



Guernsey Adolescent Smokefree Project

c/o The Youth Centre, Brock Road, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1RU

Tel 01481 727899

Email: gaspguernsey@cwgsy.net

Web: www.gasp.org.gg

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

FROM: ALUN WILLIAMS, CHAIRPERSON OF G.A.S.P

MEDIA RELEASE

GASP URGES THE STATES TO REMAIN COURAGEOUS ON SMOKEFREE LEGISLATION

ALL MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A PRESENTATION ON **TWO NEW INITIATIVES** BEING INTRODUCED BY G.A.S.P

THE PRESENTATION WILL BE HELD AT THE BEAUCAMPS SECONDARY SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY AT 4.00 PM

Alun Williams, Chairperson of G.A.S.P explains:

'G.A.S.P believes that Guernsey should be proud of its tobacco-free stance. It has reaped rewards for the island, not least a reduction in the rate of smoking amongst young people which is significantly lower than most other countries. However, the Tobacco industry has increased the pressure on young people to smoke and we need to keep responding to their aggressive marketing tactics to keep young people away from smoking.'

For that reason, G.A.S.P has introduced two new initiatives:

1. LEGISLATION TO RESTRICT SMOKING IN CARS WHEN CHILDREN ARE PASSENGERS

We are reminding the States of Deliberation of the need to introduce legislation to restrict smoking in cars where children are passengers. Attached is a note explaining the Guernsey perspective on this matter.

2. LAUNCHING AN EXCITING NEW WEBSITE TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE

Vidya Amey, G.A.S.P Project Manager explains:

'At G.A.S.P, we are aware of today's 'hyperconnected generation'. Through our new user-friendly website we want to ensure that people have access to up-to-date facts related to smoking as well as to the services and lessons provided by G.A.S.P. We wanted the website to have a local touch as well, hence the beautiful pictures of Guernsey young people. The site will be online at www.gasp.org.gg as from Thursday 29 January at noon.'

For more information please contact:

Alun Williams on 710821 (W), 726604 (H)

Vidya Amey at the GASP office 727899 or gaspguernsey@cwgsy.net

Why GASP wants to restrict smoking in cars where children are passengers:

It was a courageous act to introduce the comprehensive legislation, especially prior to England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This audacity and vision has meant that bodies such as GASP can carry forward its smokefree message with confidence.

It has been particularly telling that there has been very little public resistance to the legislation. An indicator of its success and acceptance by the island community is to consider the response if it was to be overturned.

We do not underestimate the difficulties of protecting young people from the perils of smoking, not least because the more successful we are the more extreme is the response from the tobacco industry and its advocates. However we believe that the tide is turning and the legislation has been the key in helping that happen.

Since the implementation of the legislation we have been aware in our dealings with young people and their families that there is a real awareness of the dangers of second-hand smoke and a desire to protect children in particular. Smoking in cars where children are passengers has been a particular area where we have consistently heard a call for action. For that reason we are encouraging the State of Deliberation to introduce the appropriate legislation.

The case for restricting smoking in cars where children are passengers

1. Children can spend many hours in cars each week and evidence from Australia, Canada, Germany and USA has all indicated that second hand smoke in a vehicle can be 20 times more harmful than in a house. Cars are contained spaces with low ceilings, and toxic air particles, including carbon monoxide, are concentrated at the head height of children.
2. There is growing acceptance globally of the need to introduce legislation. Governments in Germany, New Zealand, Canada, Australia and some States in the USA have all made tentative moves to establish legislation.
3. The legislation appears simple to administer. A model that can be copied is the bill that has been presented to the Government of South Australia – South Australia - The Tobacco Regulation (smoking in cars) Amendment Bill 2006.
4. The aim of GASP is to reduce the incidence of smoking amongst young people in Guernsey. A ban on smoking in cars would be another significant message that should remind young people that smoking is an unhealthy, unnatural activity.