

Families Fighting for Justice and O.L.L.Y (Our Lost Love Years)

Smoke free Policy

1. Introduction

This smoke free policy has been adopted by Families Fighting for Justice and O.L.L.Y with the aim of:

1.1 Creating a smoke free early year setting, this includes all outreach venues where services are delivered that both children and parents attend, including client's homes when staff must visit. This promotes and supports smoke free lifestyles.

1.2 The objectives of the policy are to:

- ✚ protect all children, parents and career's, employees and visitors from exposure to secondhand smoke and vapour in our office/Centre
- ✚ support those volunteers, students and clients who are smokers and wish to stop smoking, and
- ✚ Proactively promote the smoke free agenda.

1.3 The policy provides guidance for volunteers and students and users of the setting on why we are a smoke free centre and what this means in practice. The policy applies to everyone using the premises (including all grounds and buildings) for any purpose, at any time.

E-cigarettes and Vaping;

Smoking is defined clinically and in law. E-cigarette use does not meet the definition in either context. E-cigarettes carry a fraction of the risk of cigarettes and have the potential to drive down smoking rates and improve public health.ⁱ

1.4 The use of e-cigarettes is covered under this policy. Although the evidence does not currently show e-cigarettes to be acting as a gateway into smoking for young peopleⁱ, there is still concern that allowing their use on-site could threaten what has become the norm of not smoking in our Office/Centre. Although E-cigarettes are around 95% safer than smokingⁱⁱ so can be a useful quitting aid for some individuals, vaping is discouraged within in early years settings and schools due to the role modelling from adults and mimicking behaviour of children.

1.5 People with asthma and other respiratory conditions can be sensitive to a range of environmental irritants, which could include e-cigarette vapour, therefore the use of e-cigarette around children is discouraged.

1.6 E-cigarette use is illegal for under 18's. In the UK protection is in place via prohibitions on the sale of e-cigarette to under 18's and purchase by adults on behalf of under-18sⁱⁱ.

2. Rationale

DIRECT QUOTE FROM TOBACCO CONTROL PLAN FOR ENGLAND (2017)

“The UK has made great strides in reducing the harms caused by smoking, but it still remains the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in England. Smoking prevalence has substantially reduced; 20.2% of adults smoking at the start of the plan, (2011), to just 15,5% now. the lowest level since records began. But whilst we have made great strides in the right direction, there is more to doⁱⁱⁱ.”

- ✚ Every year, around **80,000 smokers in the UK die from smoking related causes: over 200 deaths every day.**
- ✚ Smoking accounts for over one-third of respiratory deaths, over one-quarter of cancer deaths, and about one-seventh of cardiovascular disease deaths.
- ✚ **About half of all regular cigarette smokers will die prematurely, losing on average around 10 years of life.**
- ✚ There are still about **6 million adults** who smoke cigarettes in Great Britain.
- ✚ **Nationally 8.2% of 15-year-olds still smoke. This figure is 10% in Devon, risking a lifetime of ill health.**
- ✚ **Smoking rates have remained stubbornly higher amongst those in our society who already suffer from poorer health and other disadvantages. Smoking rates are almost three times higher amongst the lowest earners, compared to the highest earners.**
- ✚ Smoking prevalence is **highest in the 25-34 age group (25%)** and lowest amongst those aged 60 and over.^v
- ✚ **Nationally 10.6% of pregnant women still smoke and in Devon this figure is 12.3%^{iv}.** Smoking in pregnancy can cause increased risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm birth and low birth weight. It has been found to increase infant mortality by about 40%^{vi}.

3. National strategy and legislation

- 3.1 This policy is informed by Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Plan for England (2011). It supports compliance with Health & Safety Legislation and Employment Law. The Health Act 2006 bans smoking in all enclosed public spaces and section 2(2) of the Health and safety at Work Act 1974 places a duty on employers to:

'...provide and maintain a safe working environment which is, so far as is reasonably practical, safe, without risks to health and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work.'
