



Public Health & Communities Directorate
Executive Director: Julia Burrows

My Ref: JB/GR/LC/AF
Date: 23 February 2022
Email: juliaburrows@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

In response to requests for help on youth vaping, we have developed some resources to support schools, colleges, parents, and carers. These have been designed by Smokefree Sheffield with support from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), the Public Health team at Barnsley Council and other local authorities across Yorkshire and Humber.

The resources are to help carers and educators, including PSHE and safeguarding leads, to have evidence-based conversations and enable children and young people to make informed decisions about smoking and vaping. The toolkit includes:

- a set of two posters which can be displayed where students will see them, such as school toilets, classrooms, canteens, and noticeboards. Both digital and printed versions are available for you.
- a short, animated film which can be used in PSHE lessons, form times and assemblies, to start discussions. This can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/rod4d4yFeaE>
- a set of PowerPoint slides ready for use by teachers in the classroom alongside the animated film to guide discussions.
- a set of slides designed for teachers, providing additional information to support educators, answering questions and signposting students to additional support.
- an electronic leaflet designed for parents and carers giving more information about smoking and vaping. This could be shared with parents, for example via newsletters or emails.

E-cigarettes are proven as an effective method for adults to quit smoking and vaping is significantly less harmful, however, vapes are not recommended for use by children and young people, or anyone who has never smoked, as vaping is not risk free. They provide nicotine without tobacco smoke which contains carbon monoxide and tar which are both toxic. Smoking remains one of the biggest killers, accounting for 15% of all deaths in the UK in 2019 and killing up to two thirds of all long-term smokers prematurely.

Uptake of smoking and vaping is most common among older teenagers, although it can occur earlier. Most youth vaping is experimental and most young people who vape have already tried smoking, which is far more harmful and is highly addictive. Two thirds of young people trying just one cigarette will go on to become daily smokers and only one in three will quit before they die.

If you want more information about providing support to your students to stop smoking and/or vaping please visit <https://barnsley.yorkshiresmokefree.nhs.uk/> or visit [Vapes | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](https://vapes|FRANK(talktofrank.com)).

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Any underage sales can be reported to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council:
01226 773555, or email directly to regulatoryservices@barnsley.gov.uk

By supporting this work you will be contributing to our goal of a Smokefree Generation, creating healthy and vibrant school and college communities.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Burrows".

Julia Burrows
Executive Director of Public Health & Communities