Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care)(Scotland) Bill

NHS Grampian

A collective response to the Health and Sport’s Committee’s call for views from NHS Grampian.

1. Do you support the Bill’s provisions in relation to NVP's?

NHS Grampian supports the provisions laid out in relation to NVP’s in order to protect young people in the same way as existing tobacco legislation protects young people. Concerns were voiced relating to the safety and efficacy of NVP products and vapour from NVP products. Points were made which highlighted the prevalence of e-cig use and the potential it had to minimise tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke. NHS Grampian’s Tobacco Control Strategy Group acknowledge that NVP’s are less harmful than tobacco, whilst being unable to advocate NVP use at this point, NHS Grampian would urge a measured approach in order to support individuals using e-cigarettes as part of a quit attempt from tobacco use.

2. Do you support the proposal to ban smoking in hospital grounds?

NHS Grampian supports the proposal to ban smoking in hospital grounds. Views expressed related to the difficulty of enforcing the ban, with many individuals still found to be smoking on NHS grounds. Some employees have reported increased exposure to second hand smoke since the ban, smokers have now moved from hospital doorways to main entrances and exits to smoke. Respondents were concerned about increased cigarette litter at main entrances and exits to NHS premises. Public places directly outside NHS premises including bus – stops now have an increased prevalence of smokers which was not as evident before the ban.

Opinion expressed supported the cultural shift required to create smoke free sites whereby smoking should be viewed as an unacceptable social norm. Further legislation would be welcomed to improve implementation efforts of local policy; however there should be consideration given to the impact of enforcement measures for specific groups of people, e.g. mental health and learning disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

3. Is there anything you would add/remove/change in the Bill with regards to NVPs or smoking in hospital grounds?

No.

NHS Grampian