

Core brief

Wednesday 8 March 2017

Introduction

This issue of Core Brief details a Scottish Government news release from Public Health Minister Aileen Campbell, marking No Smoking Day.

No Smoking Day

Marking No Smoking Day on 8 March 2017, Public Health Minister Aileen Campbell said: “On No Smoking Day, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we’ve made to tackle the harm caused by tobacco and nicotine.

“Fewer Scots are smoking. Prevalence rates in Scotland have fallen from around 28% in 2003 to just under 21% in 2015. Among 13-year-olds and 15-year-olds, smoking rates have fallen steadily to their lowest ever levels (2% and 7% respectively).

“And as a result of our Take it Right Outside campaigns, reported exposure to second hand smoke in the home among children under 16 has halved between 2013 and 2015 from over 11% to 6% - meeting the target we set in our 2013 Tobacco Control Strategy, five years early.

“Ever since Scotland became the first country in the UK to ban smoking in public places, almost 11 years ago, this Government has taken bold and innovative steps to keep improving our public health.

“We’ve taken further action to reduce the harm caused by tobacco: increasing the minimum age for buying it from 16 to 18, banning the display of tobacco products in shops, banning cigarette vending machines, creating a new tobacco retail register and supporting plain packaging.

“In December 2016 it became illegal to smoke in cars where children are present – and later this year, we will restrict the sale and availability of e-cigarettes to under-18s and introduce an offence for smoking near hospital buildings.

“We’ve had ten years of decisive action which has undoubtedly improved our nation’s health – but there is still more to be done. Smoking remains the primary preventable cause of ill-health, disability and premature death in Scotland. Each year tobacco use is associated with around 128,000 hospital admissions and more than 10,000 smoking-attributable deaths in Scotland.

“We need to maintain focus on tackling the inequalities, health, social and economic impact of smoking.

“We know that the average smoker in Scotland spends £1,500 each year on tobacco – and significantly more people in our poorest communities spend at this level compared to our most affluent.

“That’s why today, we look at the progress we’ve made and we look to the future. We believe that by working together, and with the public’s support, we can achieve our goal of creating a tobacco-free generation by 2034.”

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