



Guernsey Adolescent Smoke-free Project

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GASP urges Alderney States: 'Think of the Children' when deciding on the implementation of a smoking bar

Guernsey Adolescent Smokefree Project (GASP) has written to members of the Alderney States to remind them to 'think of the children' when deciding on exemptions to tobacco free legislation.

Alun Williams, Chairperson of GASP, explains:

'We fully appreciate that Alderney has to reach its own conclusion about smokefree legislation. However, at GASP we have a Bailiwick responsibility to reduce smoking amongst young people and that includes Alderney. Our staff work with young people in Alderney especially through St Anne's school and attempt to educate them about the dangers of smoking. It is clear that they face the same pressures as all children to smoke. We, therefore wanted to remind States members of their responsibility to protect the health of Alderney children and, in particular, the health benefits of legislation against smoking in public and work places, especially for young people

Comprehensive smokefree legislation is by far the most effective way to reduce smoking amongst young people in Alderney. We know that because of the successful introduction of the legislation in Scotland, Ireland and of course Guernsey and the subsequent change in attitude to smoking especially amongst young people.

Smokefree legislation has demonstrated very clearly that smoking is not a normal activity and the implementation of the law reinforces the dangers of smoking.

States members need to consider what kind of message will be heard by young people if Alderney becomes the only place in the British Isles where smoking is permitted in enclosed public places.'

GASP will be writing to all Alderney States members as part of the consultation process to outline:

1. The health benefits of a smoking legislation, especially for young people
2. The commercial and economic successes of the legislation
3. The benefits of legislation in turning young people away from smoking

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