

Action from Moray Council on 28 September 2022

Agenda Item No: 15

Report Title Question Time: Vaping

Responsible Officer: Roddy Burns

Information Sought:

Councillor Warren sought clarification on what work the Council is carrying out with partner agencies on highlighting the dangers of vaping to young people and families.

In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that this was a public health issue and would ask Mr Bokor-Ingram, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Moray and the Director of Public Health to respond to Councillor Warren with further information

Response:

A specific vaping working group has been recently formed as part of the Grampian Public Health Directorate Tobacco Strategic Group. One of the Moray Area Public Health Coordinators is part of the working group.

Helen Kendrick from ASH Scotland has recently joined the Grampian Tobacco Strategy Group. She has outlined how they have training sessions for staff or carers who support young people on vaping and they have school packs that she will share with us so this will be very helpful for us moving forward. Helen can also provide us with fact and figures of vape use.

Moray wide concerns were raised recently when a 6 year old child in the Keith Locality was found to be vaping. Initial discussions have been around supporting schools with information and resources. The Moray Area Public Health Coordinator has arranged meetings locally to progress. An initial meeting with Arrows, Quarriers, Sharon from the Loft and Youth Zone (ACCT) to start the planning of support and prevention is planned for this week. Local schools have also been invited to attend. Any learning from this will be scaled up across Moray via the Children Services and the Adult Services Locality models.

With regards to the risks, vaping is seen as less harmful than smoking cigarettes but further intelligence is needed to fully understand the potential risks. The number of young people using vapes is unclear but there is evidence to suggest the numbers are increasing. Marketing and advertising of the products is cause for concern and as such discussions are ongoing with trading standards.

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