



Guernsey Adolescent Smokefree Project
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Deputy Hunter Adam,
HSSD,
Le Vauquiedor,
St Martin's,
GY4 6UU

Dear Deputy Adam,

On behalf of Guernsey Adolescent Smokefree Project I am writing to congratulate the Board for continuing to demonstrate such a commitment to protecting the island community from the damages of tobacco. We are continuing to see a positive shift in the views of young people towards smoking and this would not have happened without the tobacco control framework provided by the Health and Social Services Department. This success is reflected in the announcement that we will be making next week that Guernsey now has the lowest teenage smoking rates in Europe (with the curious exception of Armenia!). I am also pleased to inform you that, as a consequence of these results, we have been invited to address a key workshop on tobacco control in Brussels organised by the European Cancer League. We have been asked to outline the success of our campaign and the role that whole communities can play in turning young people away from smoking.

I am writing to seek your views on two issues that we believe could have a very positive impact on the attempts to reduce tobacco use amongst young people in Guernsey.

1. At GASP our focus has always been to reduce the incidence of smoking amongst young people and we believe that is best achieved in three ways:
 - Informing young people about the issues associated with smoking
 - Ensuring that smoking is not seen as a normal or attractive activity
 - Protecting young people from the dangers of secondhand smoke

We believe that the next logical step is to introduce a ban on smoking in cars where children are passengers and we would request that legislation to implement such a ban is included in the tobacco control measures. We have lobbied for this ban for several years and it is clear from the response that we have received that it would be well-supported in the island community. It is proving to be popular legislation in countries such as Canada and Australia where it has been imposed and if it could be introduced in Guernsey in the near future we could claim to be the first community in Europe to have imposed a ban. This would reinforce to young people that the States of Guernsey remains a world leader in the fight against tobacco.

2. The island could also volunteer to lead on a workstream in the British Irish Council that considers the measures that have been undertaken to reduce the incidence of tobacco use amongst young people. We would be well-placed to lead on this initiative because we have a wealth of experience and so much good practice that can be shared with the other members of the Council.

I have attached the table of the research that was recently published by the Schools Health Education Unit that considered the twenty years of surveys that it has undertaken of Guernsey young people. The survey shows the significant drop in the numbers of young people who smoke in Guernsey and it is especially interesting to note the drop that occurred immediately after the introduction of the Tobacco Control Legislation in 1997. This highlights how legislation can impact so positively on social trends. The SHEU graph is the comparable data with the 100,000's of young people that were used in the SHEU sample made up of young people of the same age in England.

Please do contact me if you require more information.

Yours sincerely,

Alun Williams
Chairperson of GASP

