

NHS LANARKSHIRE

PRIMARY CARE OPERATING DIVISION

Report to NHS Board 22nd March 2006

Implementing Smoking Cessation Legislation

1. Purpose of the Report

This report has been prepared to inform the NHS Board of the approach being taken to develop the necessary service strategy no smoking policy and operating procedures to ensure compliance with the impending smoking legislation and to decrease smoking prevalence to the target levels which are set out within the Local Delivery Plans.

2. Smoking Cessation Legislation

The new Smoking Cessation Legislation comes into force at 6.00 am on 26th March 2006. Organisations are required to prepare policies and operating procedures to ensure that this legislation is adhered to in wholly or partly enclosed public places. In order to progress this work a project group was established under the leadership of the Divisional Chief Executive – Primary Care. This project group had two specific objectives, these being:

1. To develop the No-Smoking Policy reflecting on the implications for staff, patients, visitors and the environment. This policy has been prepared and agreed through the partnership process and is now available to all staff members in the public folders. The changes have been the subject of high profile communications with the front page of the last two editions of the Pulse largely given over to the new legislation and the impact on staff, patients and visitors. All local newspapers have also carried stories on the new legislation and the responsibilities of members of the public to recognise the legal implications associated with the smoking ban. The key messages carried within the policy document and the media coverage are:
 - NHS Lanarkshire is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all staff, patients and visitors
 - Smoking will be banned in all NHS Lanarkshire owned or occupied premises including all buildings and all vehicles
 - The only exceptions to this rule will be in designated rooms in psychiatric hospitals and units which are essentially the patient's home

- A clear message will be provided that smoking and the effects of passive smoking are a major cause of preventable ill health and will be discouraged
 - Smoking will also be banned within 5 metres of buildings and clear signs will be posted throughout the premises and the grounds owned and occupied by NHS Lanarkshire
 - These signs will carry a free phone helpline number where staff and members of the public can notify of any breaches of the new Policy and Legislation
 - Where there are frequent breaches of the act Environmental Health Officers will be notified as they have the responsibility of ensuring that individuals and organisations comply with the law and can impose personal and organisational fines on those who breach the legislation.
2. The second area of interest was the development of a service strategy for the Smoking Cessation Teams. The general principle underpinning this is that there would be a single team operating across NHS Lanarkshire whether in Acute or Primary Care settings. The team prepared a capacity plan which recognised that with the increasing demand for access to the service, that a higher proportion of people would be required to be seen in group versus 1:1 settings. It is also clear that additional capacity is required if we are to meet the current and growing level of demand. A capacity plan has been prepared and the additional resource requirements have been set out in a business case for discussion with the Director of Finance. A Patient Group Direction has also been established to support the provision of nicotine replacement therapy as this provides better value for money in that costs are reduced by up to 25% compared to provision through GP prescription. Supply to patients can also be staggered based on their continued attendance at the group therapy, whereas GP prescriptions are very often issued for the full programme and for those people who return to smoking, there is a level of wastage on the nicotine replacement products. The service strategy has also set out a financial framework as there are issues about dedicated funding and the number of temporary contracts for those staff operating within the service. The Director of Finance has made provision for ring fenced money within the financial framework which will support the delivery of this service on a more permanent footing. This will enable NHS Lanarkshire to ensure that it is in the best position to optimise the numbers of people who would seek to quit on the back of the No Smoking Legislation.

3. *Conclusion*

Members of NHS Lanarkshire Board are asked to note the progress which has been made in updating the No Smoking service plans and policies to reflect our commitment to reducing smoking prevalence and to fully implement the New Legislation as of 26th March 2006.