

**Smith L (Lee-Anne)**

02-25

**From:** Glen J (John)  
**Sent:** 27 February 2007 13:59  
**To:** Smith L (Lee-Anne)  
**Subject:** FW: Towards a future without tobacco

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Whitelaw, Carole [mailto:Carole.Whitelaw@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 26 February 2007 16:00  
**To:** Glen J (John)  
**Subject:** FW: Towards a future without tobacco

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<<Towards a future without tobacco - response.doc>>

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On behalf of East Renfrewshire CHCP

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## **Towards a Future without Tobacco**

### **Reducing availability**

- Evidence:

A robust evidence base is essential to enable prevention programmes and smoking cessation services for children and young people to be targeted appropriately. Therefore we are in agreement with these recommendations. It is important to start the process of assessing the effectiveness of education programmes delivered within schools as early as possible and to have staff trained so that there is a consistency in approach.

- Age Restriction

We agree with the recommendation to increase the age limit from 16 to 18 years, with a 6-12 month delay before implementation, which should be sufficient to ease transition.

- Enforcement

As various studies have shown that young people under 16 years of age have little or no difficulty in purchasing cigarettes the introduction of a negative licensing scheme for retailers who continue to disregard the age limit for the sale of tobacco would provide an effective deterrent for most retailers.

Young girls in particular can look older than their actual age therefore proof of identity should be required with the continuation of active test purchasing.

- Cost

As increased cost of cigarettes have been shown to reduce the amount of young people smoking we would agree with the recommendation to increase tobacco taxation at a faster rate than inflation in the hope of deterring young people from smoking and encouraging those who smoke to stop.

The existence of low cost cigarettes either through smuggling or importation may also impact on young people being able to afford to smoke. Therefore we support the measures recommended to limit smuggling and to reduce the current limits for importation of tobacco from other countries. We would support any of the recommendations which reduce the availability of cigarettes eg raising the age of the purchase of tobacco to 18, not selling packs of ten, increasing cost

### **Discouraging Young People from Smoking**

- Education

We agree that education should be targeted at the family as well as the young people as the views of their family have a large impact on whether they will smoke. In addition, it is important to develop appropriate peer education programmes as a lot of young people start smoking because their friends are smokers. The social influence on young people cannot be underestimated, so programmes that involve young people educating other young people about the negative aspects of smoking can only be positive.

- Policies

The adoption of no smoking policies in school grounds and within community based youth organisations are encouraged but we would extend those to include play areas in parks (as in some council areas).

- Evidence

There is very little evidence on what works both in terms of preventing young people in disadvantaged areas from smoking and supporting them to stop. Therefore more evidence needs to be generated in this area.

## **Making Things Happen**

In order to have maximum effect consultation with young people is essential on how best to implement the recommendations.