

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN
COUNCIL MEETING – 29TH JANUARY 2024
AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS

Amendment to motion 2, proposed by Councillor Olszewski and seconded by Councillor Hatton:-

This Council notes:

- The increased use of vaping products by children in the UK. Recent data from the ASH Smokefree GB Youth Survey 2023 found that the prevalence of vaping amongst 11 to 17 year olds is increasing – from 15.8 per cent have tried it in 2022 to 20.5% per cent in 2023 – and a significant number of children buy these vaping products directly from newsagents or supermarkets.
- The increased number of local authorities who have recently had to take enforcement activity against shops illegally selling vaping products to youngsters.
- The marketing of certain vaping products – with bright coloured packaging and flavours such as bubble gum – that might appeal to children. More than half of children (53%) are aware of promotion in shops and nearly a third (32%) are aware of online promotion.
- The significant increase in availability of disposable and single-use vaping products which are cheaper and easier for children to access.
- The high volume of single use vapes being disposed of in general waste.
- Increase in fires at UK waste plants due to damaged and highly flammable batteries and the increased costs this causes.

This Council acknowledges:

- **T**he role vaping products may play in aiding adults to stop smoking, and that vaping products carry a small fraction of the risk, and exposure to toxins, that are associated with cigarettes. Research shows that most children who use vapes have never smoked.
- Vaping is not risk free. While vaping products do not contain tobacco, most vaping products do contain nicotine. Illicit vapes in the UK market may not be compliant with UK standards and/or may be counterfeit products. They may pose risks to health from unsafe levels of toxic ingredients and/or have nicotine double or more above the legal UK limit.

This Council recognises:

- **T**he Local Government Association has raised concerns about the sale of vaping products to children.

This Council welcomes:

- ~~The~~ proactive actions being taken in Camden, as reported to Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee members in a recent written response to a question raised during ~~the July meeting of that~~ committee:

“A range of Council partners are working together to reduce the availability and use of vapes by under 18s and support them to take informed decisions, whilst continuing to support adult smokers to quit smoking. This complements the evolving national response on addressing the packaging, promotion, flavours, and free handouts unacceptably used to encourage young people to start and continue vaping, as well as potential for Trading Standards to issue fines to shops selling vapes to under 18s more easily.

1. The most important local actions are being taken by Trading Standards to understand which shops are selling vapes and which venues are in catchments of secondary schools. This evolving intelligence is being used to inform an ongoing and targeted programme of inspection, intel gathering and enforcement action on illegal vapes and underage sales.
2. Trading Standards are also working with retailers to take responsibility for addressing this issue (through the Camden Responsible Retailer programme) and through ongoing communications.
3. Camden’s Health & Wellbeing Department, Camden Learning and Breathe (Camden’s stop smoking provider) are providing support to schools to understand current issues experienced by them on vaping, to tailor the latest Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) teaching resources, provide PSHE Year 9 lessons about vaping, brief school Heads & Governors, and lead workshops on smoking and vaping.
4. The Health & Wellbeing Department and the Council communications team will start a tailored campaign for children and young people providing support and further information, along with tailored literature for secondary school pupils, and support for parents to have conversations with their children.
5. Environmental services are working with partners including the North London Waste Authority to promote available local recycling options and create a localised message campaign.”

This Council calls for:

The Leader of the Council to write to both Victoria Atkins MP and Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Secretary of State for Environment respectively, to express the Council's demand for the greater regulation of vaping, in particular:

1. Vaping products to be in plain packaging and kept out of sight behind the counter.
2. Mandatory age-of-sale signage on vaping products (this is currently voluntary)

3. A ban on free samples of vaping products being given out to children.
4. A ban on the sale of single-use vaping products in the UK.
5. ~~This Council further calls for its own activities to be accelerated, particularly in relation to points 4 and 5 above, which are yet to be implemented. This Council requests that the relevant Cabinet Members report to members on timescales and progress on each of the five action points outlined above. The Leader of the Council to provide an update to Councillors on the above five points at the end of this year.~~

The amended motion therefore reads:

This Council notes:

- The increased use of vaping products by children in the UK. Recent data from the ASH Smokefree GB Youth Survey 2023 found that the prevalence of vaping amongst 11 to 17 year olds is increasing – from 15.8 percent have tried it in 2022 to 20.5% per cent in 2023 – and a significant number of children buy these vaping products directly from newsagents or supermarkets.
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5. The Leader of the Council to provide an update to Councillors on the above five points at the end of this year.

Ends