



The Association of Directors of Public Health

ADPH welcomes new emphasis on the role of the NHS in helping people to quit smoking but ‘not at the expense of Council services’

ADPH responds to the Royal College of Physicians report ‘*Hiding in plain sight: treating tobacco dependency in the NHS*’ published today.

Local authorities are doing great work to deliver smoke-free places and communities and help people to quit. But given the scale of the challenge, it is essential that the NHS also helps smokers to stop and that hospitals are smoke-free.

It’s disappointing that the report underplays the action needed across a range of players to help tackle smoking. The NHS should be just one part of the jigsaw puzzle, which also includes local authorities, housing, trading standards, schools and local businesses.

ADPH President, Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy, said:

“Smoking is the biggest driver of health inequalities in our communities and costs society approximately £12.6 billion a year. The NHS clearly has a vital role to play in bringing down smoking rates and we need to see it urgently step up on this. The recently announced additional £20 billion of funding for the NHS must be focused on prevention, including helping people quit smoking and preventing them starting in the first place.

Action by the NHS must be complementary to, not at the expense of, Council services. We need to work together, focusing on encouraging people to quit when they are in hospitals and at the doctor, tackling illegal tobacco and providing smoke-free public places, and discouraging people from starting smoking in the first place.

Directors of Public Health want to work with the NHS on reducing smoking and look forward to more discussion about how we can do this effectively.”

ENDS

Further information

The [Association of Directors of Public Health](http://www.adph.org.uk) (ADPH) is the representative body for Directors of Public Health (DPH) in the UK. It seeks to improve and protect the health of the population through collating and presenting the views of DsPH; advising on public health policy and legislation at a local, regional, national and international level; facilitating a support network for DsPH; and providing opportunities for DsPH to develop professional practice. The Association has a rich heritage, its origins dating back 160 years. It is a collaborative organisation working in partnership with others to maximize the voice for public health.

Association of Directors of Public Health

June 2018