

GUERNSEY IS BEING ASKED TO CONSIDER SMOKING IN CARS WHERE CHILDREN ARE PASSENGERS

Guernsey parliament is being asked to consider prohibiting smoking in cars where children are passengers

A charity that aims to reduce smoking amongst young people in Guernsey is looking to persuade local politicians to develop its successful smokefree campaign by becoming the first jurisdiction in Europe to introduce such legislation.

The island of Guernsey, located in the English channel off the coast of France with a population of 60.000 residents, has, for many years, been at the forefront of legislation to control tobacco use. Initiatives have included:

- A package of measures over 10 years ago that included restricting the age limit for the purchase of cigarettes to 18 years or above
- Establishing an education programme that has reduced the numbers of young people who smoke in Guernsey to half the figure in the United Kingdom.
- Introducing smokefree legislation in Guernsey one year before the introduction in England

Alun Williams, Chairperson of Guernsey Adolescent Smokefree Project (GASP), the charity that is calling for the restrictions explains the thinking

‘ In Guernsey we have a real sense of community and a concern to protect the health and well-being of our young people. On the back of our successful stance to protect Guernsey children from the dangers of smoking there is a logic that we want to restrict people smoking around children in such a confined space as a car. Many parents, in particular, have commented that it is just plain wrong to smoke in cars in front of children and asked if can we do something about it.

In Guernsey we are fortunate that we can be in charge of our own destiny and set our own laws. We see smokefree legislation as being very successful and popular in Guernsey - as it has been elsewhere. We therefore believe that such a move will be popular on island.’

Attached is the media statement that has been circulated locally to launch the campaign.

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