

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

Proposal name	Tobacco Control Plan		
Directorate	Adult Social Care		
Service	Public Health		
Responsible Officer	Nina Chauhan-Lall		
Proposal planning start	13/11/23	Proposal start date (due or actual date)	Cabinet 13/12/23

1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Policy	No	
	Procedure	No	
	Guidance	No	
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?	No	
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?	No	
	Other - give details – The Tobacco Control Plan outlines the priorities for the Local Authority and partners in delivering on the actions outlined in the Plan	Yes	update
2	What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?		
	<p>The Tobacco Control Action Plan 2023-27 is an update from the previous Tobacco Control Action plan 2016-19.</p> <p>The plan aims to continue to support the locality in reducing the use and harms associated with tobacco use in the local Walsall population and for those people who work in Walsall. The actions provide a balance between preventative measures, universal and targeted support.</p> <p>The targeted support will be designed specifically for certain groups that are at greater risk of harm from tobacco and vaping products (illicit and legal) this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with long term mental health conditions • Pregnant women • Routine and manual workers. <p>The actions outlined will support local residents and the economy by reducing the harms caused by smoking and vaping.</p>		



Smoking is the leading cause of death and illness in the UK. It is estimated that there are close to one million smokers in the West Midlands. Smoking can contribute towards the development of many diseases, but is most commonly linked with coronary heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. For those who smoke, quitting is often the single most effective method of improving health and preventing illness. Evidence-based NHS stop smoking services are highly effective in both cost and clinical terms.

The national smoking prevalence (18+) is estimated to be 12.7%; Walsall has a higher smoking prevalence of 13.8% and an estimated total number of 29,300 smokers. Reducing health inequalities for Walsall is a part of the wider Council objectives. National evidence shows that tobacco contributes to poverty due to the income spent on tobacco rather than rent, food and bills.

The Tobacco Control Plan will provide support to both residents and the local economy, reducing the harms caused by smoking and vaping:

Children and young people will be clear about the dangers/risks of smoking and vaping.

Residents who smoke (who want support) will be able to access evidence-based interventions tailored to their individual needs.

Tackling the sale of illegal tobacco and vaping products will reduce health implications. Whilst no tobacco is safe, illicit tobacco could contain higher levels of harmful chemicals. The same applies to illegal vapes.

Tackling the sale of smuggled tobacco will reduce the amount of revenue in duty that is lost each year. It will also reduce the supply of cheaper products making price more of a barrier for those who otherwise would continue smoking.

Local businesses will be supported to implement new Government Legislation on age restricted sales of tobacco and vaping products. This will reduce the risk of fines and potential imprisonment.

3 Who is the proposal likely to affect?

People in Walsall	Yes / No	Detail
All	N	The Tobacco Control Plan is aimed at supporting people who live, work or are registered with a Walsall GP to stop using tobacco containing products. The service offers across the borough include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal support to anyone aged 12 and over who smoke/use a tobacco product • Digital support to those aged 18 and over • Smoking in pregnancy support for pregnant women, partners and grandparents • Inpatient offer for those people who are admitted to hospital with further community pharmacy support on discharge
Specific group/s	Y	
Council employees	Y	
Other (identify)		
The Tobacco Control Plan is aimed at supporting people who live, work or are registered with a Walsall GP to stop smoking/using tobacco containing products. In addition the Plan will provide support to both		

	<p>residents and the local economy, reducing the harms caused by smoking and vaping (under age and illicit sales).</p>		<p>As we support more individuals to stop smoking it will have a better impact on the wider Walsall population with regards to the environment, second hand smoke, smoke-free homes, smoking in pregnancy.</p> <p>Working with partners the Tobacco Control Plan addresses actions to raise the awareness of under age sales and use of illicit tobacco and tobacco containing products, including vapes.</p>
4	<p>Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer's protected characteristics.</p>		
	<p>Smoking prevalence amongst adults in Walsall is 13.8% which is above (worse than) the England average (12.7%), this equates to an estimated total number of 29,300 smokers. In Walsall, smoking is estimated to kill 381 people every year (Public Health England 2019).</p> <p>In adults aged 18-64 in routine and manual occupations 18.5% were smokers.</p> <p>NHS Digital return on smoking status at time of delivery (2020/21) identified 13.9% of women were smokers at the time of delivery.</p> <p>Reducing health inequalities for Walsall is a part of the wider Council objectives. National evidence shows that tobacco contributes to poverty due to the income spent on tobacco rather than rent, food and bills.</p> <p>The national tobacco control plan emphasises the need to support smokers to quit; data shows that people are four times more likely to quit with specialist support.</p> <p>The Khan Review: Making Smoking Obsolete (2022) (the-khan-review-making-smoking-obsolete) Minister O'Brien's Address (minister-neil-obrien-speech-on-achieving-smokefree-2030-cutting-smoking-and-stopping-kids-vaping) and the Prime Minister's Address (government-sets-out-next-steps-to-create-smokefree-generation)</p> <p>provide a national foundation to continue the campaign in achieving smokefree status. It highlights strong partnership working and innovation will be required across the board in order to achieve its ambitious aims and support people to stop smoking, address vaping in young people and the harms of illicit tobacco/tobacco products.</p> <p>The overall aim of the Tobacco Control Plan is to lead towards the national ambition of Smokefree 2030.</p> <p>See the attached draft Tobacco Control Plan for local and national data.</p>		
5	<p>Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal. (Please use a separate box for each engagement/consultation).</p>		

The Tobacco Control Plan for Walsall will provide a balance between preventative measures and targeted support. Targeted support will be designed specifically for certain groups that are at greater risk of harm from tobacco and vaping products (illicit and legal).

The Tobacco Control Plan has been updated in accordance with new government legislation and data highlighting the need for a strong system approach to:

- Encourage people to stop smoking
- Address the harms of tobacco
- Drawing attention to underage sales and illicit tobacco/vapes
- Highlight the concerns around youth vaping
- Increase knowledge of the harms associated with tobacco use.

All actions within the Tobacco Control Plan have been supported with national and local data around the stop smoking agenda and will be carried out by designated stakeholders/service providers.

Walsall's Tobacco Control Plan will support:

The Council Plan priorities particularly:

- People can access support in their community to keep safe and well and remain independent at home.
- People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing, and quality of life.
- Supporting a dynamic, resilient, and diverse economy where businesses invest and everyone has the right jobs and the right housing in the right place.

The 'We Are Walsall 2040' priorities particularly:

- 'By 2040 people in all areas of the borough will live longer lives in better health, and we will have narrowed the gap in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy across all neighbourhoods.'
- 'By 2040 people in Walsall will live more physically active lives – we will be the most improved borough for smoking rates and drug addiction in the region.'

See the attached draft Tobacco Control Plan for local and national data.

Consultation Activity

The Tobacco Control Plan encompasses an action plan which partners and providers will deliver on. Where appropriate an EQIA will be completed by commissioners for a defined activity (detailed Service Specification) and approved to ensure there is no adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics.

The Tobacco Control Plan provides an action plan based on four priorities:

1. Effective Leadership and Partnership
2. Enhance Local Regulation and Enforcement
3. Preventing residents from starting (smoking and/or vaping)
4. Enhancing Stop Smoking Services to target those in greatest need (e.g. high-risk groups such as residents with mental health conditions, routine and manual employees and pregnant women).

All actions outlines are based on national and local data around smoking/quit smoking (Provider data) and tobacco control (Trading Standards) activity.

NB: EQIA has been approved for all providers delivering stop smoking/tobacco control within the relevant service specification (See attached Wellbeing Service EQIA and Digital Stop Smoking EQIA – both approved for the specific service which is noted within the Tobacco Control Plan actions).

6 Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation

The Tobacco Control Plan encompasses an action plan which partners and providers will deliver on. Where appropriate an EQIA will be completed by commissioners for a defined activity (detailed Service Specification) and approved to ensure there is no adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics.

All actions within the Tobacco Control Plan have been supported with national and local data around the stop smoking agenda and will be carried out by designated stakeholders/service providers.

7 How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group? The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.

Characteristic	Affect	Reason	Action needed Yes / No
Age	See Attached		
Disability			
Gender reassignment			
Marriage and civil partnership			

	Pregnancy and maternity	
	Race	
	Religion or belief	
	Sex	
	Sexual orientation	
	Other (give detail)	
	Further information	
8	Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.	(Delete one) No
	The Tobacco Control Plan is the overarching document which ensures that the priorities outlined in the action plan are delivered by the appropriate partners (internally and externally) or commissioned providers.	
9	Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?	
A	No major change required based on reasons explained above with exception of ensuring stop smoking offers consider people with protected characteristics at higher risk appropriately (this will be done through service specifications and specific EqlAs for services commissioned)	

Action and monitoring plan				
Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome

Update to EqIA	
Date	Detail
Use this section for updates following the commencement of your proposal.	

Contact us

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 Email: PolicyandStrategy@walsall.gov.uk

Inside Walsall: [http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service information/Equality and diversity](http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service_information/Equality_and_diversity)