



Parents/Carers



Date: 04/10/2023

Our ref: LN/klb

Your ref:

Dear Parents & Carers

Re: Important information regarding vaping among children and young people

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you in response to a matter of growing concern probably for all of us - vaping among children and young people.

Recently, Telford & Wrekin Health & Wellbeing Board published the "Children & Young People and Vaping Position Statement", which I strongly encourage you to read (by visiting www.telford.gov.uk/youngpeoplevaping or calling 01952 384200, 9am-5pm weekdays for a paper copy). This document summarizes the current known risks of vaping among young people and provides essential information for you and the young people you care for.

An estimated 1,900 young people aged 11-17 in our borough experimented with vaping already this year, a staggering 136% increase from 2014.

It is also estimated that 600 young people aged 11-17 vape every day, a concerning rise from less than 100 regular vapers in 2014.

This rise in vaping among young people is not unique to our borough and is a national concern.

Telford & Wrekin Council, in collaboration with local health and wellbeing partners, is taking proactive measures to address vaping:

- Supporting all borough schools to educate students about the risks of vaping.
- Taking legal action against anyone selling vaping products to under 18 years old.
- Advocating for stronger government legislation to reduce the accessibility and appeal of vapes.

I am asking you to please join our efforts in reducing vaping among children and young people.

These are key messages for you to be aware of and to share in your community:



1. If you don't smoke, don't start vaping. Vaping carries risks for children and young people.
2. If you currently smoke, vaping can be a helpful tool to help you quit. The risks associated with vaping are significantly lower than smoking.
3. It is illegal to sell vapes or buy them for anyone under the age of 18.
 - To report concerns about a local shop selling vapes to those under 18, use the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call 03454 04 05 06.
 - For concerns regarding child exploitation, contact Family Connect Telford, www.familyconnecttelford.co.uk or call 01952 385385. If a child is in immediate danger, always dial 999.

Your support is invaluable. Together, we can work towards reducing vaping and smoking in our borough among children and young people.

Yours sincerely



Liz Noakes

Director: Health & Wellbeing
(Statutory Director of Public Health)