


Business Bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 January 2023

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Joan Griffiths</p> 	<p>Councillor Joan Griffiths (Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Key Councillor Kumar Councillor Mattos Coelho Councillor Walker Councillor Young Councillor Burgess Councillor O’Neill Councillor Cowdy Councillor Jones Councillor Davidson</p> <p>Added Members for Education Matters</p> <p>Religious Representatives Mrs Fiona Beveridge</p> <p>Angela Campbell</p> <p>Dr May Ruhyyih Parris</p> <p>Parent Representatives Alexander Ramage secondary sector parent representative</p> <p>Primary sector parent representatives will be confirmed at the Full Council Meeting on the 9 February 2023</p>	<p>Nickey Boyle, Executive Support 0131 469 5725</p>

Recent news

Vaping in schools

Background

We are aware that vaping is becoming an issue in schools with some evidence suggesting young people are vaping in class, corridors and in school toilets. Vaping is not for children. While it can help people quit smoking, the advice is, if you don't smoke don't vape. However, most children who try vaping, have also tried smoking, and vaping is far less harmful than smoking, which kills up to two thirds of smokers.

Vaping is not permitted in Council premises. It is illegal for young people under 18 to buy vapes or for someone to buy a vape for a young person under 18.

Currently we do not have a consistent policy on vaping in our schools.

Data

The HWB Census administered last session asked the following question to S2 and S4 pupils;

How often do you use e-cigarettes/vape at present?

4691 responses were given to this question across the city.

	Every day	At least once a week, but not everyday	Less than once per week	I do not use e-cigarettes/vape	Prefer not to say
S2	43	57	65	2,460	160
S4	89	66	87	1,566	98

Around 400 pupils, or 9%, of S2 and S4 respondents had used an e-cigarette/vape. This was 6% in S2 and 13% in S4.

The latest national (UK) data shows the proportion of children vaping is rising, up from 4% in 2020 to 7% in 2022, alongside the growing popularity of disposable vapes. The number of children who admit to ever trying vaping has risen from 14% in 2020 to 16% in 2022. However, the vast majority of under 18s who have never smoked, have also never vaped, and only 1.9% have vaped more frequently than once or twice. (ASH guidance on developing school policies on vaping)

Background/Contact

Janice Watson

Quality Improvement Officer

Curriculum

The Health and Wellbeing curriculum supports children and young people to assess and manage risk, to understand about topics such as vaping and any impacts on health. It also supports them to access practical and emotional help. Specifically, children and young people learn the following in relation to substance misuse;

- The impact of substances on health - positive and negative and legal implications (E – 4th level)
- Pressures (peer/culture/media) and substance use (2nd - 4th level)
- The impact of substances on behaviour and decision making (2nd – 4th level)
- Assessing and managing risk in relation to substance use (2nd – 4th level)
- The impact of substance use on health (2nd – 4th level)

Resources

Currently we sign post to two main resources for primary/secondary/special schools to use to support this aspect of the curriculum;

[Young people and vaping | ASH Scotland](#)

- Information on young people and vaping
- Activities and resources
- Training opportunities
- Workshops and resources for young people

[I Am Me Scotland Learning Platform \(iammescotlandeducation.org.uk\)](#)

This is a new substance misuse toolkit developed by Renfrewshire Council . This has been shared with secondary PSE Network via new PSA toolkit and to primary schools via the HWB Network. The lead for this resource is to present at the next Primary HWB Network meeting. This will then enable us to update our HWB Early to Second Level progression frameworks to include this resource.

NHS Support

Karen Holmes, Clinical Nurse Manager, Health Visiting West & School Nursing Service, is aware of the need to provide support to schools in this area.

The following information was recently shared with our School Nurse leads in preparation for potentially supporting schools as part of their early intervention/prevention work.

[New national vaping guidance for schools released by Action on Smoking and Health - ASH](#)

[ASH-guidance-for-school-vaping-policies.pdf](#)
[Young people and vaping | ASH Scotland](#)
[young-people-and-vaping.pdf \(ashscotland.org.uk\)](#)
[ASH Scotland eLearning \(ashscotlandmoodle.org.uk\)](#)

School nurses are keen to work in partnership with schools, supporting health prevention programmes as part of the CFE and I aim to look at our Health Promotion programmes early in the New Year and look to support schools.

Robbie Preece, Health Improvement Lead Tobacco Control, NHS Lothian

NHS Lothian agree that vaping is not for children, but that as a public health approach, it is supporting the reduction of combustible nicotine use which is the number one cause of ill health in the UK. In terms of risk-taking behaviour, vaping is considerably less harmful than other behaviours young people experiment with, therefore a proportionate approach to this issue is advised.

A careful selection of resources are advised to ensure a balanced approach to the curriculum. ASH Scotland (as opposed to ASH) resources are considered to be slightly out of sync with academic research.

Useful signposting from NHS Lothian

[New national vaping guidance for schools released by Action on Smoking and Health - ASH](#)

[ASH-guidance-for-school-vaping-policies.pdf](#)

NHS Health are keen to work with us to help develop a consistent approach to the issues and are happy to be involved in a SLWG.

Children's Partnership

- Quality Improvement Officer is attending their next meeting to discuss collaboration, next steps and an agreed approach to this issue in schools.

Possible next steps

Reflect on the new national vaping guidance for schools released by Action on Smoking and Health.

Develop a citywide approach/policy to vaping in collaboration with children/young people, school staff, parents and partners (NHS Health, Fast Forward, School Nursing Service) to provide consistency across the school estate.

Provide consistent information to schools to share with children/young

people, staff, parents and the wider school community.

Update HWB curriculum to include new and relevant resources

Work with other LA teams to support this agenda e.g. Lifelong Learning, Trading Standards

Share above via a HT Briefing

Risk Factory

Update from November Committee:

Action: - Officers to work with the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) communications and media colleagues to promote the recruitment of volunteers for the Risk Factory:

Risk Factory Officers met with CEC Communications and Media colleagues to look at the recruitment of volunteers and agreed a plan.

The Council's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms, in conjunction with mainstream promotion in the form of a press release and/or features will be used to promote the volunteer programme. This will be timed to tie in with the new Risk Factory website live date.

Photos we had on file were pre-COVID so new photos of volunteers and young people (from Craighour Park and Trinity PSs) have been taken during their visit this week to support the media campaign.

A social / PR planning template is being populated and we will approach partners for support through their channels.

Caroline Wilson

Risk Factory Officer