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Smith L (Lee-Anne)

From: Glen J (John)
Sent: 28 February 2007 14:49
To: Smith L (Lee-Anne)
Subject: FW: Towards a future without tobacco



Towards a Future
Without Tobac...

JOHN GLEN
Tobacco Control Team
Public Health & Substance Misuse Division
Area 3 E
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

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

From: Doig, Fiona [mailto:Fiona.Doig@borders.scot.nhs.uk]
Sent: 28 February 2007 14:35
To: Glen J (John)
Subject: Towards a future without tobacco

This email has been received from an external party and
has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

Dear Mr Glen

Please find attached NHS Borders' response to the above consultation: <<Towards a Future Without Tobacco - consultation response.doc>>

Yours sincerely

Fiona

Fiona Doig

Depute Manager in Health Promotion/Smoking Awareness Co-ordinator NHS Borders Health
Promotion Department Westgrove Waverley Road MELROSE Roxburghshire TD6 9SJ

Tel: 01896 824500 Fax: 01896 824635



02-39
Westgrove
Waverley Road
Melrose
TD6 9SJ



Telephone 01896 824500
Fax 01896 824635
www.nhsborders.org.uk

Date : 1 March 2007
Your Ref
Our Ref: LM/TF/FD

Enquiries to Louise McKay, Administrator
Telephone 0844 8118180
Email: louise.mckay@borders.scot.nhs.uk

Mr John Glen
Scottish Executive Health Department
Tobacco Control Division
3R(R)St Andrews House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Mr Glen

Towards a Future Without Tobacco

Consultation Response - NHS Borders

NHS Borders welcomes the publication of Towards a Future Without Tobacco and the investment of the members of the Smoking Prevention Working Group and Scottish Executive in taking this important aspect of tobacco control forward. We believe that Boards will benefit from this work and its subsequent recommendations in terms of ensuring our local practice is evidence based and, where evidence is limited, conforms to national guidance. We have specific points to raise regarding particular recommendations as follows:

Recommendations

Targets

1 We welcome the alignment of targets to correspond with data collection points via SALSUS thus resolving the problem of how Boards can assess whether or not targets are met. The aim to continue to drive down the rate of % young regular smokers is laudable yet ambitious given the wider factors influencing smoking. It is possible that, as prevalence drops, the approaches to prevention (and cessation) in groups who continue to show higher prevalence may require adaptation and increased investment.

We assume that more local targets will be set in due course.

2 as above

Research

3&4 We welcome this call for research and cost effectiveness and would include further research on cessation in young people.

Reducing availability

5 We support this recommendation in particular with regard to successful prosecution of retailers who sell tobacco to under-age children

6 The document cites a lack of evidence for both negative and positive licensing schemes. While we recognise a positive licensing scheme would incur costs the rationale for including a negative scheme (other than costs) is not clear. We would like to suggest an impact assessment of the negative scheme with a plan of moving forwards to a positive scheme if the negative one proved ineffective or evidence from elsewhere became available.

7 We support the raising of the minimum age of purchase for tobacco to 18 and have submitted a consultation response to this recommendation separately.

8 - 19 We support these recommendations and welcome the research regarding packets of 10 cigarettes in particular. It would also be helpful if the Scottish Executive were able to include information in any media campaign to debunk the often-cited excuse that the income generated from tobacco taxation offset any detriment to the exchequer or the country in general.

Discouraging young people from smoking

24 We endorse in particular the concept of Health Promoting School that embraces ethos, policy, services and extra-curricular activities that foster the health and well being of pupils in the widest sense.

20 - 25 We endorse the recommendations for developing a framework for tobacco and other drug education in schools and are pleased that the Scottish Executive envisages this being incorporated in to the Health Promoting Schools concept. We feel it is important to state this overtly in order to avoid tobacco and drugs education sitting outside the curriculum and to ensure that young people are equipped not only with knowledge to allow informed decisions but that they are able to develop skills to enable their decision making processes and environments to support them.

26 We feel that the potential role of these institutions has, at times, been overlooked in the past and would be interested in future work that involved those in post school education. We recognise the challenges within this, however, given young people's transition from pupil to student as being key in their development from child to adult.

27 We endorse this recommendation.

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28 We fully endorse this recommendation and opportunity to build on existing links with local authority partners and other staff who work with young people.

29 Those young people who decide they would like to try to stop smoking will be welcomed by smoking cessation services although the numbers of young people who might like to access service is hard to predict. We are pleased that the Scottish Executive acknowledges the lack of evidence demonstrated by the young people's cessation pilot studies and the resulting difficulties for NHS Boards in providing appropriate and effective services for young people.

Making things happen

30 & 31 We fully endorse these recommendations.

Yours Sincerely

Fiona Doig
Deputy Health Promotion Manager/Smoking Awareness Co-ordinator
On behalf on NHS Borders

Cc Andrew Riley, Director of Public Health Medicine
Alan Mordue, Consultant in Public Health Medicine
David Dalglish, Head of Pharmacy
Cath Young, Health Promotion Manager