

West Yorkshire Tobacco Control Alliance

Position Statement on Vaping for West Yorkshire

In West Yorkshire, there are more than 250,000 adults who smoke (12.1% of our population), which is higher than the national average. Smoking increases the risk of developing cancer, heart disease, lung disease, and stroke and kills 2 in 3 of its users. Almost 9,000 people die from smoking in West Yorkshire every year, and almost 20,000 people have a hospital stay due to smoking-related illnesses, all of which are preventable.

Tobacco dependency is a long-term relapsing condition that usually starts in childhood.

The tobacco industry spends millions of pounds to promote tobacco sales, encouraging the use of a highly addictive product and significantly limiting people's ability to quit. Our primary aim must be to encourage and support people to stop smoking.

There is strong evidence to support the use of vaping as a tool to quit smoking. The Chief Medical Officer for England has clearly presented the national stance on vaping. Vaping can help adult smokers who want to quit. Vapes are safer than cigarettes, but they contain nicotine and can be addictive. Children, young people or adults who do not smoke should not vape.

Vaping is effective in helping people quit smoking.

If you smoke, regulated vapes are much safer.

But if you DON'T smoke, DON'T vape.

Vaping is not for anyone under 18.

We are committed to preventing the marketing of vapes to children and young people and also preventing the illicit trade of both vapes and tobacco. We support the government's plans to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes. Our aim is to create a smoke-free generation. Through education, regulation, support services, community engagement, and co-production, we want to build a healthier environment for all residents, workers and visitors of West Yorkshire.

We encourage the use of vapes in order to stop smoking, but also would encourage people to eventually stop vaping and be fully nicotine free, but only when the person is ready and stopping vaping will not result in them starting smoking again.

Legal vapes have the following characteristics:

- e-cigarette tank capacity is limited to 2ml device
- maximum volume of nicotine-containing e-liquid for sale in one refill container is limited to 10ml
- e-liquids nicotine strength limited to 20mg/ml

Resources

- [The Cochrane review of electronic cigarettes for smoking cessation](#)
- [Addressing common myths about vaping \(ash.org.uk\)](#)
- [Creating a smoke free generation and tackling youth vaping: what you need to know](#)
- [The CMO's national stance](#)
- [Action on Smoking and Health \(2021\). Electronic Cigarettes, Fact Sheet.](#)

This statement is supported by the West Yorkshire Tobacco Control Alliance and the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership.

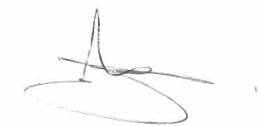
Rachel Spencer-Henshall - Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director of Public Health and Corporate Resources, Kirklees Council and Co-Chair of the West Yorkshire Tobacco Control Alliance

Signed: 

Katherine Hickman - GP in Bradford, Chair of the Respiratory Clinical Network and Co-Chair of the West Yorkshire Tobacco Control Alliance

Signed: 

Signed on behalf of the **West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership**

Signed: 

Dr James Thomas, Medical Director, West Yorkshire ICB.

Date of sign off: November 2024

Date to be reviewed: every 6 months or sooner dependent on national legislation