

02-SS

Smith L (Lee-Anne)

From: Glen J (John)  
Sent: 01 March 2007 13:22  
To: Smith L (Lee-Anne)  
Subject: FW: Consultation on Smoking Prevention Working Group Report: Towards a Future without Tobacco



John Glen  
8.2.07.doc (39 KB)

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

From: Beth Miller [mailto: Beth.Miller@lhb.scot.nhs.uk]  
Sent: 01 March 2007 12:56  
To: Glen J (John)  
Subject: Consultation on Smoking Prevention Working Group Report: Towards a Future without Tobacco

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

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Please find attached reponse from NHS Lothian. Please accept our apologies for the delay in sending this letter.

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John Glen  
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Date 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007  
Your Ref  
Our Ref AMcC/DG/DF  
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Dear Mr Glen

### **CONSULTATION ON SMOKING PREVENTION WORKING GROUP REPORT TOWARDS A FUTURE WITHOUT TOBACCO**

Thank you very much for the copy of this interesting report. I am pleased to reply on behalf of NHS Lothian.

We are pleased to see the Scottish Executive's recognition of the harmfulness of tobacco on young people and the comprehensive and multi-angled approach needed to tackle this effectively. The thirty-one recommendations in this report are well argued with a clear and up-to-date evidence base being given for them. Therefore as a package they offer a real opportunity to reduce the numbers of young people taking up and continuing to use tobacco. Although bringing the age of sales in line with that of alcohol, there may be difficulties of rigorously enforcing a negative licensing scheme. It should be clarified whether 'age of purchase' will also become a legal issue as at present, unlike alcohol, it is illegal to sell cigarettes to minors but not illegal for minors to purchase them – we would recommend that this is brought into line with alcohol purchases and also becomes illegal for minors to purchase. However I believe the recommendations should be taken forward.

We welcome the proposed targets for young people. Although the smokefree legislation will affect young people of 16+ (in workplaces/educational establishments but not in licensed premises in which it should only affect young people of 18+), it is maybe worth considering how a potential change in the underage sales legislation to under-18s should influence targets. Accordingly, it would be worth considering separate targets for 16-17 and 18-24 year-olds. Another point is that it seems surprising to me that the Working Group did not have young people on it and arguably recommendation 30 should have been dealt with before the report was published. Chewing tobacco featured to a small extent in the report and we recommend that chewing tobacco products should have to adhere to the same regulations and policies as other forms of tobacco.

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Deaconess House 148 Pleasance Edinburgh EH8 9RS

Interim Chair Bob Anderson  
Chief Executive James Barbour O.B.E.  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board*

Presumably after consultation funding will be attached to the recommendations as well as the five-year action plan as outlined in Recommendation 31 given priority? We would recommend that this action plan contains guidance and clear details of who or which organisations/sectors/bodies have responsibility for or should be involved with each action.

In summary NHS Lothian welcomes this work and in particular the focus on disadvantaged communities and offers the possibility for the Health Service, local authorities and other partners to work for and with this group of young people who often have a variety of disadvantages and risk-seeking behaviours.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison McCallum', written in a cursive style.

**DR ALISON McCALLUM**  
Director of Public Health and Health Policy