

TOBACCO HARM REDUCTION: A POLICY STATEMENT ON ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Appendix 3: Applications of the principles to local situations

The purpose of this Appendix is to outline options for organisations to consider in developing local policies in line with the Principles established by Public Health England and outlined in the policy statement.

Policies developed by each individual organisation will vary according to what will be acceptable to the organisation, their staff, service users and visitors within the organisation’s legal responsibilities.

Suggested approaches are outlined below for organisations to consider relating to different population groups and environments. This is not a definitive list and agencies should satisfy themselves as to how the principles established apply to them.

Organisation or environment	Recommendation	Recommendation Pros to consider	Recommendation Cons to consider	Type of e-cig (rechargeable or disposable)	Further comments
Hertfordshire County Council workplaces (external)	Allow anywhere in grounds as in current policy. Not in council vehicles, consistent with existing policy on not smoking, eating or drinking in council vehicles for road safety reasons	Reinforces that vaping is not smoking and that people who vape are on the road to quitting smoking if they have not already done so	Smokers may see this as a lax Smokefree policy and start smoking outside permitted areas - clear communications will be needed around any changes	All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked	This approach was developed following staff consultation and there has been no negative feedback to this since its implementation in 2014
Hertfordshire County Council workplaces (internal)	Consider use in a limited number of communal areas. In consideration of	Some sites may wish to allocate a limited number of temporary	No evidence of harm to non-users in surrounding environment, but	All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked	The County Council’s staff consultation in 2014 showed a majority of people did not like the perceived annoyance of

	<p>others only at desks if people agree. County Council staff in a consultation in 2014 showed a majority against vaping at desks.</p> <p>Not in council vehicles, consistent with existing policy on not smoking, eating or drinking in council vehicles for road safety reasons</p>	<p>vaping areas to test their use and obtain feedback from users and other staff</p> <p>Vaping is a route out of smoking – supporting this may encourage a significant number of staff to quit smoking</p> <p>One brand of e-cigarette is licensed as a medicine that may shortly be available on prescription. Other nicotine containing products which are licensed medicines are not restricted at work</p>	<p>may be an annoyance in unrestricted areas</p> <p>Staff are not permitted to smoke outside designated unpaid breaks. People who vape should not be seen to have more breaks than other staff</p> <p>Smokers may object to special consideration given to people who vape – to anticipate in related communications</p>	<p>being in close proximity to the vapour of e-cigarettes</p> <p>Seek and consider views of non-vapers/non-smokers, consider allowing some form of internal vaping locally where a clear majority of staff are in favour and consider piloting considerate worksite vaping protocols for this (i.e. allow flavours which are not strong or intrusive and amounts of vapour which are low.)</p> <p>Fire safety concerns – consistent with policies on charging mobile telephones and other personal devices, not to be charged on site unless sites have policies which allow properly tested e-cigarette chargers to be used.</p> <p>There are implications when e-cigarettes, which are licensed as medications, are available</p>
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		No evidence of harm to non-users in surrounding environment			on prescription– employers need to be clear on what, if anything is the difference between inhaling a nicotine medicine and injecting insulin/taking an asthma inhaler?
Workplaces (not Herts County Council)	<p>As above:</p> <p>consider use in designated internal communal areas</p> <p>Allow use in all external areas (not to confine to any designated smoking areas)</p> <p>Some employers may wish to consider providing vaping rooms</p>	As above	As above	All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked	<p>As above:</p> <p>Aids compliance with Smokefree policies</p> <p>No evidence of harm to non-users in surrounding environment, but may be an annoyance. The County Council's survey in 2014 showed people did not like the perceived annoyance of being in close proximity to the vapour of e-cigarettes. Consider surveying staff.</p> <p>Seek and consider views of non-vapers/non-smokers, consider allowing some form or internal vaping locally where all staff are in favour</p>

					<p>Consider piloting considerate worksite vaping protocol (i.e. allow flavours which are not strong or intrusive and amounts of vapour which are low)</p> <p>There are implications when e-cigarettes, which are licensed as medications, are available on prescription– employers need to be clear on what, if anything, is the difference between inhaling a nicotine medicine and injecting insulin/taking an asthma inhaler?</p>
Stop smoking services	Promote use and support smokers using e- cigarettes to quit or reduce smoking (self-funded at present)	Quit rates in stop smoking services have been reported to be as high as 70% in smokers using e-cigarettes to quit compared with 51% on average for England	The cost of e-cigarettes may be a barrier to smokers who would otherwise obtain free prescriptions for other medicines – consider potential for starter pack vouchers (as	All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked	<p>Licensed e-cigarettes need to be fully evaluated for effectiveness and cost-effectiveness before being added to Hertfordshire's formulary of permitted smoking cessation products available to be prescribed.</p> <p>May encourage more smokers to use behavioural support to quit smoking – a</p>

		E-cigarettes are a route out of smoking for the most addicted individuals who have so far been unable to quit smoking	used in other areas)		key part of effective practice
Open public places (including hospital grounds, but not in places where children play or learn)	Allow anywhere in grounds.	Facilitates compliance with Smokefree policies and encourages the public, patients, visitors and staff not to smoke	From a distance there may be difficulties in differentiating between smoking and vaping for some(the public and staff)	All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked	No evidence of increased use in children or increased uptake of smoking in young people Vapers should not be segregated with smokers or confined to any shelters/restricted areas provided for smokers
Acute hospital settings (Not Mental Health Units – these are described below).	Consider allowing in some communal areas Consider for staff – as for workplaces above	Facilitates compliance with Smokefree hospital policies and encourages patients, visitors and staff not to	From a distance there may be difficulties in differentiating between smoking and vaping for some(the public and staff)	Regulated and licensed products, and product CE marked No charging on site, so good quality	If prescribed: formulary considerations as with all other medicines (clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness) See the Department of Health guidance which does not permit the

		<p>smoke</p> <p>Facilitates quitting in patients with long term conditions who have been unsuccessful using traditional methods</p>		<p>disposable products for inpatients or sufficient supply of fully charged spares supplied by families on visits</p>	<p>charging of e-cigarettes on health premises or in oxygen-rich environments. Available here</p>
Mental Health Units	Allow	<p>Smoking rates are highest amongst people with mental health conditions and a major cause of reduced life expectancy</p> <p>Hertfordshire Partnership foundation Trust is already Smokefree – in line with several other Mental Health Trusts</p>	<p>Major cultural change still needed – HPfT is developing an e-cigarette policy to address this</p>	<p>All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked</p> <p>Use of rechargeable e-cigarettes can be considered in line with Department of Health Estates & Facilities Alert issued 7/7/2014</p>	<p>The above guidance does not apply to mental health units.</p> <p>Separate guidance has been issued by the Department of Health which permits rechargeable products in mental health Inpatient Units</p> <p>E-cigarettes are available in prisons and South London & Maudsley Mental Health Units</p> <p>Vapers should not be segregated with smokers or</p>

					<p>confined to any shelters/restricted areas provided for smokers</p> <p>Supports Smokefree policies and has the potential to reduce smoking prevalence in those at greatest risk of smoking-related health inequalities</p> <p>Adulteration of tank models is a concern for mental health inpatients, so should not be made available</p>
Maternity & Services for pregnant women	Consider in defined internal areas, but do not segregate vapers with smokers in grounds or confine to any shelters/restricted areas provided for smokers	<p>Quitting smoking in pregnancy can be difficult. Pregnant smokers who can't quit using other methods may be successful using e-cigarettes</p> <p>E-cigarettes should not be discouraged in</p>	NICE guidance is that pregnant women should be advised to quit smoking and not to reduce smoking. Clear communication will be needed to ensure the message remains to quit rather than cut down	All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked	<p>If prescribed: formulary considerations as with all other medicines (clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness)</p> <p>Pregnant smokers should be encouraged to receive stop smoking support and use licensed nicotine products. They should not be discouraged from using e-cigarettes in place of smoking. The goal is to help every pregnant woman to stop smoking and we</p>

		pregnant smokers who would otherwise smoke			must avoid them continuing to smoke when there is a safer alternative.
Open and internal places designated for children's play or learning	Prohibit generally, consistent with the principle of managing and reducing uptake by children Consider allowing in enclosed <u>adult-only</u> areas for staff who work in such premises	Consistent with the principle of managing and reducing uptake by children	Parents may vape at home in preference to smoking around children and this should be encouraged	Not to be used All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked (in designated adult-only areas only)	E.g. children's playgrounds/school premises/children's centres. Smoking and e-cigarettes should not be role modelled in front of children Some disposable e-cigarettes look like actual cigarettes
Prisons and in custody	Allow	Offenders are at significant risk of smoking-related health inequalities and have high rates of smoking. The use of e-cigarettes can reduce the	The range of e-cigarettes needs to be reviewed to ensure that the ones permitted are safe and fit for purpose	All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked, approved by the Ministry of Justice for use in prisons Disposable products only	Some models have been reviewed by Public Health England and are approved for use and stocked within some prison shops. Supports rollout of Smokefree prisons

		side-effects of nicotine withdrawal including irritability and aggression		currently allowed	
Adult residential care services	Allow in bedrooms and communal areas (i.e. these are peoples' homes)	Smoking is a significant cause of fires in the elderly and infirm. Although there are incomplete data on fires caused by faulty e-cigarettes, the general consensus is that they are much less harmful in this respect than lighted cigarettes Can be a route out of smoking for individuals	The large array of e-cigarettes may be confusing and service users may initially need support – overall guidance available through Hertfordshire's Stop Smoking Service	All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked Disposable products may be preferred unless residential care sites have policies which allow properly tested e-cigarette chargers to be used.	Staff to comply with workplace policy Fire safety concerns – not to be charged on site or in oxygen-rich environments unless sites have policies which allow properly tested e-cigarette chargers to be used in specific areas See the Department of Health guidance which does not permit the charging of e-cigarettes on health premises or in oxygen-rich environments. Available here

		who would otherwise not consider quitting			
Public transport systems (inside trains and buses, for example)	Prohibit in enclosed spaces, allow in non-enclosed spaces	Facilitates the enforcement of Smokefree legislation especially when there is limited direct contact with service users	None identified	Difficult to achieve the necessary balance of considering the views of non-vapers and enforce Smokefree legislation	Difficult to monitor
Hospitality industry: hotels, pubs, clubs and restaurants	Permit in all open spaces Permit vaping areas in restaurants, pubs and hotels subject to considering non-vaping areas and ensuring the amount of vapour and smell is not intrusive to others	Supports effective tobacco harm reduction for the public. Also supports routine and manual workers to quit (high rates of smoking in this group)	Potential confusion as different organisations may be guided at a national level	All licensed and/or regulated products, and product CE marked	Fire safety concerns – not to be charged on site unless sites have policies which allow properly tested e-cigarette chargers to be used.