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Smith L (Lee-Anne)

From: Glen J (John)
Sent: 02 March 2007 09:36
To: Smith L (Lee-Anne)
Subject: FW: Cross Party Group on Tobacco Control consultation responses

Age

JOHN GLEN
Tobacco Control Team
Public Health & Substance Misuse Division
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-----Original Message-----

From: Rachel Harrison [mailto:RHarrison@ashscotland.org.uk]
Sent: 02 March 2007 09:25
To: Glen J (John)
Cc: Eleanor.Scott.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
Subject: Re: Cross Party Group on Tobacco Control consultation responses

This email has been received from an external party and
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Hi John,

On behalf of Eleanor Scott MSP, Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Tobacco Control, I've attached the Group's responses to the 16-18/prevention recommendations consultations. Please get in touch if you've any queries, and thanks again for the generous extension on the deadline,

With best wishes,

Rachel

<<letter from the CPGTC on prevention recommendations.doc>> <<letter from CPG 16-18 consultation response.doc>>

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www.ashscotland.org.uk

Email your enquiries on tobacco and smoking to the ASH Scotland Information Service:

enquiries@ashscotland.org.uk

Visit Tobacco Information Scotland: your national gateway to tobacco control information:

<http://www.tobaccoinscotland.org.uk>

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28th February 2007

John Glen
Scottish Executive Health Department
Tobacco Control Division
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Regent Road
EDINBURGH, EH1 3DG

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

Dear Mr Glen,

The Cross Party Group on Tobacco Control (CPGTC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Scottish Executive's proposal to raise the minimum legal age for tobacco sales in Scotland from 16 to 18.

This submission represents the view of the CPGTC as a whole, and it may not fully reflect the views of individual non-MSP member organisations. CPGTC members are listed in full on page 4 of this submission.

1. The CPGTC endorses and supports the proposal to raise the minimum legal age for tobacco sales from 16 to 18, as part of a wider package of tobacco control measures to address youth access to tobacco and tobacco use.

Comprehensive and adequately resourced enforcement strategies are an essential accompaniment to any minimum age increase, in order to maximise the likelihood of reduced smoking rates in young people. When adequately enforced, sales to minors laws can also lead to a significant decline in the proportion of retailers that sell tobacco to underage persons. Age restrictions that are not enforced convey the message that the laws are not to be taken seriously, undermining efforts to educate young people about the serious health hazards of tobacco.

2. The CPGTC recommends that adequate and stable funding should be allocated for the following enforcement strategies, which should be put in place in Scotland in conjunction with raising the minimum legal age for tobacco sales:

- Mass media campaigns to raise awareness of the proposed change to the law, and to raise awareness of the reasons for raising the minimum purchasing age

- Education schemes for retailers, to include issues such as smoking initiation and young people, and the health hazards associated with starting smoking at a young age
- School and community-based education and prevention programmes to encourage community involvement in compliance with the law
- Appropriate cessation support for young people who want to give up smoking
- Setting national goals for reducing youth access, with a commitment to review these goals on a regular basis
- Regular compliance checks
- A continued commitment to national strategies on tobacco education, prevention and cessation programmes for young people as recommended by the Smoking Prevention Working Group.
- A retail licensing scheme

3. The CPGTC recommends that the package of enforcement strategies outlined are developed and where appropriate in place before any change to the law on raising the minimum age comes into effect. In addition, the strategies outlined should have involvement from a range of sectors and professionals (including health and education professionals, trading standards, local authorities, retailers, community based organisations and the wider community).

4. The CPGTC recommends that, if the current minimum age for tobacco sales in Scotland is increased from 16-18, this policy change should undergo robust evaluations to assess its wider impact. In preparation for the proposed change in the legal age for purchase, a comprehensive evaluation strategy should be developed as a priority in order that sufficient time is given to collect quality baseline data for post-implementation comparisons.

5. The CPGTC recommends that additional resources be allocated to NHS smoking cessation services, to address the likely increase in demand from young people related to the proposed changes to the current minimum age for purchase law. In addition, these resources should be used to increase the accessibility of NHS smoking cessation services to young people, in order to better support them to quit smoking. Resources should also be allocated to an advertising/information campaign, in order to inform young people and retailers about the proposed change in advance of its implementation.

6. The CPGTC endorses and supports the recommendation to increase the minimum age of purchase to 18 six to twelve months after the

legislation is amended. This would prepare both retailers and customers for a smooth transition. It would also enable sufficient time to develop mass media/public education campaigns to communicate the change to the current law. When publicising the change, it would be important to ensure that messages concerning the negative impacts of tobacco use, and the positive effects of giving up, or not starting to smoke, were well communicated. It remains essential to ensure that adequate time is allocated to plan and develop accompanying enforcement strategies before this proposed change is introduced. In addition, a delayed timeframe of 6-12 months before implementation would give young people more time to proactively change their own health behaviours associated with tobacco use.

England and Wales are raising the minimum legal age for tobacco sales from 16-18 in October 2007, and this move will be accompanied by an education and promotion campaign. Raising the minimum legal age for tobacco sales in Scotland at the same time would be beneficial as both campaigns to raise awareness could run in tandem and complement each other. A longer delay to implementation (i.e. 12-18 months) would enable underage children to purchase cigarettes for longer, which could cause significant damage to their health in the short and long term, and would increase rates of addiction to nicotine amongst young people. By opting for the shorter timescale of 6-12 months before implementation, the message that tobacco use among the young is dangerous would be more compelling and persuasive.

The CPGTC would welcome the opportunity to be involved in further discussions related to the proposal to raise the minimum legal age for tobacco sales in Scotland. Please contact me if you require any additional information related to any aspect of this submission.

Yours Sincerely,

Eleanor Scott MSP,
Convenor, Cross Party Group on Tobacco Control

ANNEX 1: Cross Party Group on Tobacco Control Members

MSP Members:

Brian Adam MSP
Bill Aitken MSP
Shiona Baird MSP
Mark Ballard MSP
Ted Brocklebank MSP
Donald Gorrie MSP
Paulline McNeill MSP
Stewart Maxwell MSP
Irene Oldfather MSP
Eleanor Scott MSP
Nicola Sturgeon MSP
John Swinburne MSP
Nora Radcliffe MSP

Non MSP Member Organisations:

ASH Scotland
Asthma UK Scotland
British Lung Foundation
British Medical Association
British Heart Foundation
Cancer BACUP
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Centre for Tobacco Control Research, Stirling University
Macmillan Cancer Relief
Marie Curie Cancer Care
Royal College of Nursing
Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation
Scottish Tobacco Control Alliance