

NHS Statement of Support for Tobacco Control

We acknowledge that:

- Smoking is the single greatest cause of premature death and disease in our communities;
- Reducing smoking in our communities significantly increases household incomes and benefits the local economy;
- Reducing smoking amongst the most disadvantaged in our communities is the single most important means of reducing health inequalities;
- Smoking is an addiction largely taken up by children and young people; two thirds of smokers start before the age of 18;
- Smoking is an epidemic created and sustained by the tobacco industry, which promotes uptake of smoking to replace the 80,000 people its products kill in England every year; and
- The illicit trade in tobacco funds the activities of organised criminal gangs and gives children access to cheap tobacco.

We welcome the:

- Commitment from local government to lead local action to tackle smoking and secure the health, welfare, social, economic and environmental benefits that come from reducing smoking prevalence;
- Opportunity to support partnership working with local government as part of delivering local tobacco control in line with NICE guidance;
- Endorsement of this statement by central government, Public Health England, NHS England and others.

We,, commit from the date to:

- Continue to actively support work at a local level to reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities and to raise the profile of the harm caused by smoking to our communities;
- Publicly declare our commitment to reducing smoking in our communities by joining the Smokefree Action Coalition, the alliance of organisations working to reducing the harm caused by tobacco;
- Work with our partners and local communities to address the causes and impacts of tobacco use, according to NICE guidance on smoking and tobacco control;
- Play our role in tackling smoking through appropriate interventions such as 'Make Every Contact Count';
- Protect our work from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry by not accepting any partnerships, payments, gifts and services, monetary or in kind or research funding offered by the tobacco industry to officials or employees;
- Support the government in taking action at national level to help local authorities reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities in our communities; and
- Participate in local and regional networks for support.

Signatories



Local NHS leader



Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board



Director of Public Health

Endorsed by

Jane Ellison,
Public Health Minister,
Department of Health



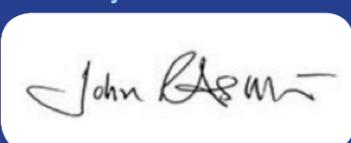
Dr Janet Atherton,
President, Association of Directors
of Public Health



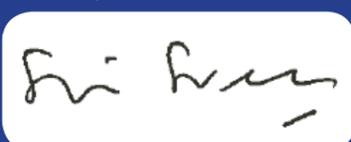
Duncan Selbie,
Chief Executive,
Public Health England



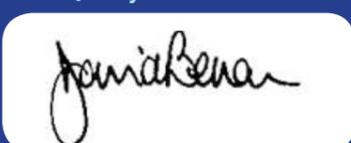
Professor John Ashton CBE,
President,
UK Faculty of Public Health



Simon Stevens,
Chief Executive,
NHS England



David Behan,
Chief Executive,
Care Quality Commission



Sir Richard Thompson,
President,
Royal College of Physicians



Baroness Hollins,
Chair,
BMA Board of Science



Dr Hilary Cass, President,
Royal College of Paediatrics
and Child Health



Dr Maureen Baker,
Chair, Royal College of General
Practitioners

