



The Association of Directors of Public Health

Statement on the Chancellor of Exchequer's announced soft drinks industry levy

ADPH welcomes the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement on the levy of a sugar tax on soft drinks.

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) welcomes today's announcement that the Government will move forward with the levying of a sugar tax on the producers of soft drinks, with the £530m raised reinvested in developing and promoting primary school sports.

Nearly a quarter of the adult population in England is obese, and worryingly one in ten 4-5 year olds are obese. This sugar tax is an important step to reduce the "national sugar high", which is endangering the nation's health, and the additional investment provided will help to improve current low levels of physical activity in children.

Following strong support from the Public Health sector, including the Association of Directors of Public Health, the government has today initiated a positive and lasting difference to the nation's health and life chances through this bold measure, taken in the face of considerable lobbying efforts from the food and drinks industry.

ADPH President (and Director of Public Health for Wakefield), Dr. Andrew Furber said:

"I welcome the Chancellor's announcement of a levy on sugary drinks. This will help parents and carers provide a healthier diet for their children. Using these funds to support young people to be physically active will bring huge benefits."

ADPH CEO, Nicola Close said:

"ADPH is delighted with the government's decision to introduce a levy on sugary drinks. We are hopeful that the industry will take this move as a signal to reformulate to support a reduction in childhood obesity."

ENDS

Further information

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) is a Company Limited by guarantee with charity status registered in England and Wales and is the representative body for Directors of Public Health (DsPH) in the UK. The Association is hosted by the UK Health Forum.

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 more than 150 years. It is a collaborative organisation working in partnership with others to maximise the voice for public health.

www.adph.org.uk

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