



Primary Care Network Smokefree Pledge



We acknowledge that:

- Smoking is the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in our communities;
- Smoking places a significant additional burden on health & social care services, and impacts on the future sustainability of the NHS;
- Reducing smoking amongst the most disadvantaged in our communities is the single most important means of reducing health inequalities;
- Smoking is a long-term chronic relapsing condition for which people need treatment including behavioural support and pharmacotherapy;
- To reduce the current burden of death and disability caused by smoking, it is necessary to encourage current smokers to make a quit attempt, and to ensure that as many as possible use the most effective methods;
- Helping smokers to quit smoking should be a priority in the management of diseases caused by and/or exacerbated by smoking;
- Advice from Healthcare professionals is an important trigger for people to make a quit attempt and smokers using healthcare services are more likely to be motivated to quit smoking;
- The unintended consequences of Healthcare professionals not discussing smoking is that smokers may believe that it is not important for them to quit or that the Healthcare professional does not believe they are capable of quitting. Failure to offer smokers help to quit can also imply that the smoker's health is less important than other patients which can perpetuate and exacerbate health inequalities;
- Smoking cessation interventions are highly effective and cost-effective in treating tobacco dependence in all patient groups, and are far more cost-effective than many of the treatments and interventions used routinely to treat smoking-related diseases;
- Helping smokers to quit is an essential component of a comprehensive tobacco control policy;



We welcome:

- The Government's commitment to achieve a smokefree future and reduce smoking rates to less than 5 per cent;
- The NHS Long Term Plan has prioritised preventative action and highlighted the contribution the NHS can make to tackling tobacco dependence;



In support of a Smokefree future we _____ commit to:

- Treat tobacco dependency among patients and staff who smoke as set out in the Tobacco Control Plan for England;
- Implementing evidence-based guidelines on smoking cessation in patients using the NHS;
 - All patients have their smoking status recorded,
 - All patients offered timely treatment for tobacco dependence at every opportunity,
 - All patients have access to a full range of pharmacotherapy and behavioural support,
- Healthcare workers trained to give Very Brief Advice in line with NICE guidance;
- Actively work with local authorities and other stakeholders to identify clear pathways for support and access to treatment for smokers wishing to quit;
- Create environments that support quitting through implementing smokefree policies as recommended by NICE;

Signatories:

PCN Clinical Director/s

Practice Lead

Endorsed by:

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