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# **NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**

## **TOBACCO CONTROL GROUP**

### **ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2009**

Promoting a Smoke-free Environment

In line with our Communicating Information Well Policy, the Northern Board is committed to making information as accessible and equitable as possible and to promoting positive and meaningful dialogue with local people.

### **Alternative Formats**

The Action Plan is also available in the following alternative formats:

- Large print {size as required}
- Computer disk
- Audio tape
- Translation

For an alternative format, please contact::

The Patient/Client Information Service - 08457 626428 or textphone: 028 25311001

The Action Plan can also be found on the Board's Website at:

[www.nhssb.nhs.uk](http://www.nhssb.nhs.uk) and at Tobacco Control Group Website [www.nhssbtcg.co.uk](http://www.nhssbtcg.co.uk)

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## **NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD TOBACCO CONTROL GROUP**

Smoking remains the single most preventable cause of illness, premature death and health inequality throughout the United Kingdom. In Northern Ireland 2,400 people die each year from smoking related diseases <sup>1</sup>.

Improving the health of all our people and reducing health inequalities is a key element of the Programme for Government and is the main aim of the Investing for Health Strategy <sup>2</sup>. Smoking, more than any other identifiable factor, contributes to the gap in life expectancy between those most advantaged and those most in need. Tobacco control is one of the most effective and cost-effective steps that can be taken to improve the health of the population and reduce inequalities.

The Northern Health and Social Services Board Tobacco Control Group leads on the development and delivery of smoking cessation and preventative initiatives throughout the Board area.

The Northern Ireland Continual Household Survey 2006 / 2007 noted that regionally 25% of people aged over 16 smoke. The local rate for the NHSSB of 25% is in keeping with the regional rate. While 75% of the adult population do not smoke, the challenge remains to prevent young people starting to smoke and to increase the number of people quitting.

The Northern Tobacco Control Group Action Plan 2008 / 09 is developed in response to the Northern Ireland Five Year Tobacco Action Plan 2003 / 2008<sup>1</sup> and Public Service Agreement {PSA} target that by March 2011, reduce to 21% and 25% respectively the proportion of adults / manual workers who smoke.

The key focus within the Action Plan is -

- preventing people from starting to smoke;
- helping smokers to quit – especially disadvantaged adults, manual workers, pregnant smokers and young people; and
- protecting non-smokers from second-hand smoke.

The delivery of the Action Plan is ongoing and is dependant on the availability of resources.

The Action Plan takes into account the Smoking Order 2006<sup>3</sup>, Smoke-free Legislation and Smoke-free Policy developments within the Board area in the protection of people from the exposure to second-hand smoke and encouraging, where possible, the uptake of smoking cessation services.

The NHSSB Tobacco Control Group's present membership includes the following:

- Northern Health and Social Services Board
- Ulster Cancer Foundation
- Chest Heart and Stroke Association
- Northern Neighbourhoods Health Action Zone
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust
- North Eastern Education and Library Board
- Environmental Health

## **Acronym List**

BIT – Brief Intervention Training  
DHSSPS – Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  
EHOs – Environmental Health Officers  
ELBs – Education and Library Boards  
FE – Further Education  
GP – General Practice  
HPA – Health Promotion Agency  
HPSS – Health and Personal Social Services  
LCID – Local Communication Information Data  
LES – Local Enhanced Scheme  
NEELB – North Eastern Education and Library Board  
NHSSB – Northern Health and Social Services Board  
NNHAZ – Northern Neighbourhood Health Action Zone  
NRT – Nicotine Replacement Therapy  
NTCG – Northern Tobacco Control Group  
PFA - Priorities for Action  
PR – Public Relations  
UCF – Ulster Cancer Foundation

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety {2003}. A Five Year Tobacco Action Plan 2003 – 2008. Belfast: DHSSPS

<sup>2</sup> Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety {2002}. Investing for Health. Belfast: DHSSPS

<sup>3</sup>Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety {2006}  
The Smoking {Northern Ireland }Order 2006