

## Factsheet on...

# The Impact On Health Of Tobacco Vending Machines And Displays

### Is Smoking Still A Problem Amongst Children?

Despite a range of tobacco control measures being implemented, smoking rates amongst children remain consistently high and hundreds of children continue to take up smoking each day.

In the UK, almost 200,000 children aged between 11 and 15 are thought to be regular smokers.

Accessibility of tobacco from vending machines, point of sale displays and highly visible forms of advertising make smoking attractive and easily available to children.

### Why Is Tackling Smoking An Important Issue in Greater Manchester?

Smoking is the single most important preventable cause of illness and death, and there is a strong association between deprivation and smoking.

Back in 2008, the Greater Manchester Health Commission produced a tobacco manifesto and continues to work to reduce the number of people smoking in the area.

In a survey on smoking prevalence in Greater Manchester, conducted in 2007 and 2008, key results showed that 21.5% of adults in Greater Manchester smoked.

The majority of people in Greater Manchester who classify themselves as current smokers smoke daily.

### What is the Greater Manchester Health Commission Doing?

Last year, the Greater Manchester Health Commission wrote to all local MPs urging them to vote in favour of the legislation to ban shop displays of tobacco products and prevent children from easily accessing cigarettes, which made up part of the Health Bill.

The House of Lords voted to ban displays of cigarettes and other tobacco products, as part of a Health Bill debate, but unexpectedly rejected an amendment that would have ended the sale of tobacco from vending machines, a measure supported by the Greater Manchester Health Commission and over 100 other health and welfare organisations.



The Association of Greater Manchester  
Primary Care Trusts

The Greater Manchester Health Commission welcomed some action on vending machines but believed only a total ban to be effective in preventing children from purchasing tobacco in this way. The issue was then debated by the House of Commons and this resulted in the ban's inclusion within the Health Bill.

**For more information please contact:**

Andrew Burridge, Policy and Programme  
Manager (Association of Greater  
Manchester Authorities)

**Telephone:** 07903 071562

**email:** [a.burridge@agma.gov.uk](mailto:a.burridge@agma.gov.uk)

**[www.greatermanchesterhealth.org.uk](http://www.greatermanchesterhealth.org.uk)**

