

Health and Wellbeing Board



12 June 2025

Vaping Motion on Notice

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Health and wellbeing board 8 point position on vaping:



1. Key role in driving down rates of smoking in Plymouth.
2. Vaping with e cigarettes is 95% less harmful than smoking tobacco.
3. Protection from potential harms of vaping by restrictions on their sale and marketing to children
4. Advice to people who smoke tobacco is to consider switching from smoking to vaping with e-cigarettes.
5. Vaping is not risk free, so our advice is: if you don't smoke, don't vape.
6. Ongoing surveillance and research is crucial to detect long-term impacts on individuals and communities. If any new risks emerge, or guidance changes, we will revise our position.
7. Approach involves a wide range of partners.
8. We need clear and consistent messages to the public.

Intervention	Incident / Issue	Response	Lead & Contact	Consideration
1	Response to Incident	1:1 intervention with YP	The Children Society (TCS) Referral: Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service - Plymouth (office.com) Tel: 08000274431 Website: Plymouth substance misuse services The Children's Society (childrenssociety.org.uk)	Consider 'referral' if suspended (not just at PEX)
2	Preventative action focussed on an individual / group	Targeted individual / group support	PCC Community Youth Email: caroline.storer@plymouth.gov.uk Tel: 01752 306731 As of October 1 2024 - Youth Service has 1FTE Vaping Worker; TCS are currently recruiting – but will respond to referral request.	Evidence suggesting concern for an individual or a group
3	Criminal activity or exploitation:	Support and / or intervention	Police childcentredpolicingplymouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk michelle.evans@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Always inform Police on suspicion or intelligence linked to exploitation or criminal activity – particularly serious criminal activity
4	Vape testing	Access to relatively quick testing of vape products (e-liquids)	Police childcentredpolicingplymouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk michelle.evans@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best used to determine substances implicated in unusual effects from incidents In support of Police operations
5	Under-age sales	Supports enforcement targeting	Trading Standards tradingstandards@devon.gov.uk	Intelligence enables tactical targeting based on accumulation of evidence
6	Universal Education and Awareness in schools	Offer of education and awareness sessions re vaping (priority year 8 and year 9). Additional sessions available on other drugs or problem substance use issues	The Zone daworkshops@thezoneplymouth.co.uk	Evidence of effective use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of spiral curriculum Avoid assembly only – part of wider approach Use your school survey data
7	System 'stewarding'	Termly: updating, learning and networking; support to system	PCC Public Health odph@plymouth.gov.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared endeavour across system Situation is dynamic System /response needs to be agile and adaptive

****'Prevention of harmful vaping' (PHV)**

This term aims to reflect a range of behaviours where there is very limited or unreliable evidence / research on safety of use OR use that does not comply with regulatory / legal requirements that are in place. For example;

- Vaping associated with recreational use rather than a stop smoking intervention
- Vaping by under 18's – where the evidence on safety and possible harms is not clear
- Use of vape devices and products that do not comply to regulatory legislation
- Use of vape substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act
- Use of vape devices and products on the school estate / setting

Other

- Seymour (Hamoaze) House: FTE role focused on YP in ACE System (work in progress)
- Vaping: the facts | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK – this site has a video / leaflets / posters.
- Michael House – Health and Wellbeing in Schools PCC Officer – curriculum advice and also Healthy Child Quality Mark.

City wide approach 2: Education Place based improvement plan



Plymouth – Education Place Based Improvement Plan



Vaping in Plymouth 2024



Asked pupils in yr 8 and yr 10 about vaping
4124 responded

Never use 2,761
67%

Never use / not ongoing:
3794
92%

Ever Tried 1363
33%

Ongoing use
329
8%

Prevention ?
76% of those trying do not go on to use regularly.

Decisions reported by year 8 and 10 indicate a high level of prevention outcomes.

Enforcement activity in Plymouth



	23/24	24/25
Premises subject to underage sales test purchases	22	12
Sales made	3	2
Follow up action	5 x Service Warning letters and advice	3 x Service Warning Letters and advice
Seizure of illegal vape ops	8	2
Illegal vapes seized	3163	727
Enforcement action	1 ongoing investigation	1 ongoing investigation

Tobacco and Vapes Bill 2025

Key measures



Measures introduced	When?
Disposable vapes ban	1 June 2025
Powers to extend smoke free places to specific outdoor public places	Further regulations needed following consultation
Powers to create vape and heated tobacco free places	
Powers to regulate marketing of vapes	
Ban the sale of tobacco cigarettes to anyone born on or after 1 Jan 2009	1 Jan 2027

Tobacco and Vapes Bill 2025

Other measures



Measures introduced	When?
Ban on vape sponsorship and advertising	2 months after Bill is passed
Introduce age of sale restrictions (18+) for non nicotine vapes	6 months after Bill is passed
Ban on vape vending machines	
Enabling Trading Standards to issue Fixed Penalty Notices	
Stop free distribution of vapes	
Powers to establish new registrations system for tobacco cigarettes and vapes	Further regulations needed following consultation
Powers to create a licensing system for tobacco cigarettes and vapes	

“The key points about vaping (e-cigarettes) can be easily summarised. If you smoke, vaping is much safer; if you don’t smoke, don’t vape; marketing vapes to children is utterly unacceptable.”

Professor Sir Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England

6 questions to assess vape stories in the media



1. Have studies quoted been published in an academic journal and undergone peer review?
2. What type of study methodology and what type of claim ? Causal relationship?
3. What is the sample size?
4. Critical: do the studies consider the history of smoking tobacco among participants?
5. What was the length of follow up and how does it match against claims in the study?
6. How do the study conclusions compare to published systematic reviews and official government evidence updates?

Is switching from smoking to vaping safer?



GOV.UK

Home > Health and social care > Public health > Health improvement > Smoking
> Nicotine vaping in England: 2022 evidence update

Office for Health Improvement & Disparities

Research and analysis
Nicotine vaping in England: 2022 evidence update main findings
Published 29 September 2022

Applies to England

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1. The review

This evidence review is the eighth in a [series of independent reports on vaping](#) originally commissioned by Public Health England and now by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities in the Department of Health and Social Care.

This report was led by academics at King's College London with a group of international collaborators and is the most comprehensive to date. Its main focus is a systematic review of the evidence on the health risks of nicotine vaping.

- In the short and medium term, **vaping poses a small fraction of the risks of smoking**
- **Vaping is not risk-free**, particularly for people who have never smoked
- **Significantly lower exposure to harmful substances from vaping compared with smoking**
- Similar or higher exposure to harmful substances from vaping compared with not using nicotine products
- **No significant increase of toxicant biomarkers after short-term secondhand exposure to vaping** among people who do not smoke or vape

Recommendations, that the Health and wellbeing board:



1. re-affirm their support for the Vaping position statement 2019 (as amended in September 2023) and confirm that it remains fit for purpose to date.
2. notes that “this is a dynamic situation, and we will continue to review and respond to new evidence as it emerges” (Vaping Position Statement 2023).
3. notes and commends work building a city-wide approach to vaping as presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2024 and work subsequently undertaken under the Schools Place Based Improvement Plan .
4. Acknowledges the requests of the Motion on Notice heard at Full Council in January 2025 as actioned.