

# The NHS Smokefree Pledge

## We acknowledge that:

- Smoking is the single greatest cause of premature death and disease in our communities;
- 1 in 4 patients in acute settings are smokers and that staff working for the NHS also smoke;
- Smoking places a significant additional burden on health and social care services and is impacting on the future sustainability of the NHS;
- Reducing smoking in our communities increases disposable 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

## We welcome:

- The Government's commitment to achieve a smokefree future and reduce smoking rates to less than 5 per cent;
- NICE public health guidance on tackling smoking particularly PH48, PH45 and PH26;
- Endorsement of this declaration by central government, Public Health England and others.

## In support of a smokefree future we \_\_\_\_\_ commit from this date \_\_\_\_\_ to:

- Treat tobacco dependency among patients and staff who smoke as set out in the Tobacco Control Plan for England;
- Ensure that smokers within the NHS have access to the medication they need to quit in line with NICE guidance on smoking in secondary care;
- Create environments that support quitting through implementing smokefree policies as recommended by NICE;
- Deliver consistent messages to smokers about harms from smoking and the opportunities to quit in line with NICE guidance on brief advice;
- Actively work with local authorities and other stakeholders to reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities;
- Protect tobacco control work from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry;
- Support Government action at national level;
- Join the Smokefree Action Coalition.

## Signatories

Chair

Chief Executive

Medical Director/Clinical Lead

## Endorsed by

Steve Brine MP, Minister for Public Health and Primary Care, Department of Health

Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England

Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive, Public Health England

Professor Jane Dacre, President, Royal College of Physicians

Professor Neena Modi, President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

Andrew Furber, President, Association of Directors of Public Health

Professor John Middleton, President, Faculty of Public Health

Professor Dame Parveen Kumar, Chair, BMA Board of Science

Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair of Council, Royal College of GPs