

Health and Wellbeing Board

4th December 2013

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Health & Wellbeing, Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones

Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control

Summary

1. This report asks the members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to note that City of York Council have signed up to the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control, and to consider whether they wish to endorse the Declaration's aims on behalf of all organisations engaged in tobacco control across the City.
2. A copy of the Declaration has been provided and is at **Annex A** to this report.
3. The Tobacco Control Lead for City of York Council will be in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions that the Board may have.

Background

4. The Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control was first passed by Newcastle City Council in May 2013 and provides a public opportunity for local authorities to publish a statement of their dedication to protecting local communities from the harm caused by smoking. The Declaration has been endorsed by leading figures including the Public Health Minister and the Chief Medical Officer.
5. Signing the Declaration reaffirms the Council's commitment to reduce the prevalence of smoking in York, and to tackle the harm it causes to the health of our residents. The Declaration also includes a specific and important commitment to protect health policy from undue influence from the national tobacco industry, by not accepting grants or sponsorship.

6. The three signatories required for the Declaration are the Chief Executive, the Director of Public Health, and the Leader of the Council. Group Leaders on the Council were able to reach a mutual agreement that the Council should sign up to the Declaration. Accordingly City of York Council has notified itself as having signed the Declaration, and there will be a formal 'signing' with a press call on December 2nd.
7. Effective tobacco control is already a high priority for the local authority and for its partners, and the Declaration merely confirms our commitment to this work. All of the actions to which local authorities are asked to commit themselves are already underway as part of our emerging tobacco control strategy.
8. Although the Declaration is specific to local government, it is being formally presented to the Health and Well Being Board in recognition of the fact that effective tobacco control will only be delivered by a strong partnership of many different organisations. There is an opportunity for the Health and Well Being Board to endorse the Declaration's aims on behalf of all its members engaged in tobacco control across the City.

We look to work with all partners across the City to promote the aims of the Declaration.

Consultation

9. Consultation took place within City of York Council between Group Leaders and the Chief Executive, the Director of Health and Wellbeing, and the Leader and Deputy Leader.

Options

10. There are no specific options for the Board to consider. However they are asked to note the Council's adoption of the Declaration, and the opportunity for the Health and Well Being Board to formally endorse its aims, on behalf of the wider group of stakeholders engaged in tobacco control across the City.

Analysis

11. Not applicable

Council Plan 2011-2015

12. This report is directly linked to the 'protect vulnerable people' element of the Council Plan 2011-2015.

Implications

Financial – None

Human Resources (HR)

13. There are HR implications in relation to the Council's policies on workplace smoking and smoking in work time or while on Council business. As the Council has signed up to high profile commitments on tobacco control, there may be concerns about employees of the Council seen smoking while on their breaks or on Council business around the City.

The Tobacco Control lead will work with HR and occupational health in the Council, and with other interested partner organisations, to further develop policies on workplace smoking/ smoking in work time, and extensions of existing smoking cessation support for Council employees.

Equalities – None

Risk Management

14. There is a potential reputational risk should the Council, and wider stakeholders, fail to deliver effective action to reduce smoking prevalence in York having made this high profile commitment. However, effective tobacco control is already a high priority for the local authority and for its partners, and the Declaration merely confirms our commitment to this work. All of the actions to which local authorities are asked to commit themselves are already underway as part of our emerging tobacco control strategy.

Recommendations

15. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note and comment on the Declaration.

16. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are also asked to consider whether they wish to pass a formal resolution endorsing the Declaration's aims on behalf of all members engaged in tobacco control across the City.

17. A possible wording of such a resolution would be:

'The HWB welcomes City of York Council's signing up to the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control. As partner organisations engaged in improving health and wellbeing, we endorse the Declaration's commitment to tackling the harm caused by tobacco in our population. We also commit ourselves to work to reduce prevalence and participate in a city-wide strategy for tobacco control.'

Reason: In order to confirm the Council's commitment, and that of its partners, to improving health and reducing inequalities by tackling the harm caused by tobacco in our population.

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**Report
Approved**

Date 25
November
2013

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A – Local Declaration on Tobacco Control