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PLP Briefng

Tobacco and Vapes Bill – Second Reading

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Tobacco and Vapes Bill Top Lines

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This bill will deliver a world-leading landmark smoking ban to stop the cycle of addiction and protect children.

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This government is taking bold action to create the first smoke-free generation, clampdown on kids getting hooked on nicotine through vapes, and protect children and vulnerable people from the harms of second-hand smoke.

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Unless we act to help people stay healthy, the rising tide of ill health in our society threatens to overwhelm and bankrupt our NHS. Prevention is better than cure.

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Labour is committed to protecting children from becoming hooked on vaping, through a ban on vape advertising and sale of vapes in vending machines, in addition to restricting vape flavours, packaging and shop display.

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Smoking is still the biggest killer. It claims around 80,000 lives a year, puts huge pressure on our NHS, and costs taxpayers billions.

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Smoking costs the NHS £3.1 billion pounds a year. The cost of smoking to our

economy is even greater, £18.3 billion lost in productivity every year, with smokers a third more likely to be off work sick.

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This bill will extend indoor smoking ban to certain outdoor settings such as playgrounds and outside schools and hospitals, to protect children and the most vulnerable.

## Health and Social Care Top Lines

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The fundamental promise of the NHS, that it will be there for us when we need it, has been broken. Broken by a decade of underinvestment; by a disastrous Tory top-down reorganisation; and by ditching the

reforms made by the last Labour Government.

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Over 14 years, the Conservatives have taken the golden inheritance left by the last Labour government and wrecked it, with waiting lists at record highs and patientsatisfaction at a record low – leaving millions of people waiting in pain.

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One of our first acts was to ask Lord Darzi to produce an honest report on the state of our health service after 14 years of Conservative mismanagement. His findings should shock us all: the NHS has not been able to meet its promises to treat patients on time for almost a decade;



patients have never been more dissatisfied with the service they receive; waiting lists for mental health and community services have surged; 50 years of progress on cardiovascular disease is going into reverse; and cancer is more likely to be a death sentence for NHS patients than for patients in other countries. We clearly have a long road ahead.

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But while the NHS is broken, it's not beaten. We will turn the NHS around so it is there for you when you need it, once again.

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Working with staff and patients we will

develop a ten-year plan. The ten year plan will consider how we make the three big shifts our NHS needs - from analogue to digital, from hospital to community, and from sickness to prevention.

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It will take time, but Labour has turned the NHS around before, and we will do it again.

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We will always defend our NHS as a public service, free at the point of use, so whenever you fall ill, you never have to worry about the bill.

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Alongside our 10-year plan for change and

modernisation of the NHS, Labour will deliver a long-term plan for reform of adult social care and deliver the National Care Service that ensures people can live active and fulfilling lives in the places and communities they call home.





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Background

Smoking

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Today is an important step towards our aim to create the first smoke free generation.

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Smoking is the number one preventable cause of death, disability and ill health in our country. It is responsible for one in four of all cancer deaths and kills up to two thirds of its users.

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Smoking still claims around 80,000 lives a year in the UK, putting huge pressure on our NHS, taking up appointments, scans and operations. It costs taxpayers £3.1

billion a year.

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The Government's plans to progressively increase the age at which people can buy cigarettes, so no one born on or after 1 January 2009 can ever be legally sold cigarettes.

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The cost of smoking to the economy is £18 billion lost in productivity every year, as smokers are a third more likely to be off work sick.

- 

Tobacco is a uniquely harmful product, responsible for a quarter of all cancer

deaths and killing up to two-thirds of its long-term users. Smoking substantially increases the risk of many major health conditions, such as strokes, diabetes, heart disease, stillbirth, dementia and asthma.

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Almost

every minute, someone is admitted to hospital because of smoking. Up to 75,000 GP appointments can be attributed to smoking each month - over 100 every hour.

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There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke. This is particularly

true for children - whose lungs and immune system aren't as well developed as adults - as well as pregnant women and those with pre-existing health conditions.

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No smoker wants to harm people, but with second hand smoke, they do, and the only way to stop that is to stop smoking around others. 88% of the public are non smokers. There is no safe level of exposure to smoke. If you can smell cigarette smoke you are inhaling it.

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The Government will be given powers to extend indoor smoking ban to certain outdoor settings such as playgrounds and outside schools and hospitals, to protect



children and the most vulnerable.

## Vaping

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Vapes can be an effective way for adult smokers to quit smoking. However, it is never recommended for children and carries risks of future harm and addiction.

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The Tobacco and Vapes Bill will stop vapes and other consumer nicotine products from being deliberately branded and advertised to appeal to children. These measures will help to stop the next generation from becoming hooked on nicotine.

- Selling nicotine vapes to under 18s is illegal, yet due to the branding and advertising of vapes to children, youth vaping has more than doubled in the last five years, and one in





four 11-15 year olds have tried vaping in 2023.

- 

Due to nicotine content and the unknown long term harms, vapes and nicotine products can carry risk of harm and addiction. This is particularly acute for adolescents whose brains are still developing.

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The Bill will mean in a total ban on vape advertising and sponsorship which will include displays that will likely be seen by children and young people such as on buses, in cinemas, and in shop windows, bringing this in line with current tobacco

restrictions.

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Subject to consultation, the sale of vape flavours that overtly appeal to children – such as bubble gum, gummy bear and cotton candy – could be brought to an end, alongside restrictions on vape packaging that is designed to appeal to young people.

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All vaping and nicotine products will be banned from being sold to under 18s – closing loopholes on non-nicotine vapes and nicotine pouches. Vapes will also be banned in vending machines, where they can be easily accessed by children. The free distribution of these products will also be banned.



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Suggested interventions on Government

1.

Does the Minister share my hope that creating a smoke-free generation can command the support of all sides of this

House and that support from the Opposition front benches sustains despite the arrival of a new leader?

2.

Almost

every minute, someone is admitted to hospital because of smoking and up to 75,000 GP appointments can be attributed to smoking each month. Does the Minister agree with me that the Tobacco and Vapes Bill is a perfect example of this Government's belief that prevention is better than cure?

3.

I've been speaking to Primary school head teachers in [constituency] who have

shared with me that children as young as 9 have taken up vaping. Does the Minister agree with me that it is high time that we cracked down on brightly coloured, fruit flavoured, cheaply available vapes being marketed at our children?

4.

Does the Minister agree with me that Blue Raspberry, Bubblegum and Blueberry should remain as flavours of children's sweets - in moderation of course! - rather than flavour of children's vapes being targeted at them as they walk home from school?

5.

Ten years after the smoking ban, there were 1.9 million fewer smokers in the UK.



Does the Minister agree with me that this shows the kind of difference that we can help make by voting in support in the lobbies tonight?

6.

This Government believes that prevention is better than cure. Does the Minister agree with me that unless we act to help people stay healthy, the rising tide of ill health in our society threatens to overwhelm and bankrupt our NHS?

7.

Does the Minister share my pride that we have the chance to vote through reforms that are world-leading, phasing out smoking, protecting the public, protecting the NHS and protecting the economy,

putting us on track to a smoke-free UK?

8.

I congratulate the Minister on bringing forward these proposals. Does he agree with me that measures like this are exactly what the Government has promised: focusing on prevention as one of three big shifts for our NHS?

9.

Tobacco is a uniquely harmful product, responsible for 1 in 4 of all cancer deaths and killing up to two-thirds of its long-term users. Can the Minister confirm what support will be offered to current smokers to quit?

10.

In the election campaign, I promised my constituents that I would focus on preventative public health measures to tackle the biggest killers and support people to live longer, healthier lives. Does the Minister agree with me that that is exactly what these proposals deliver?



## Suggested interventions on Opposition

1.

When similar issues were last debated in the House before the election, half of the now Shadow Cabinet voted in favour of them. Can the Honourable Member reassure me that the opportunity to create the first smoke-free generation will come before any temptation to play party politics for his/her colleagues on the opposition frontbench?

2.

Few of us look back with fondness to a time when everyone's skin, hair and clothes smelt of cigarette smoke. Does the Honourable Member agree with me that

what might seem radical to some on his/her side right now will not seem so in time to come?

3.

On behalf of worried Mums and Dads across the country, does the Honourable Member agree with me that it is high time that we cracked down on brightly coloured, fruit flavoured, cheaply available vapes being marketed at our children?

4.

Does the Honourable Member agree with me that Blue Raspberry, Bubblegum and Blueberry should remain as flavours of children's sweets - in moderation of course! - rather than flavours of children's vapes being targeted at them as they walk

home from school?

5.

Is the Honourable Member aware that a quarter of of 11-15 year olds tried vaping in 2023 and do they think that is acceptable?

6.

Does the Honourable Member accept that tobacco is a uniquely harmful product, responsible for 1 in all 4 cancer deaths and killing up to two-thirds of its long-term users?

7.

Does the Honourable Member agree with me that vulnerable patients outside a

hospital and kids in a children's playground should not be exposed to the harms of second hand smoke?

8.

Does the Honourable Member share my concern that the majority of smokers start before the age of 20 and are then addicted for life?

9.

Is the Honourable Member aware that less than 17% of smokers state that they want to continue smoking and does he/she agree with me that these proposals would help future would-be-smokers in that position?

10.

This side of the House believes that prevention is better than cure. Does the Honourable Member agree with me that unless we act to help people stay healthy, the rising tide of illhealth in our society threatens to overwhelm and bankrupt our NHS?



## Suggested social media

Labour are delivering the first ever smoke-free generation, clamping down on youth vaping and reducing the costs to lives and taxpayers caused by smoking.

The biggest public health reform in a generation.

25% of 11-15 year olds tried vaping in 2023.

This Labour Government is taking tougher action to crack down on youth vaping - including a ban on vape advertising and sponsorship and a ban on disposable vapes from June 2025.



Introducing world-leading reforms to protect the public, NHS and the economy from the harms of smoking



Protecting children and vulnerable people from the harms of secondhand smoke



Creating the first smoke-free generation



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## Recent Departmental Press Release

Smoking ban introduced to protect children and most vulnerable

The government will introduce plans for tougher action to protect people from the harms of smoking in the Tobacco and Vapes Bill today.

5 November 2024

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World-leading reforms introduced to phase out smoking, protecting the public, NHS and economy and put us on track to a smoke-free UK

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Government will be given powers to extend indoor smoking ban to certain outdoor settings, focused on protecting children and the most vulnerable, in addition to creating the first smoke-free generation

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Bill will also ban vape advertising and sponsorship, as well as create new powers to restrict the flavours, display and packaging of all types of vapes

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Combined with on the spot fines, tougher action on enforcement and

tighter regulation on vaping, the bill will protect children and young people from harm and addiction

Tougher action to better protect the public, NHS and the economy from the harms of smoking will be set out in the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, introduced in Parliament today (Tuesday 5

November 2024).

The world-leading bill will include measures to create a smoke-free generation, phasing out the sale of tobacco products across the UK to anyone aged 15 or younger this year, breaking the cycle of addiction and disadvantage.

In addition, the government will be given powers to extend the indoor smoking ban

to specific outdoor spaces - with children's playgrounds and outside schools and hospitals all being considered, subject to consultation.

This sits alongside a ban in the bill on vape advertising and sponsorship, as well as powers to restrict the sale, display and packaging of all types of vapes, as well as other nicotine products.

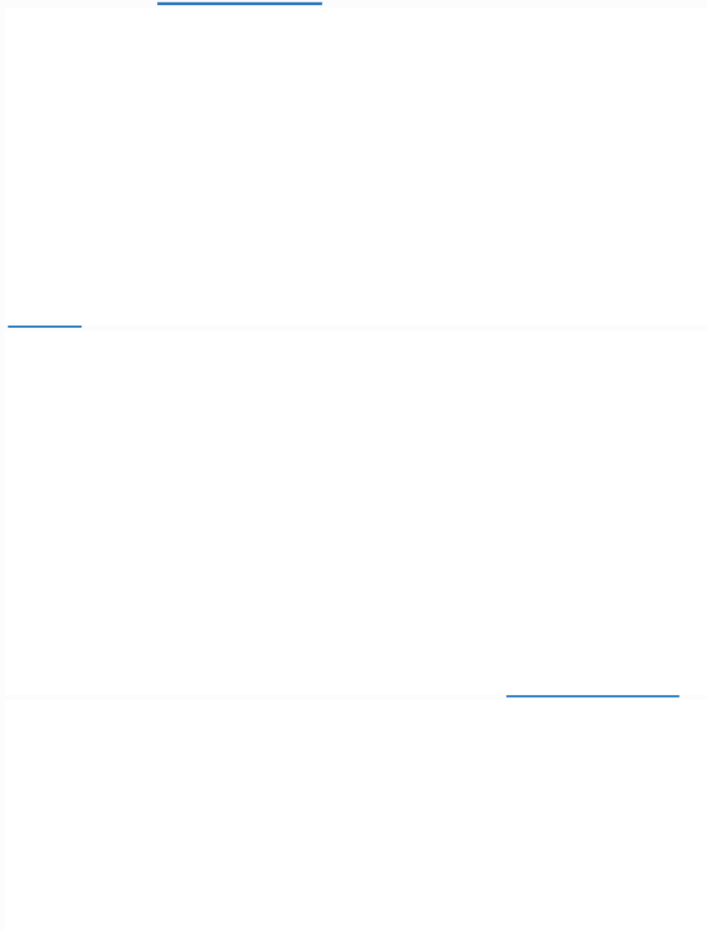
Disposable vapes are also due to be banned from 1 June 2025 under separate environmental

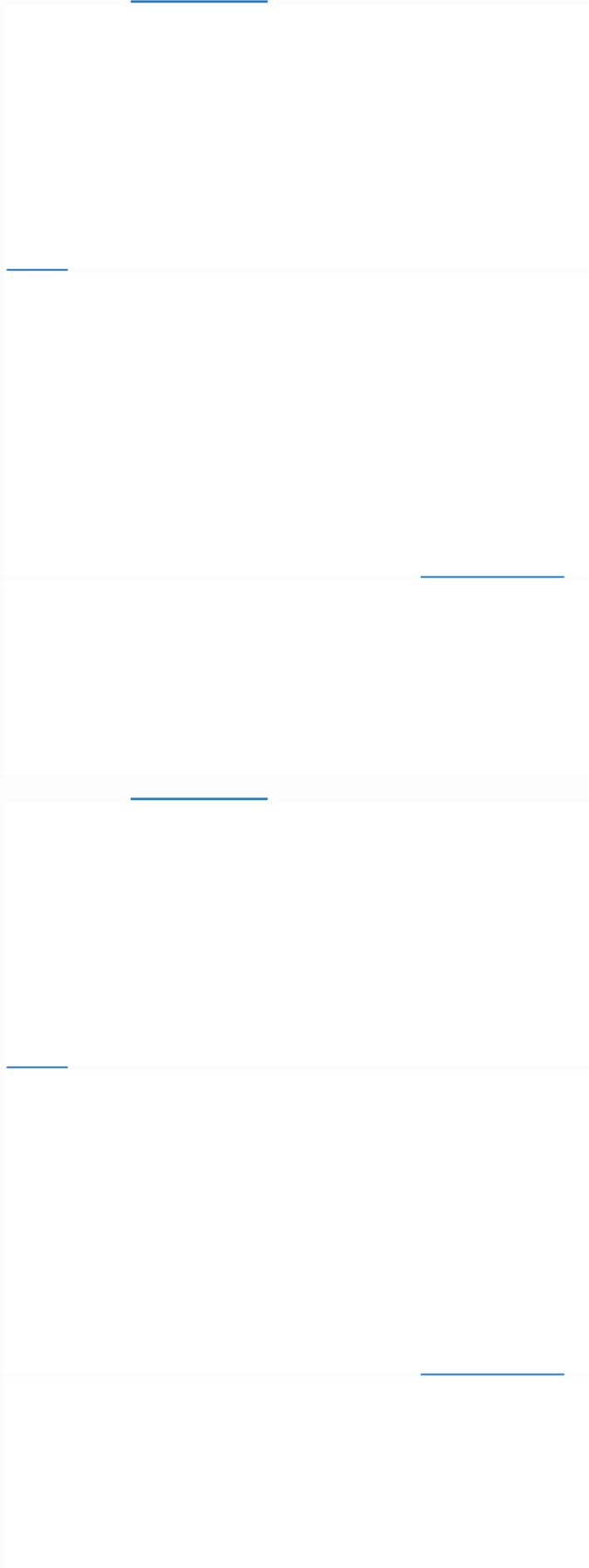
legislation.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill is part of the government's reform agenda to shift the focus of healthcare from sickness to

prevention and will address one of the biggest risk factors driving poor health.

Smoking claims around 80,000 lives a year in the UK, putting huge pressure on our NHS, taking up appointments, scans and operations, and costing taxpayers £3.1 billion a year.







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The cost of smoking to the economy is even greater, with £18 billion lost in productivity every year, as smokers are a third more likely to be o 董 work sick.

Tobacco is a uniquely harmful product, responsible for 1 in 4 of all cancer deaths

and killing upto two-thirds of its long-term users. Smoking also substantially increases the risk of many major health conditions throughout people's lives, such as strokes, diabetes, heart disease, stillbirth, dementia and asthma.

Almost

every minute, someone is admitted to hospital because of smoking and up to 75,000 GP appointments can be attributed to smoking each month - over 100 every hour.

There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke and this is particularly true for children- whose lungs and immune system aren't as well developed as adults - as well as pregnant women and those with pre-existing health conditions.

Health and Social Care Secretary, Wes Streeting, said:

“Unless we act to help people stay healthy, the rising tide of ill health in our society threatens to overwhelm and bankrupt our NHS. Prevention is better than cure.

This government is taking bold action to create the first smoke-free generation, clamp down on kids getting hooked on nicotine through vapes, and protect children and vulnerable people from the harm of second-hand smoke. This historic legislation will save thousands of lives and protect the NHS. By building a healthy society, we will also help to build a healthy economy, with fewer people off work sick.”

The government will also take tougher action to crack down on youth vaping, with 25% of 11 to 15 year olds having tried vaping in 2023.

Subject to consultation, the government is considering extending restrictions in places that are currently smoke-free to also become vape-free, especially in areas where there are children and young adults.

Together, these measures will help protect children from becoming hooked on nicotine while continuing to enable adult smokers to use vapes as a quit aid.

Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Chris Whitty, said:

A smoke-free country would prevent disease, disability and premature deaths

for children born today and for people long into the future. Smoking causes harm across the life course from stillbirths, asthma in children, cancers, strokes and heart attacks to premature dementia.

Most smokers wish they had never started, but are trapped by addiction. Second-hand smoke causes harm including to children, pregnant women and medically vulnerable people so reducing this is important. If vulnerable people can smell smoke they are inhaling it.

The rising numbers of children vaping is a major concern and the Tobacco and Vapes Bill will help prevent marketing vapes to children, which is utterly unacceptable.

This is a major piece of legislation which if

passed will have a positive and lasting impact on the health



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of the nation.

Professor Sanjay Agrawal, NHS England National Speciality Advisor for Tobacco Dependency, said:

Smoking may seem like a problem for past generations, but it is still the leading cause of preventable illness and deaths and has an enormous impact on the NHS, costing billions each year through appointments, scans and operations. It's also clear that vaping is a growing issue, particularly among young people.

NHS treatments, including nicotine replacement therapy, are helping thousands of adults each year to live healthier lives and we have seen adult smoking rates drop by more than half in the last 3 decades.

But there is more to do, so we welcome this public health intervention and look forward to working with government to help the next generation grow up smoke and vape-free.



The bill will also include powers to introduce a licensing scheme for retailers to sell tobacco, vapes and nicotine products in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and will introduce on the spot fines of £200 to retailers found to be selling these products to people under age.

These measures will protect law abiding businesses and tackle illicit products from being sold.

The number of cancer cases caused by smoking has increased by 17% since 2003, with 20 additional people a day being diagnosed with cancer caused by smoking compared to 20 years ago.

Smoking is also a significant driver of

inequality and poverty with mortality rates attributed to smoking in the most deprived areas of England more than double that in the least deprived areas.

The majority of smokers start before the age of 20 and are then addicted for life. Less than 17% of smokers state they want to continue smoking.

The government will support current smokers to quit by exploring standardising packaging for

all tobacco products, for example cigars or pipe tobacco. We will also ensure all hospitals

integrate 'opt-out' smoking cessation interventions into routine care. This will complement existing programmes to help

support smokers quit.

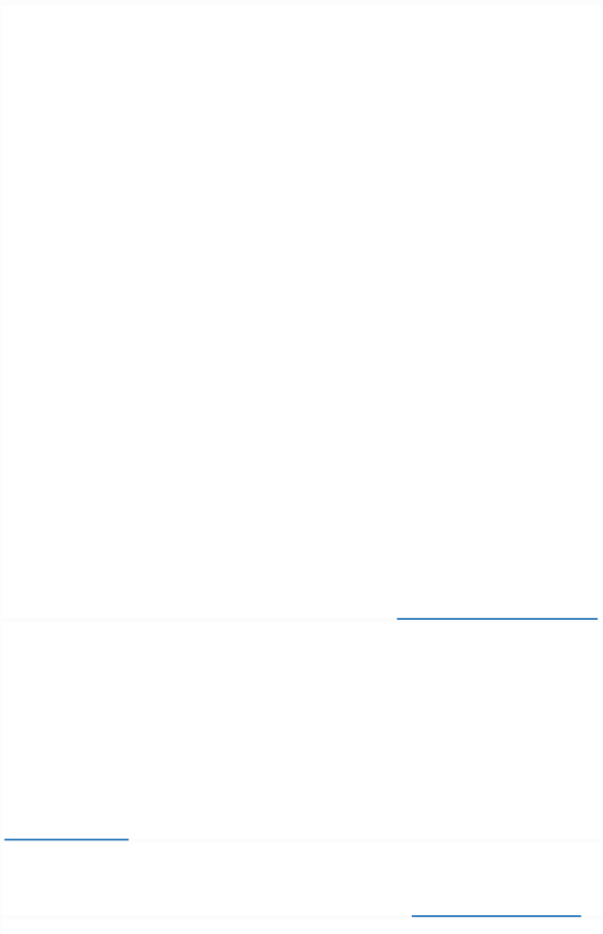
Just last month in England, the Health and Social Care Secretary launched the public engagement

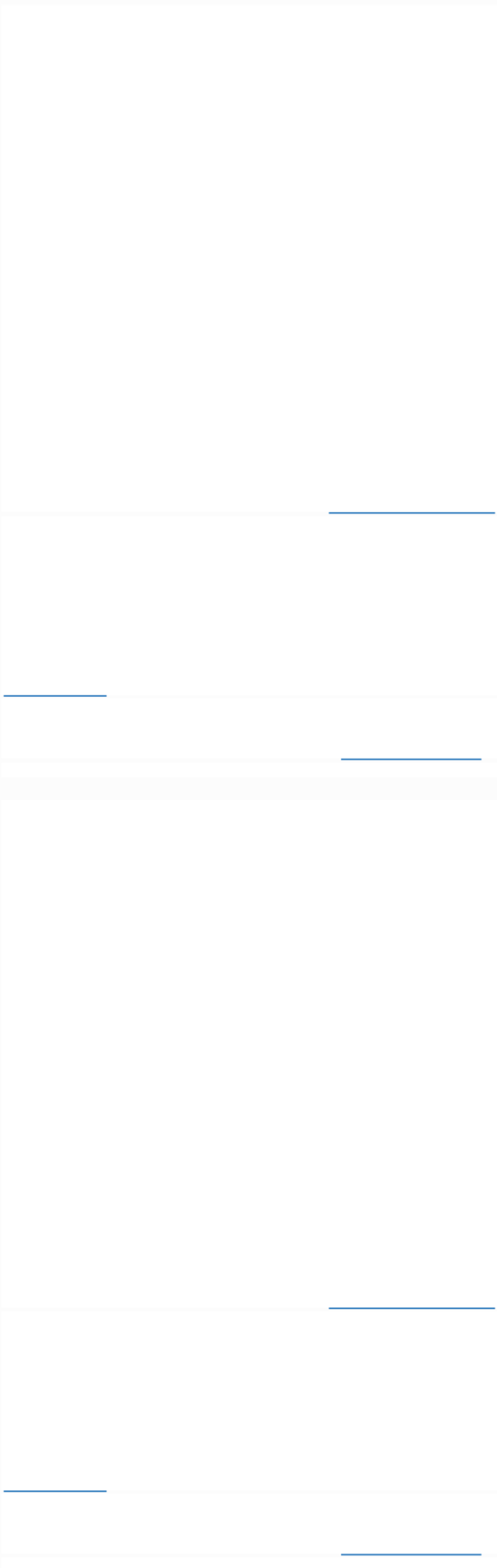
that will inform the government's 10 Year Health Plan to deliver 3 big shifts in healthcare -hospital to community, analogue to digital and from sickness to prevention - to make the NHS 有tfor the future. In England, hospitality settings, including outside areas of pubs and bars, will not be included in the proposed extension to the indoor smoking ban.

Dr Charmaine Griffiths, Chief Executive at the British Heart Foundation, said:

We are delighted to see landmark legislation to create a smoke-free

generation brought to Parliament. Smoking continues to have a devastating impact on our national health, taking thousands of lives across the UK each year, and tough measures must be taken to ensure future generations don't die







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early because of tobacco.

We welcome the government's commitment to raising the age of sale for tobacco every year, as well as further action to protect children and clinically vulnerable people such as those living with heartdisease from second hand smoke in

schools, playgrounds and hospital grounds.

We also welcome measures to make vaping less appealing to young people. We know the vast majority of the public back the aims of this bill, and we urge MPs of all parties to support this life-saving legislation and vision of a smoke-free UK.

Dr Ian Walker, Executive Director of Policy at Cancer Research UK, said:

Today is a significant step forward in the journey to creating a smoke-free UK. By increasing the age of sale of tobacco products and properly funding cessation services, the government can build a healthier future, prevent cancer, and protect people from a lifetime of deadly and costly addiction.

We urge all MPs to prioritise the nation's health by voting in favour of the bill and ensuring that this historic legislation is implemented across the UK.

Hazel Cheeseman, Chief Executive at Action on Smoking, said:

This is a world-leading piece of legislation, the first stop on a roadmap to a smoke-free country. It opens up an important debate about smoking and how long we are prepared to tolerate the incredible harms it does to our society. Over the last 50 years, smoking has taken more than 8 million lives in the UK. The health community and the public support the government in this historic effort to phase out the sale of tobacco. Smoking will not steal the health and wealth of



future generations.

Henry Gregg, Director of External Affairs at Asthma + Lung UK, said:

The government is taking a huge step forward in the fight against the harms of smoking, the biggest cause of lung disease death in the UK, by tabling the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.

Creating a smoke-free generation is one of the most impactful things the UK can do to protect future generations from developing lung conditions caused by smoking. The highest rates of respiratory-related deaths are overwhelmingly in the most deprived areas, where people are also more likely to smoke. This landmark legislation will play a vital role in closing this gap, as well as easing some of the £2.2 billion burden

that smoking places on the NHS each year.

But we should not forget those who are already addicted to smoking - we need increased investment in stop smoking services to deal with smoking's deadly legacy. Smoking is one of the worst things anyone can do for their lungs and smoking can also cause significant health problems for those around people who smoke.

If you're a smoker and you want to quit tobacco, vaping can be a helpful way to give up smoking. But children and those who don't smoke should not start to vape, especially if you have a lung condition. Recent figures show a worrying rise in the numbers of children vaping, who mostly use disposable vapes. It's high time to put a stop to the vaping industry

marketing their products towards children with cheap prices and appealing flavours options. It's good to see increased powers to regulate vape branding, promotion and flavours in this bill and further powers of enforcement.

Councillor David Fothergill, Chairman of the Local Government Association's Community



Wellbeing Board, said:

We fully support the government's smoke-free generation ambitions, which will improve the lives and health of people across the country.

Local government has led the way tackling the harms caused by smoking, whether that is calling for a ban on smoking in public places or funding smoking cessation services.

Raising the legal age of sale for tobacco products is a progressive policy that will help reduce smoking prevalence and the damaging effects on health, while we strongly endorse the measures on vapes, to help reduce their appeal to

children.



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