

The Last Gasp

Head of Service: Tim Capper, Head of Democratic Services
Report Author: Neil White, Scrutiny Support Officer

Recommendation: that the Committee considers how it wishes to respond to the Cumbria Health and Well Being Committee Report “The Last Gasp - A Scrutiny of Smoking and Tobacco Control in Cumbria”.

BACKGROUND

Cumbria County Council’s Health and Well Being Committee has set up a task and finish group to look at Smoking and Tobacco Control across Cumbria. The Group has now finished its evidence sessions and had produced a draft report which covers a number of recommendations. The report is at Appendix “A”.

The Health and Well Being Committee has asked all the local authorities in Cumbria for their comments on the report and this Committee is invited to consider this report and comment accordingly.

COPELAND

The Council’s Environmental Health Manager has advised that the Council is currently undertaking the following action on smoking:

- Enforcement of smokefree legislation – this is the main role of local authorities although the report is bit vague on details on this though it does get some mention in the middle of the report under protecting form the effects of smoking.
- Partnership working with the Stop Smoking Service to provide group support sessions (groups have been held over a 10 week period at the Copeland Centre (open to staff & members but no attendance, Whitehaven School aimed at 14 – 16 age group – another session is due to start in Cleator Moor and a further session will be held at Whitehaven School in September).
- Partnership working with Trading Standards to identify locations and sources of smuggled counterfeit tobacco products.
- Identification of other partners such as Harbour Youth Project to pass on the don’t start smoking/help to stop smoking message.

- The Council has a No smoking policy which covers the main points of the report with the exception of banning smoking even in open spaces while at work and clearly stating that time of work is allowed to attend stop smoking sessions – though on this there was support for staff to attend the Group session we ran which would have been in work time – just nobody took the offer up.
- Partnership working to reduce health inequalities and work with the South Whitehaven neighbourhood Development area is listed as an action in the Environmental Health Service Plan – Environmental Health are represented on the Health Task Group for South Whitehaven neighbourhood Development area – this may include work with Howgill and sure start and use of the smokefree homes approach used in Carlisle.
- The recommendation to ensure that local authorities are adequately resourced to undertake tobacco control work is strongly supported.

Bearing in mind the recent protocol on health localities scrutiny between the county council and the borough/district councils there may be some scope for the committee to feed into the county's review if it so wishes.

List of Appendices

Appendix "A" – Cumbria Health and Well Being Committee - The Last Gasp - A Scrutiny of Smoking and Tobacco Control in Cumbria

List of Background Documents:

None