 to fund this arrangement.
- 5.5 Working with Smokefree Northwest to target:
- Protecting children from second hand smoke
  - Raising awareness of stop smoking advice and services
  - Smuggling and counterfeiting
  - Reduce Health inequalities.

### **List of Appendices**

None

### **List of Background Documents:**

None

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