

**Report of:** Victoria Eaton (Director of Public Health)

**Report to:** Inner East community committee (Gipton & Harehills, Burmantofts & Richmond Hill and Killingbeck & Seacroft)

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**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024      **To note**

## Vaping and e-cigarettes

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### Purpose of report

1. To offer insight into vaping across all contexts both locally and nationally. Key focus will be on youth vaping, current evidence on health risks and responsible vape use as a harm reduction tool and enforcement and legislation. The reports seeks to offer a balanced overview of vaping which is currently a rapidly changing landscape and can support certain populations to improve their health in relation to quitting smoking whilst putting other populations as possible risk of future health implications and addiction.

### Main issues

#### 2. Vaping in children and young people,

In the last ten years the use of vapes by children and young people has increased significantly. The marketing of brightly coloured and flavoured vapes is encouraging more and more children and young people to experiment with vapes which contain nicotine - a highly addictive substance. The long term health impacts of vaping remain unknown.

#### 3. Enforcement and legislation

The illicit vape market has grown significantly with a large volume of vapes not complying with regulations, requiring enforcement action from West Yorkshire Trading standards. There is also an increasing number of reports to trading standards and

anecdotally that children and young people under the age of 18 are buying vapes (illicit and compliant) from retailers in Leeds.

#### **4. Vapes as a quitting aid:**

Vapes are substantially less harmful than smoking and have helped many smokers to quit. Evidence has now recognised that vapes are substantially more effective than other nicotine replacement therapy for those trying to quit smoking. However, this is when a vape is used as part of a treatment plan with wider stop smoking support.

Vapes, they are not risk free and they are not for children. New legislation is planned to help tackle the issue of youth vaping and this presentation seeks to support the key message: If you don't smoke, don't vape.

### **Recommendations**

5. Elected members and attendees are asked to consider the content of the presentation and the presenter welcomes any questions.

### **Background information**

- Accompanying slide set