

Why is this important?

Tobacco is the only legally available consumer product that kills people when it is used entirely as intended. Thus smoking remains the single greatest cause of preventable illness and premature death in the UK, and is one of the main determinants of health inequalities. It is a major contributing factor to the difference in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the national average. The total estimated smoking-related cost to the NHS was £2.6 billion in 2015.

Key Facts and Figures

Smoking kills **50%** of all lifelong users; an average 20 years prematurely



Passive (second-hand) smoking in the home is a major hazard to the health of millions of children in the UK



People on low incomes are **2x** as likely to smoke as the more affluent, to have started younger and to be more heavily addicted

More than **40%** of tobacco consumption is by those with mental illness

Lewisham has one of the highest rates of smoking attributable deaths in London

310.7

per 100,000 residents

Children with a mother or both parents who smoke are 2-3 times as likely to take up smoking themselves

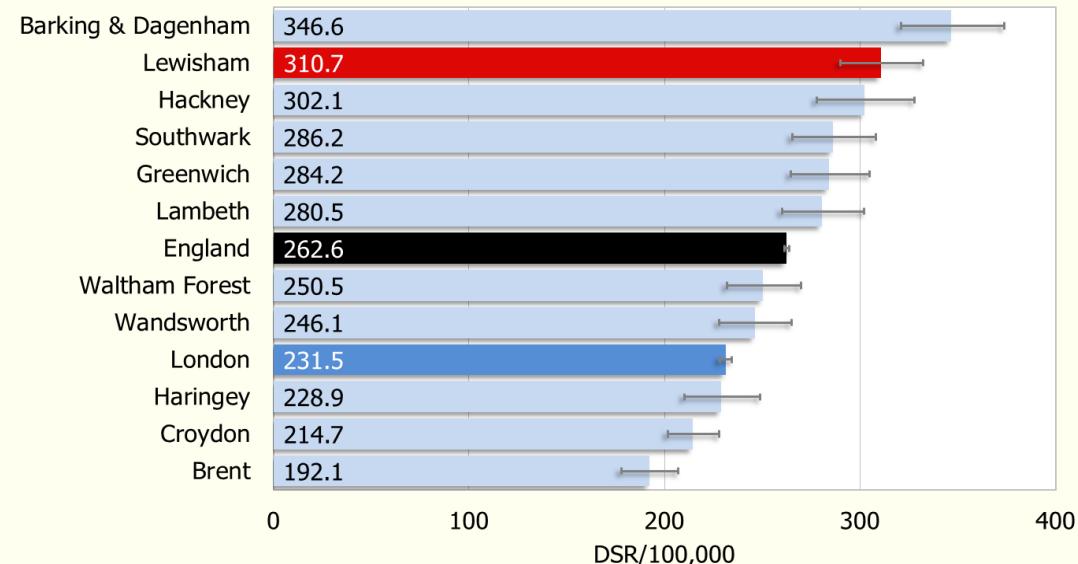


What is happening nationally?

- Government published its Tobacco Control Plan for England in July 2017 to promote a smoke-free generation. The plan sets out to reduce:
 - the overall smoking rate
 - teenager smoking rate
 - Smoking in pregnancy
 - the inequality gap in smoking prevalence between the general population and those in routine and manual jobs
- Long Term NHS Plan (2019) states intention to make England a smoke-free society. Based on the proven Canadian model.

What is happening locally?

- Lewisham's Smoke-free Future Delivery Group is implementing a work plan based on the Tobacco Control Plan for England
- Lewisham's Stop Smoking Service recently launched a digital stop smoking platform to provide an additional avenue by which smokers can receive support to quit smoking
- Lewisham Council's Trading Standards, with the assistance of young volunteers, periodically carries out supervised test purchase attempts at premises selling tobacco to ensure that the over 18yrs requirements are complied with



Smoking Attributable Death Rate (per 100,000 35+ residents) 2015-17

What needs to be done?

- Deliver Lewisham's Smoke Free Future Action Plan, which focuses on 'de-normalising' smoking to reduce uptake by young people
- Implement policies to protect children from the harm of second-hand smoke, for example smoking bans in playgrounds
- Tackling the sale of illegal tobacco
- Key focus on helping parents, pregnant women, those most heavily addicted, those with mental health problems and those in poorer communities and in minority ethnic groups to stop smoking