

Smoke-Free Homerton

Engagement document: August 2017



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1. Background

Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust (HUHFT) currently has facilities for smoking available on both the main hospital and other sites. Nationally there is a move towards providing smoke-free environments and this is reflected in [NICE Guidance PH48](#) which recommends that all NHS funded secondary care sites should become completely smoke-free.

The key benefits of moving towards a smoke-free environment are:

- ✓ Preventing exposure to second hand smoke for those who use the site/s
- ✓ Further step in our support for staff and others to stop smoking
- ✓ Supporting the Hackney wide priority to prevent people from starting to smoke
- ✓ Removing the potential to exacerbate chronic conditions e.g. asthma for people around the site/s
- ✓ Removing the possibility of unsightly cigarette littering on the site/s
- ✓ Complying with NICE Guidance recommendations for a smoke-free environment

HUHFT has taken the decision to provide a fully smoke-free environment on its sites from 2nd January 2017 with staff being required to stop smoking on sites from 2nd October 2017.

This document sets out the current proposals and seeks to gain views from key stakeholders in order to shape plans and ensure a successful transition to a smoke free environment.

2. Why Smoke-Free?

The medical evidence that cigarette smoking can seriously harm health is now overwhelming. Smoking remains the largest single preventable cause of death and illness in the UK. In England, every day more than 200 people die from smoking related illnesses. In 2013 one in six of all deaths among people aged 35 and over (nearly 80,000 people) was attributable to smoking (HSCIC 2014). Smoking causes more deaths every year than obesity, alcohol, road traffic accidents, illegal drugs and HIV combined (ASH fact sheet on smoking stats 2014) costing the NHS in England approximately £2 billion per annum.

Smoking remains a major cause of lung cancer, heart disease and stroke. Controlling the use of tobacco with a renewed emphasis on stopping people from starting smoking as well as helping them to quit is one of four priorities in Hackney's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Exposure to second hand/passive smoking in non-smokers has been shown to exacerbate chronic lung diseases such as asthma and bronchitis as well as being a risk factor for cancer and therefore is an additional cost to the NHS.

It is important to note that the banning of smoking within NHS sites is not an infringement of service users' human rights, a point established in the Court of Appeal in 2008, in a judgement which asserted that in the interests of public health, a complete ban on smoking in hospitals is justified.

HUHFT also recognises that it has a responsibility under health and safety and employment law to provide a smoke-free environment and is committed to protecting

staff, patients and visitors against the serious detrimental short and long term effects of secondary smoke.

3. Who is this engagement document aimed at?

This engagement document is aimed to reach people who visit the Homerton University Hospital site/s either regularly or infrequently. This includes but is not exclusive to:

- HUHFT Staff
- Staff contracted through HUHFT to work on site
- Service users, their families and visitors
- Organisations who routinely have staff/ students working on site/s including universities
- Members of the local community who reside near the Trust site/s
- Those who routinely work near the Trust site/s

The document is aimed at those who regularly smoke, smoke infrequently or do not smoke as it is intended to take into account all views on the proposals.

4. Proposed Smoke-Free model

The proposal is to move to a smoke-free environment for staff by October 2017, timed to coincide with [Stoptober](#). A draft policy is in development and for staff reflects the suggested model for a smoke-free environment at HUHFT. The Trust will be totally smoke-free from January 2018.

At present, the following key elements are being proposed:

4.1. Smoke-Free Environment for Staff

- Smoking will not be permitted on any site where Homerton services are provided including any of the Trust premises, property leased by the Trust or in patient's homes where services are being provided. Smoking is not permitted in Trust owned vehicles or in lease cars.
- NHS staff will be expected to set a good example by not smoking in view of patients, clients or the public when wearing uniform or whilst wearing an ID badge identifying them as a member of staff.
- Staff offering home visits should advise any patients who smoke of the Trust smoke free policy and request that the patient/carer does not smoke for at least an hour before the planned visit.
- Signage will be put up across the Homerton sites publicising that the trust will be going Smoke-Free and from October is Smoke-Free for staff members
- All smoking shelters on the Homerton Hospital site will be removed by the end of December 2017.

4.2. Support to Stop Smoking

- We are working with our Smoking Cessation Service and Pharmacy Team to ensure all patients who require nicotine replacement therapy can access it in support of them not smoking whilst at the site and beyond
- The stop smoking service at Homerton and other local services will be publicised to staff, service users and the public to ensure services are accessible. An electronic resource will be made available along with information posters and cards to publicise the services.

- Consideration has been given to possible increase in demand for services including the potential impact on prescribing and additional resources required to support this.

4.3. Support for Staff to Challenge Non Compliance

- Whilst we hope to see general compliance with the policy following October 2017, is it inevitable that on occasion there will be examples where the policy is not followed. It is the responsibility of all employees to draw this policy to the attention of those who are smoking on hospital premises. All members of staff will be expected to reinforce the Trust's Smoke-Free Policy in circumstances which they are comfortable to do so.
- A clear policy and procure for challenging smoking will be developed and complimented by the provision of training and information. The Trust is adopting a compliance model of enforcement and this ethos will support staff to challenge without being placed in any compromising or potentially volatile situation. Staff safety must always be paramount and **under no circumstances should any member of staff seek to enforce the policy if they believe they would be at risk in doing so.**

4.4. Effect on Environment in Surrounding Areas

- London Borough of Hackney are key partners in the implementation of this proposal. Consideration is being given to waste disposal and the general upkeep of the surrounding areas to minimise the impact resulting from those who do still wish smoke being displaced away from the site.

4.5. Further Considerations

- Use of e-cigarettes

A decision has been made to allow for vaping (e-cigarettes) onsite but not inside the building and or close to windows and doors.

5. Key Questions for Consideration

Although the Trust has made this decision and is required to go smokefree we would welcome your views on how best to support you.

Specifically we would appreciate your comments in response to the following questions:

- ? Are there additional considerations that the Trust should turn its attention to whilst preparing for the site/s to go smoke-free?
- ? What additional support may be required by those who visit the site (regularly or infrequently) to enable the smoke-free environment to be successful?

6. Next steps

We would like to invite you to feedback comments by 4th September 2017.

If you have any initial questions or require further clarification or information in order to submit your views, please don't hesitate to contact the Trust.

Please use the following methods to share your views:

- email at smokefree@homerton.nhs.uk
- Education Centre, Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Homerton Row, London, E9 6SR
- Executive Lead for Smoke Free, Sheila Adam, Chief Nurse and Director of Governance 020 8510 7320

7. Resources

- <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/smoking>
- <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph48>
- <https://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/document-library/audit-and-quality-improvement/audit-reports/bts-smoking-cessation-audit-report-2016/>