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

Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

As Senior ADP Community Engagement Officer, I am responding to part 1 of this Bill on behalf of the Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

A questionnaire with the following three questions was sent out to the three ADP Community Forums and responses were received from a range of agencies and Forum members. Many of our local partners have already submitted organisational responses to the consultation but also responded on an individual basis. These included staff from Education & Children’s Services, HMP Grampian, Public Health, Children 1st, Turning Point, Employment Services, Social Work and a Medical Practice.

The results were as follows:

**Question 1 - Do you support the Bill’s provisions in relation to NVPs?**

This had unanimous approval.

**Question 2 - Do you support the proposal to ban smoking in hospital grounds?**

63% said yes and 37% said no

**Question 3 – is there anything you would add/remove/change in the Bill with regards to NVPs or smoking in hospital grounds?**

The majority of people had no further comments to make; however, most of those who disagreed with the smoking ban added the following responses:

Almost all identified the need for a small designated site/smoking shelter away from the main entrances of hospitals.

There were comments on people’s rights to make informed choices provided they weren’t affecting the health, well-being and human rights of others.

The main concern was around the situation for patients receiving psychiatric care: “They are in hospital because they are in crisis, to then force them to give up smoking as they cannot leave the ward/grounds unaccompanied would not only increase their levels of distress but can actually impact upon their mental health and exacerbate their condition.”

Some concerns were also expressed around the ability of Boards to enforce the no smoking rule and whether it was fair to fine an individual with an addiction or hold the hospital responsible.

With regard to NVPs, there was a comment that these should be treated as regular tobacco products and the same rules should apply to them on hospital grounds.
In general, people supported the provision of information on products, the suggested restriction on purchase and promotion of these and the protection of individuals under the age of 18. It was felt that “this bill is a good opportunity to focus on denormalising of smoking and the use of tobacco products and protecting the young generation of taking up the habit of smoking. That is what has to be promoted”

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