

Smoke Free Areas - Guidance

Purpose

1. To invite comment from members of the Health & Well-being Executive Group on draft guidance for local authorities about extending smoke free areas; and to secure agreement that the draft guidance be jointly badged by COSLA and NHS Health Scotland.

Recommendations

2. Executive Group Members are invited to agree joint badging of the smoke free areas guidance.

Background

3. Members will recall the aspiration for a 'smoke free' Scotland by 2034 as set out in the 2013 SG Tobacco Control Strategy '*Creating A Tobacco Free Generation*'; this included a number of actions for local government which were endorsed by Leaders. One of the actions was for local authorities to implement full smoke-free policies across their properties and surrounding grounds by 2015, including setting out enforcement measures.
4. In 2014 the Scottish Government established the National Smoke Free Working Group which sought to coordinate local NHS Boards' efforts in delivering against a similar commitment i.e. the requirement for smoke-free hospital grounds by March 2015. In recognition of the benefits of a partnership approach, the group included representation from COSLA and the Society of Local Authority Chief Environmental Health Officers. Prior to winding up in autumn 2015, and after giving consideration to producing minimum guidance for other sectors including local government, the group agreed offer NHS Health Scotland resource to work with local authority officers to produce draft minimum guidance for local authorities; if such need was identified.
5. Together officers from COSLA and NHS Health Scotland facilitated the establishment of a short-life working group which included representation from local authority health improvement officers and SPDS (Society of Professional Development Scotland). The group agreed that there was desire for some outline guidance among officers and acknowledged that different councils were at different stages toward completing the action and furthermore, that this variation was appropriate to local needs and priorities. The group met on two occasions and made initial contributions to the development of the attached draft guidance.

Smoke Free Areas Guidance

6. Much relevant material, guidance and information already exists on this subject and significant work is already underway in local authorities. There are a number of examples where councils are either in the process of drafting their strategies, are awaiting opportunity to secure endorsement, or have already developed draft smoke free area strategies e.g. West Dunbartonshire and Eilean Siar; or indeed have already implemented smoke free grounds such as in Clackmannanshire.
7. With this in mind, the intention was not to re-invent the wheel but to make available an umbrella style document for councils – however well-developed their individual smoke free area policies are – which provides reference and signposting to information which councils might find useful in progressing this work.

8. The draft content has been agreed by the SPDS Executive Committee who acknowledged that this complements the separate guidance they produced which focussed on the human resources aspects of smoke free policies.

Conclusion

9. Whilst some time has elapsed since the suggested deadline for extending smoke free area policies the action was agreed on the basis that councils were experiencing severe financial pressures so that progress would be made according to local priorities. There have also been some delays in producing the guidance due to capacity and staff changes at NHS Health Scotland.
10. The Executive Group is invited to note the guidance and agree that it can be jointly badged by COSLA and NHS Health Scotland prior to publication and issue to local authorities

Garrick Smyth
Health & Social Care Team
garrick@cosla.gov.uk
0131 474 9285

November 2016