

Council 17th October 2023

Administration motion in the name of Councillor Alison Moore

Smoking Cessation Services Funding

This Council notes that:

- Preventable disease continues to have a massive impact on the public's health, the NHS and the economy.
- Tobacco is the biggest preventable cause of cancer and premature death in the UK.
- With decades of comprehensive policy action, adult smoking prevalence in the UK in 2022 was at a record low at 12.9% but this masks significant inequality. In Barnet, GP records show average smoking prevalence across the Borough is 12.4% but that in some wards it's as high as 17.4%.
- Differences in smoking rates make it one of the leading drivers of health inequalities, responsible for half the difference in life expectancy between the lowest and highest income groups in England.
- According to the anti-smoking Charity ASH, smoking costs Barnet £105million per year in terms of ill-health, loss of productivity, fires and other costs.

Council therefore:

- Recognises that through their public health duties, local authorities including Barnet are responsible for improving the health of their population and do this through services including stop smoking services and wider tobacco control activities;
- Believes that local government must be adequately resourced to fulfil their public health duties;
- Supports Cancer Research UK's calls for a Smokefree Fund (a fixed annual charge on the tobacco industry, making the tobacco industry pay for the damage their products cause, without being able to influence how the funds are spent) to fund local tobacco control work and urges the UK Government to consider implementing a Smokefree Fund as part of its efforts to tackle health inequalities.
- Will write letters to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to that effect.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15.5 this motion is to stand referred to the Health & Wellbeing Board as a matter within the remit of that committee