

## Lancashire County Council's Position on Vaping

- We acknowledge the evidence around the effectiveness of vapes as an aid for quitting smoking for adults and agree that short term use of vapes for this purpose can be beneficial given the considerable health burden imposed by smoking.
- We support and promote clear messaging 'if you don't smoke, don't vape'.
- Children and young people under the age of 18 should not take up vaping.
- We have significant concerns about the increasing use of vapes amongst children and young people and support the actions in the revised Lancashire Tobacco Strategy 2023-28 on youth vaping.
- We have significant concerns about the ease of access to vaping products particularly the direct marketing of these products to children and young people and the rise in availability of illicit products and support the crackdown on unscrupulous businesses targeting young people with vaping products by Lancashire County Council's Trading Standards Team.
- We need to work closely with key partners and trading standards to enforce and address the issue of underage sales and the availability of illicit products.
- We believe that the right resources need to be invested in trading standards and enforcement to ensure they can effectively tackle illicit tobacco and vaping products.
- We support the Government's review on the rules for issuing on-the-spot fines to shops that break the law by selling vapes to underage children and look into banning the sale of nicotine-free vapes to under 18s.
- We advocate for further regulation around marketing of vapes and more severe sanctions for establishments who do not adhere to regulations, to better protect our children and young people.
- We will take every opportunity to educate young people about the potential harms of vaping to young people working with providers, schools and colleges etc.
- We will work with Trading Standards and education settings to report the provision of illicit vapes at a place-based level.
- Schools and colleges should be Smokefree including tobacco and vaping. Schools and colleges should be supported to manage vaping and ensure that a policy is in place regarding how to manage vaping.
- We will review and use the information from the School Health Needs Assessment to work with school nurses to address the issue of vapes in young people. Provide training to school nurses around the harms of tobacco and issues around vaping including signposting to services for support and specific interventions targeting schools.
- We will work to understand and address the drivers of vaping behaviours in children and young people. Local intelligence suggests that issues such as stress, anxiety, boredom and peer pressure may contribute to vape use. We feel that interventions to address these factors are an important component to plans to reduce vaping prevalence in these groups.
- We will work with colleagues internally and externally to gather information around the use of vapes in education settings and use this intelligence to inform future practice.
- We will support the actions in the Lancashire Tobacco Strategy 2023-28 to combat the environmental harms associated with so called 'disposable' vapes.
- Services commissioning vapes for use as a quit aid should choose reusable devices where possible. Where single use vapes are used as a quit aid by services, it should be ensured that facilities are in place to appropriately recycle devices.