

**Kent County Council  
Equality Analysis/ Impact Assessment (EqIA)**

**Directorate/ Service:** Adult Social Care and Health – Integrated Commissioning.

**Name of decision, policy, procedure, project or service:** Accepting the Stop smoking Services and Support Grant

**Responsible Owner/ Senior Officer:** Luke Edwards

**Version:** 1

**Author:** Chris Beale

**Pathway of Equality Analysis:** PH Specialist and Consultant’s Meeting

**Summary and recommendations of equality analysis/impact assessment.**

- **Context**

Tobacco is the single most important entirely preventable cause of ill health, disability and death<sup>1</sup> and is responsible for 64,000 deaths in England<sup>2</sup> a year.

An independent review in 2022 found that by 2030 smoking will have killed another half a million people alive in England today.<sup>3</sup>

On 4 October 2023, the government published *Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation*<sup>4</sup>. This included a programme of funding to support current smokers to quit smoking, with £70 million additional funding per year for local stop smoking services and support.

Local authorities currently receive funding to provide local stop smoking services and support through the Public Health Grant. However, this only supports approximately 2% of smokers in Kent annually.

This new funding is in addition to the Public Health Grant and will be provided through a new Section 31 Grant on top of the current Public Health Grant allocations.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will provide the grant and the additional funding will be used to complement and enhance existing stop smoking services in Kent.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/health-profile-for-england/hpfe\\_report.html](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/health-profile-for-england/hpfe_report.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/tobacco-control/data#page/4/gid/1938132885/pat/159/par/K02000001/ati/15/are/E92000001/iid/93748/age/202/sex/4/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0.%202021>

<sup>3</sup> [Making smoking obsolete \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115444/making-smoking-obsolete.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115444/stopping-the-start-our-new-plan-to-create-a-smokefree-generation.pdf)

The management of the grant will be administered by KCC Public Health and Integrated Commissioning.

Currently the service delivery for Smokefree Kent is a community offer being delivered by the core community team, with sub-contracting arrangements in place with some Pharmacies.

- **Aims and Objectives**

The aim of this additional funding is to ensure there is a nationwide comprehensive offer to help people stop smoking across England and to increase the number of smokers engaging with effective interventions to quit smoking.

It is important to recognise that the people currently smoking are likely to be the most entrenched smokers and may find it harder to quit having experienced a number of unsuccessful quit attempts. Helping these individuals successfully quit is essential, even if it may require a higher cost per smoker.

Additional funding will be provided to local authorities with the highest smoking rates to level up the communities who need the support the most and to address health disparities.

This will be achieved by:

- stimulating more quit attempts by providing more smokers with advice and swift support
- linking smokers to the most effective interventions to quit
- boosting existing behavioural support schemes designed to encourage smokers to quit (for example the 'swap to stop' scheme)
- building capacity in local areas to respond to increased demand
- strengthening partnerships in local healthcare systems

- **Summary of equality impact**

Accepting the Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant will not adversely impact upon individuals with protected characteristics and should allow for the opportunity to better engage with a larger number of people from these demographics. Plans for spending the Grant monies will be finalised and the EQIA will be updated to reflect these suggested projects and the potential impact they could have on each protected characteristic.

## **Adverse Equality Impact Rating Low**

### **Attestation**

I have read and paid due regard to the Equality Analysis/Impact Assessment concerning **accepting the Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant** and agree with risk rating and the actions to mitigate any adverse impact(s) that has /have been identified.

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**Head of Service**

Signed: Victoria Tovey

Name: Victoria Tovey

Job Title: Assistant Director of integrated commissioning

Date: 4 January 2024

**DMT Member**

Signed: Anjan Ghosh

Name: Anjan Ghosh

Job Title: Director of Public Health

Date: 4 January 2024

**Part 1 Screening**

**Could this policy, procedure, project or service, or any proposed changes to it, affect any Protected Group (listed below) less favourably (negatively) than others in Kent?**

**Could this policy, procedure, project or service promote equal opportunities for this group?**

Protected Group	Please provide a <u>brief</u> commentary on your findings. Fuller analysis should be undertaken in Part 2.			
	High negative impact EqIA	Medium negative impact Screen	Low negative impact Evidence	High/Medium/Low Positive Impact Evidence
<b>Age</b>				<p>The service will continue to see anyone over the age of 12.</p> <p>Accepting the Grant will allow for a greater number of individuals to be supported, from across all ages, over the age of 12.</p>
<b>Disability</b>				<p>The service currently has a positive impact upon people with a disability as there are a number of flexible options to access the service (phone support, community clinics and pharmacy clinics). The service can offer one to one support for clients with a learning difficulty working with them to meet their needs. All information on smoking risks and support will be verbally explained and key messages simplified. The Grant will support increasing access to these opportunities and</p>

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				allow for a greater number of people to be supported.
<b>Sex</b>				No. Accepting the Grant will not have a negative effect on either gender. Both men and women would be able to access the service which will promote equal opportunities.
<b>Gender identity/ Transgender</b>				The service will be able to continue offering community support to any individuals regardless of gender identity/transgender. The Grant will facilitate supporting a greater number of people who may identify as transgender or not. All staff have completed equality and diversity training.
<b>Race</b>				The community offer will be available to any individuals regardless of race and should be able to support a greater number of people if the Grant is accepted. All staff have completed

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				equality and diversity training.
<b>Religion and Belief</b>				The service will continue to offer support to any individuals regardless of religion/belief and should be able to support a greater number of people if the Grant is accepted. All staff have completed equality and diversity training.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>				The service will continue to offer support to any individuals regardless of Sexual Orientation and should be able to support a greater number of people if the Grant is accepted. All staff have completed equality and diversity training.
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>				Pregnant women are mostly supported by in-house NHS Maternity Support Workers as part of the NHS Long Term Plan funding and this

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				would remain unchanged by accepting the Grant funding.
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>				The service will support anyone regardless of marriage and civil partnership
<b>Carer's Responsibilities</b>				The service will see anyone regardless of their carers responsibilities and pharmacy offer weekend and evening support.

## **Part 2**

### **Equality Analysis /Impact Assessment**

#### **Protected groups**

No groups will be directly or indirectly negatively affected by the changes

#### **Analysis**

By Accepting the Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant it will allow KCC to increase its stop smoking provision and investigate further ways that it can support a wider range of individuals with protected characteristics. Plans on how to spend the Grant have not yet been finalised and are awaiting the conditions of the grant before being finalised. Further EQIAs will be undertaken once ideas have progressed, and the Grant conditions are known.

#### **Adverse Impact:**

None – By accepting the grant there will be no negative impact upon individuals.

#### **Positive Impact:**

Accepting the Grant allows for KCC to further investigate ways to better engage with individuals with protected characteristics, utilising the additional funding.

### **JUDGEMENT**

- **No major change** - no potential for discrimination and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken

#### **Internal Action Required                      NO**

There is potential for adverse impact on particular groups, and we have found scope to improve the proposal.

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