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Rec'd 22/02

**Social Work Resources**  
Executive Director **Harry Stevenson**

Mr John Glen  
Scottish Executive Health Department  
Tobacco Control Division  
3E (R)  
St Andrew's House  
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Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Our ref:** MD/CN  
**Your ref:**  
**If calling ask for:** Michele Dowling  
**Phone:** 01698 45 7355  
**Date:** 15 February 2007

Dear Mr Glen

**Consultation on the Draft Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 (Variation of Age Limit for Sale of Tobacco Purchase and Consequential Modifications) Order 2007.**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. In preparing this response I have consulted with colleagues across the Council. We are agreed in welcoming proposals in this Bill. We also welcome the report by the Smoking Prevention working group which lies behind these proposals. We are keen to support all measures which will help to make a tobacco free future for Scotland.

With reference to the specific questions in this consultation:

1. Yes, we agree that the age for the purchase of tobacco products should be raised to 18.
2. Evidence suggests that young people respond most positively to lifestyle interventions and activity to promote healthier lifestyle choices where they are intrinsic to the process. Engaging at an early stage is also important. For prevention work we need to focus on pupils in final years of primary school and the early years of secondary schools.

The legislation itself will not change smoking patterns among young people. As well as campaigns which are focused at particular groups, e.g. girls and young women, we need more information on the reasons why young people begin to smoke. This is highlighted in the Working Group's report and we would welcome a more holistic approach to tackling smoking among young people, of which raising the age of purchase is one part.

Enforcement of the legislation will be central to its success. Trading Standards are already involved in work to prevent underage sales and are keen to develop this in line new legislation.

The Executive should examine any resource implications that follow from this legislation with particular reference to Trading Standards.

A 6-12 month transition period would be our preferred option.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

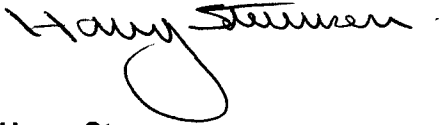


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The question of a phased introduction was raised at the consultation events. We would oppose this as it has the potential for confusion for both public and retailers. It would also complicate enticement of the new law.

If you have any queries about our response, please contact Michele Dowling, Planning Manager – Health on 01698 45 7355, [michele.dowling@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:michele.dowling@southlanarkshire.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Stevenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'H'.

**Harry Stevenson**  
**Executive Director**