

# Support the Bill to protect Children and Young people from the harms of tobacco smoke

## Why is this important in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire?

Tobacco remains the biggest cause of health inequalities in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Supporting the Bill to ban smoking in private vehicles where there are children present will give MPs the opportunity to show the general public that they will act in their powers to help protect the health and well-being of children in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

## Key facts, what you need to know

- Evidence suggests that legislation has contributed to a reduction in Second Hand Smoke and reductions in hospital admissions of unstable angina and heart attacks<sup>1</sup>.
- 80% of smokers start before the age of 19<sup>2</sup>.
- In the UK an estimated 23 children and 4,000 adults die each year due to Second Hand Smoke<sup>3</sup>.
- Of the 4,000 chemicals found in tobacco smoke 69 are known or probable causes of cancer, which when produced in enclosed spaces expose smokers and non-smokers to the harmful effects of Second Hand Smoke<sup>3</sup>.
- Second Hand Smoke is a combination of exhaled smoke by the smoker and the side-stream smoke from the burning of tobacco products.
- More than 8 in 10 people are concerned about children and young people starting to smoke<sup>4</sup>.
- 29% of smokers believe that Second Hand Smoke has little or no impact on the health of children<sup>5</sup>.
- The health costs of passive smoking among children are estimated for 2005-6 at around £23million (this includes costs for primary care contacts and hospital admissions)<sup>6</sup>.
- 30% of smokers smoke in their vehicle and over half of all journeys made by children aged 16 and under are in private vehicles, highlighting that private vehicles are a source of exposure to Second Hand Smoke<sup>7</sup>.

## Second Hand Smoke and Children's Health

- In England nearly one in five (19%) young people report that they are often exposed to Second Hand Smoke in cars<sup>5</sup>.
- Specifically the British Lung Foundation (BLF) showed that 51% of 8-15 year olds have been exposed to cigarette smoke when confined in a vehicle<sup>8</sup>.
- Second Hand Smoke increases the risk of middle ear disease, lower respiratory tract infections, asthma, wheezing and meningitis<sup>5</sup>.
- Every year exposure to Second Hand Smoke leads to an estimated 165,000 additional cases of these conditions and an estimated 8,500 of these turn in to hospital admissions<sup>5</sup>.
- Children (under 13 years) are 72% more likely to smoke if a parent is a smoker<sup>6</sup>.

## Health impacts in vehicles

- Exposure to Second Hand Smoke is greater within confined spaces than outside: the more confined the space, the greater the exposure the greater the risk<sup>5</sup>.
- The concentration of toxins in a smoke-filled vehicle is 23 times greater than that of a smoky bar<sup>3</sup>.

- Residual toxins from tobacco smoke are known to remain in the interior materials of the vehicle long after a cigarette has burnt out (a total ban would ensure that the interior of the vehicle is free from residual smoke toxins)<sup>3</sup>.

### Helpful Additional Information

- Evidence suggests that drivers who smoke are at a greater risk of accidents than those who do not, with smokers about 50% more likely to die in a crash<sup>3</sup>.
- Public opinion for the ban on smoking in private vehicles has increased especially when children are considered. 78% of all adults and 62% of smokers support a ban on smoking in cars with children under 18<sup>9</sup>.
- We do not get as much money from tobacco tax when compared to the costs to society. In Nottinghamshire smoking costs society £204.4m every year. Every year Tobacco revenue in Nottinghamshire contributes £176.5m leaving an annual shortfall of £27.9m<sup>10</sup>.

Expanding the ban to include private vehicles would see these health benefits expand to a greater section of the population, particularly children.

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<sup>1</sup> Callinan J.E, Clarke A, Doherty K and Kelleher, C. (2010). Legislative smoking bans for reducing secondhand smoke exposure, smoking prevalence and tobacco consumption. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*

<sup>2</sup> Goddard E., *General Household Survey 2006: Smoking and drinking among adults 2006*, Office for National Statistics (2008), available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2008/DEP2008-2395.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> British Medical Association (2011). Smoking in Vehicle. Board of Science. [http://www.bma.org.uk/images/smokinginvehicles\\_v3\\_tcm41-210651.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/smokinginvehicles_v3_tcm41-210651.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> DH (2009) Slide pack presentation to All Peers Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009

<sup>5</sup> All Parliamentary Party Group on smoking and health (2011). *Injury into smoking in private vehicles*. [www.ash.org.uk/appg](http://www.ash.org.uk/appg)

<sup>6</sup> Royal College of Physicians. (2010). *Passive smoking and children: A report by the tobacco advisory group of the Royal College of Physicians*

<sup>7</sup> British Medical Associate (2007). Breaking the cycle of children's exposure to tobacco smoke

<sup>8</sup> British Lung Foundation (2011). <http://www.lunguk.org/media-and-campaigning/media-centre/latestpressreleases/kids-unite-to-stop-smoking-in-cars>

<sup>9</sup> YouGov Plc. (2008). YouGov poll commissioned by ASH <http://www.ash.org.uk/media-room/press-releases/yougov-poll-shows-strong-public-support-for-tough-measures-to-protect-children-from-tobacco>

<sup>10</sup> Ash (2011). *Cough Up, Policy Exchange*, 2010, 2. HMRC, 3. 'Reckoner' spreadsheet for calculated estimated local costs