



## Guernsey Adolescent Smokefree Project

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**TO:** ALL MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

**FROM:** VIDYA AMEY, G.A.S.P PROJECT MANAGER

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### ***We're getting the smokefree message across says GASP now we need some more help from parents***

The latest research on young people's smoking habits shows that the smokefree message is getting across to students but GASP is concerned by the numbers of young people who are still exposed to smoke in their family homes and cars.

Alun Williams, Chairperson of GASP explains:

*'Our latest research is very positive. We have continued to see a downward trend in the numbers of young people who smoke and Guernsey should be proud of its young people that they are continuing to turn away from smoking in such great numbers. It is especially pleasing to see that our numbers compare so favourably to those in the United Kingdom and beyond. It shows that the local measures have been successful.*

*But there is no room for comfort. It is especially worrying that so many young people are exposed to smoking at home. Parents are the biggest influence on young people's behaviour and if they smoke around children then their sons and daughters are much more likely to copy them and to take up the habit.'*

The survey, funded by The Education and Health and Social Services Departments and Guernsey Adolescent Smokefree Project (GASP), was undertaken by 377 primary pupils and 960 secondary students. It was meant to serve as a pilot survey for the next young people's survey that will be undertaken in Summer 2010. Although comparisons with previous years cannot be made directly because of the smaller sample the statistics about smoking make for interesting reading:

1. 7% of students from Years 8&10(Guernsey survey 2009) had smoked during the previous week. This figure is that same as that recorded in the Guernsey Young popel's survey 2007. 10% of students from Years 8&10 in England had smoked during the previous week according to SHEU data in 2008.
2. 33% of secondary school student who smoked say that people smoke around them indoors. This compares to an overall figure of 13% of smokers and non-smokers.
4. 17 % of students travel in a car where somebody smoked.

5. 35% of students who smoke obtained their cigarettes from a shop as opposed to 12% in the 2007 survey.
6. 91% of pupils in primary schools profess that they will not smoke when they get older.

Vidya Amey, GASP manager, reflects on the findings:

*'The findings of both surveys are very positive and we are the first ones to delight in such good news. This shows that gradually the young people of the island are ceasing to consider smoking as a normal activity. Also, the findings show that we are on the right track as far as our present fights are concerned: there is still an urgent need to enforce the law against proxy purchasing of cigarettes as well as the selling of cigarettes to under 18s and to educate students as well as parents about the dangers of passive smoking in confined places. The instances of smoking in cars and at home might have decreased slightly but the figures show that more should be done regarding that issue. GASP will look to encourage more parental participation in our fight against Big Tobacco. I cannot think of a better ally than parents...because we have one thing in common: the welfare of our children.'*

### TABLE OF RESULTS

	England 2007 *	Guernsey 2007**	England 2008***	Guernsey 2009*** (%)
<b>Year 8</b>				
Boys	8	2	6	4
Girls	8	7	8	1
<b>Year 10</b>				
Boys	13	9	15	6
Girls	19	14	21	17

\* Schools Health Education unit survey 2007

\*\*Guernsey results taken from the Guernsey Young People's survey undertaken by the Schools Health Education unit (Exeter)

\*\*\* Schools Health Education unit survey 2008

\*\*\*\*Guernsey results taken from survey May 2009 undertaken by the Schools Health Education unit (Exeter)

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