

Prejudice and Prohibition

Results of a study of smoking and vaping policies in NHS hospital trusts in England

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Results of a study of smoking and vaping policies in NHS hospital trusts in England

Mark Tovey
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About the author

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About Forest

FOREST (Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco) was founded in 1979 to support adults who choose to smoke a legal consumer product. We campaign against excessive regulations including comprehensive smoking bans and unnecessary government intrusion into people's personal lives and private spaces. In recent years we have campaigned against standardised packaging of tobacco and other measures designed to denormalise smoking and restrict freedom of choice for adult consumers. We are currently campaigning against proposals to extend the smoking ban to social housing and outdoor public places.

Foreword

At Hull Royal Infirmary they used to have a smoking shelter. Regrettably it was demolished and replaced with a stark 'No Smoking' sign. Today patients are forced to go off site to smoke. "It's humiliating having to stand at a bus stop," a 21-year-old woman wearing a nightgown and a catheter told BBC Look North. "It's like being punished for smoking."

The same report featured another patient ambling slowly off site with the aid of crutches. Walking alongside her was a "stop smoking specialist" who could be heard saying, "I was wondering if you'd like to take this opportunity to stop smoking." Was he helping or harassing her? Either way, it looked and felt wrong.

Last year a hospital in West Yorkshire installed a public address system that at the press of a button plays messages to 'shame' smokers to stub out their cigarettes. Elsewhere a local radio presenter, no fan of smoking, has described how his terminally ill father was denied the 'pleasure' of a cigarette while he was in hospital because smoking was prohibited throughout the site. Equally distressing scenarios are being enacted across the country.

Banning smoking on hospital grounds may seem reasonable to many people but the policy demonstrates a staggering lack of empathy and compassion, targeting, as it does, people who may be feeling particularly vulnerable – stressed, upset and in some cases in need of a comforting cigarette.

I would go further and argue that it's cruel and a shocking indictment of our 'caring' NHS. Where's the compassion in forcing someone to go off site before they can light up? They may be infirm, physically and mentally. It could be dark, late at night and they might be alone. No-one who is already suffering from ill health or may be recovering from an accident or serious operation should be treated in such a callous fashion.

Yes, it can be unsightly if a group of people are smoking directly outside a hospital entrance, but this is one of many unintended consequences of the workplace smoking ban. Unable to light up

indoors in a dedicated smoking room, smokers are forced to stand outside. Understandably they prefer to remain close to the entrance under a canopy that provides shelter from bad weather.

If the powers that be don't want people to smoke next to the entrance incentivise them to move further away by providing a comfortable smoking shelter. Don't ban smoking everywhere on site because that's disproportionate to the problem. Some people may not like the smell of tobacco smoke but there's no evidence that smoking in the open air is a health risk to anyone other than the smoker.

Even in these difficult financial times a smoking shelter represents money well spent. Enforcing outdoor smoking bans means CCTV cameras, public address systems and tobacco control wardens ordering smokers to 'Put that cigarette out!'. What a waste of public money and scarce resources.

The public appear to agree. According to polls conducted by Populus for Forest, tackling smoking has consistently been considered the least important in a list of ten priorities for the NHS. The most important issues were investing in new doctors and nurses, addressing response times at A&E, and improving general waiting times.

Tobacco, lest we forget, is a legal product. Despite this anti-smoking campaigners justify the constant war on smokers by estimating that the cost of treating smoking-related illnesses is £2.7 billion a year in the UK. To put this in perspective, smokers contribute a staggering £12 billion to the Treasury annually through a combination of tobacco duty and VAT. In short, using a discredited financial argument to justify further discrimination against smokers is not only wrong, it's unjust.

If this report offers some good news it's the fact that an increasing number of NHS trusts are adopting a more relaxed attitude to vaping. The overwhelming majority of vapers are ex-smokers or smokers who wish to cut down or quit smoking altogether so banning the use of e-cigarettes on hospital premises never made any sense. It's encouraging therefore to see more trusts amending their policies to allow vaping on site and even in hospital buildings.

Adopting a more sensible approach to vaping does not however justify further restrictions on smoking. Hospitals can be stressful places and for some smokers – patients, visitors and even staff – a cigarette provides comfort at a difficult time. The NHS has a duty of care to protect people's health but that doesn't include the right to nag, cajole or bully smokers to quit or switch to a state approved e-cigarette.

Just as bad is the despicable threat to punish staff who enable patients to smoke outside hospital buildings. In theory this could result in a member of staff, with years of dedicated service to their name, being disciplined because, with the best of intentions, they assisted or turned a blind eye to a patient who wanted to smoke and whose immediate mental well-being may have been helped by being allowed to have a cigarette.

The level of pettiness is such that smoking is not only prohibited outside the majority of hospital buildings but even in hospital car parks and private vehicles while they are on NHS sites. (Imagine you are alone in your own car, smoking a cigarette – a practice that is entirely legal. You turn off the public road and on to the hospital grounds. Even if the car windows are closed you are now in breach of the hospital's smoking policy. You can't even light up while your car is stationary in the hospital car park.)

Common sense and decency are being sacrificed on the altar of 'public' health. Increasingly, it seems, hospitals are in the hands of tick-boxing bureaucrats with little empathy and no compassion for those who don't conform to today's anti-smoking orthodoxy. Hopefully this report can play a small part in highlighting the creeping prohibition that is becoming a worrying national trend. If it also encourages individual hospital trusts to consider a more humane approach to adults who choose to smoke, it will have done its job.

Simon Clark
Director, Forest
March 2019

Method and sample

200 NHS England trusts were sent an FOI request; 151 were acute trusts and 49 were mental health trusts. Acute trusts are organisations that manage hospitals within a given area; mental health trusts are specialised in providing health and social care services for people with mental health problems.¹

The following questions/requests were included in the survey in order to assess existing policies on smoking and vaping and how individual trusts' policies might be expected to change in 2019:

1. Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?
2. Are there smoking shelters?
3. Is smoking banned in the car park?
4. Is smoking banned in private vehicles on site?
5. Does the trust have any plans to change its smoking policy?
6. Please give details of planned changes to the trust's smoking policy.
7. Please give the date on which the trust plans to implement changes to its smoking policy.
8. Is vaping permitted on hospital grounds?
9. Is vaping permitted in hospital buildings, including hospital wards?
10. Does the trust have any plans to change its vaping policy?
11. Please give details of planned changes to your trust's vaping policy.
12. Please give the date on which the trust plans to implement changes to its vaping policy.
13. How are the trust's smoking/vaping policies enforced?

The trusts were within their rights to refuse to answer these questions as section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows public bodies to withhold information intended for future publication. However, only two of the 130 respondents explicitly invoked this exemption.²

¹ NHS, NHS authorities and trusts, publication date: April 2016

² The National Archives, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 22, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/22> (accessed 02/01/2019)

Key findings

Based on data gathered via a series of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, this report summarises the policies that regulate smoking and vaping in 170 NHS trusts in England and how those policies may change in 2019.

Smoking policies

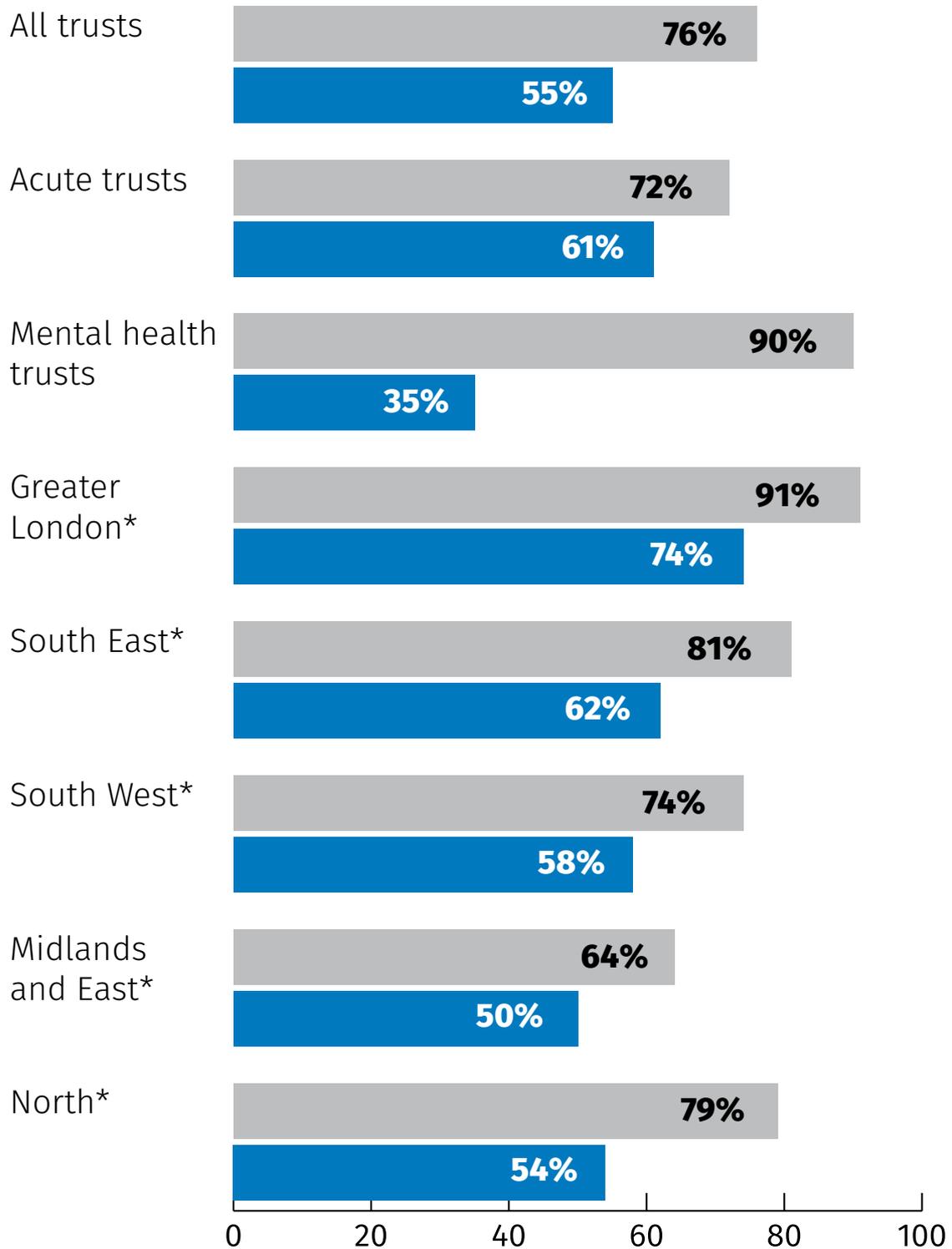
In 2018 smoking bans were operated by an overwhelming majority of NHS trusts; 76% of the 170 respondents said they did not tolerate smoking anywhere on hospital grounds (90% of the 40 mental health trusts and 72% of the 130 acute trusts). In London 91% of trusts were smoke free, compared with 81% in the South East, 79% in the North, 74% in the South West and 64% in the Midlands and East. In 2019 a further 18 trusts plan to tighten restrictions on smoking by removing smoking shelters and extending non-smoking areas.

94% (159/170) of the responding trusts did not tolerate smoking even in their car parks, with 92% of acute trusts (119/130) and 100% of mental health trusts (40/40) banning smoking in the car parks.

79% (135/170) also banned smoking in private vehicles on site. Mental health trusts were stricter than acute trusts with 88% (35/40) forbidding smoking in private vehicles compared with 77% (100/130) of acute trusts. 87% of trusts in Greater London (20/23) reported that smoking was banned in private vehicles. In the South West 80% (16/20) of trusts prohibited lighting up in cars while 76% (19/25) of South East trusts and 74% (37/50) of Midlands and East trusts also banned the practice.

Smoking shelters were provided by 22% (38/170) of the respondents, with acute trusts in the Midlands and East region (36%, 18/50) being the most likely to give shelter to smokers. Over a quarter (28%) of the 130 responses from acute trusts said smoking shelters were available on their hospital sites. Only one of the 40 mental health trusts that responded to our FOI request said they had a smoking shelter. Three said that while they did not have smoking shelters they did have other areas for smokers.

Percentage of responding trusts that prohibit smoking/vaping on hospital grounds



* All trusts (acute and mental health)

Smoking Vaping

Vaping policies

E-cigarettes could be used outdoors in 45% of hospital trusts in 2018. Mental health trusts were more tolerant of vaping with 65% allowing the practice compared with 39% of acute trusts. In the Midlands and East, vaping was permitted outdoors in 50% of trusts, compared with 46% in the North, 42% in the South West, 38% in the South East and 26% in Greater London.

One in ten of the responding trusts (11%) also allowed vaping indoors, the rate being significantly higher among mental health trusts compared with acute trusts (33% vs. 5%). In Greater London and the North 13% of trusts permitted vaping inside, compared with 11% in the South West, 10% in the Midlands and East and 8% in the South East.

24 trusts said they were planning to amend their policies in 2019 to permit vaping outside buildings, in special shelters or in wards.

Enforcement

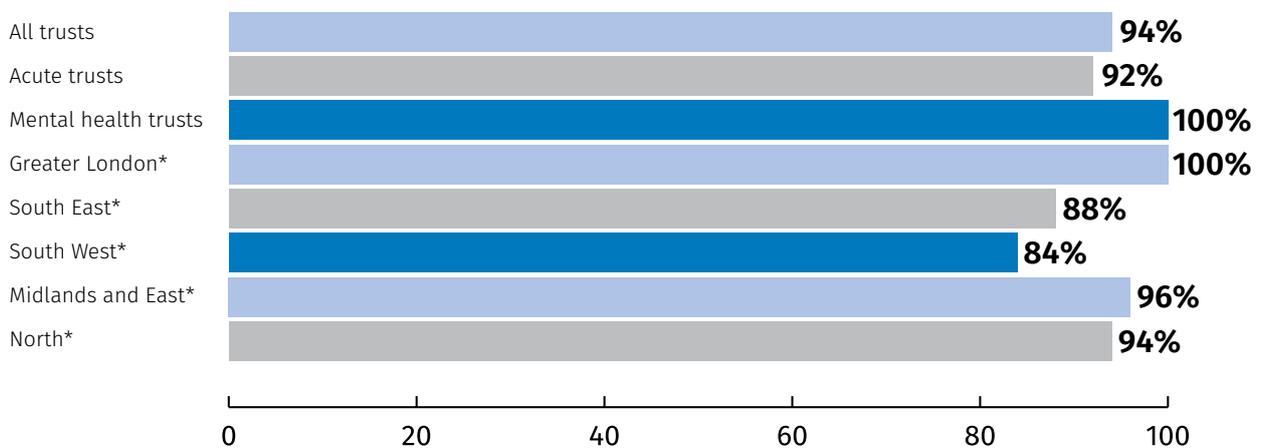
Of the 170 trusts that responded to our survey, 152 (88%) said they used signage to enforce smoke-free policies; 34% (55/170) said they expected medics, nurses, kitchen workers, admin staff, etc to act as enforcers.

32% said they had installed shame-a-smoker buttons that members of the public could press to trigger anti-smoking messages to play over a public address system, 18% said they used security guards to do walk-arounds and provide support to other members of staff when they got into trouble confronting smokers.

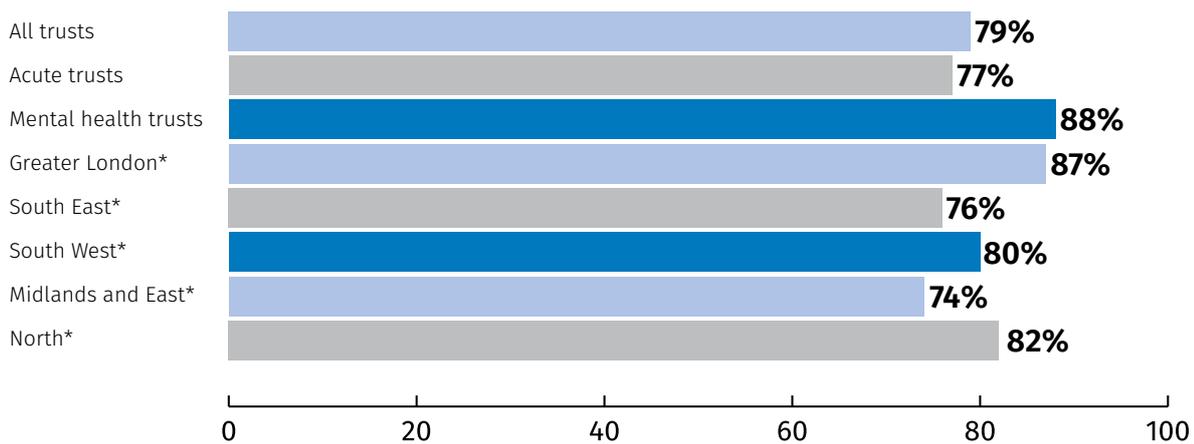
14% said they used CCTV to monitor smokers and vapers, 12% said they provided advice and nicotine withdrawal therapy to keep patients from violating their smoke-free policies, 9% said they used leaflets, information on patient appointment letters and welcome pack literature to spread information.

8% of trusts said staff could face disciplinary action if they violated their policies or assisted patients in doing so and 2% said they reserved the right to confiscate smoking and vaping paraphernalia.

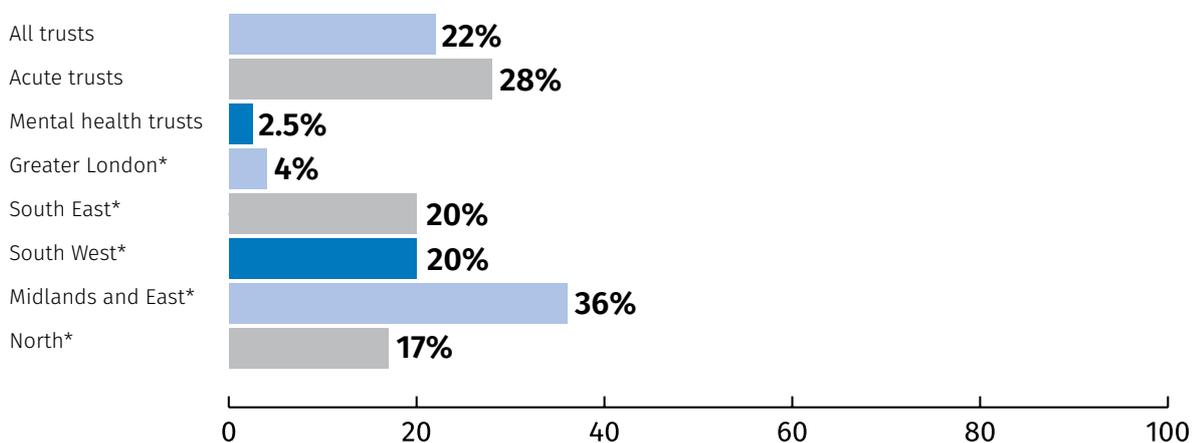
Percentage of responding trusts that prohibit smoking in hospital car parks



Percentage of responding trusts that prohibit smoking in private vehicles on hospital grounds



Percentage of responding trusts that provide smoking shelters



* All trusts (acute and mental health)

1. Smoking on NHS hospital grounds

Background

In 2013 the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) said NHS hospitals and clinics should become completely smoke free.³ NICE guidance said smoking shelters and other designated smoking areas should be removed from secondary-care settings and patients should be offered smoking cessation drugs, nicotine patches and counselling upon admission. “We need to end the terrible spectacle of people on drips in hospital gowns smoking outside hospital entrances. This new guidance can help make that contradiction a thing of the past,” said the then director of public health at NICE, Professor Mike Kelly. Four years later a report by the British Thoracic Society found that only one in 16 institutions was completely enforcing smoke-free grounds.⁴

While legislation has been passed in Wales and Northern Ireland to make smoking in hospital grounds an offence, and in Scotland it’s illegal to smoke within 15 metres of NHS hospital buildings, the Department of Health in England has made it clear the government has no plans to follow suit.⁵ Therefore hospitals in England are dependent on the voluntary cooperation of patients and visitors to make the grounds ‘smoke free’.

Removing smoking shelters has caused smokers to congregate in a disorderly way, exacerbating the ‘terrible spectacle’ the then-Director of Public Health at NICE had wanted to avoid, of ‘people on drips in hospital gowns smoking outside hospital entrances’.

3 NICE, Smoking: acute, maternity and mental health services, Public health guideline [PH48], Published date: November 2013, <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph48> (accessed 02/01/2019)

4 British Thoracic Society, Smoking cessation audit report, Published date, December 2016, <https://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/document-library/audit-and-quality-improvement/audit-reports/bts-smoking-cessation-audit-report-2016/> (accessed 02/01/2019)

5 BMJ opinion, How do we stop people smoking at the front doors of our hospitals? Published date: May 2018, <https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2018/05/25/how-do-we-stop-people-smoking-at-the-front-doors-of-our-hospitals/> (accessed 02/01/2019)

In 2013 a member of staff at Royal Bolton Hospital told the Bolton News, “If there was a smoking shelter then we could send the smokers there instead of going out and saying you can’t smoke here, which is when they get abusive.”⁶

In 2013 Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust reinstated four smoking shelters with the hospital’s director of development and estate saying it would improve entrance areas where smokers ‘historically’ have caused ‘a significant problem’.⁷

In 2014 a representative of Royal United Hospital in Bath said they would install three new smoking shelters as the smoke-free site had ‘proven impossible to maintain’. He said, “We are not prepared to accept patients, visitors and staff having to walk through smoke to enter or leave our hospital. Smoking shelters are a pragmatic response and we have decided to try them.”⁸

In February 2017 Public Health England launched an NHS Tobacco Free campaign⁹ and in January 2018 the Smokefree Action Coalition (a group of over 300 organisations, with the endorsement of Public Health Minister Steve Brine MP and the chief executives of NHS England and Public Health England) launched an NHS Smokefree Pledge. The pledge commits all signatories to go smoke free by 2020. A year after its launch 20 of 195 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and 42 of 241 NHS Trusts have made the pledge.¹⁰

Hospitals that have subsequently banned smoking on site include the Royal United Hospital in Bath where the smoking shelters that were installed only a few years earlier have now been removed.

6 Bolton News, Hospital smoking shelters – for and against, Published date: June 2013, <https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/10458829.hospital-smoking-shelters-for-and-against/> (accessed 02/01/2019)

7 BBC, Oxford hospitals apply for smoking shelters, Publication date: August 2013, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-23537888> (accessed 02/01/2019)

8 BBC, Smoking shelters being installed at Royal United Hospital in Bath, Publication date: April 2014, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-26887340> (accessed: 02/01/2019)

9 BBC, NHS ‘tobacco free’ campaign launched by Public Health England, Publication date: February 2017, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-39094713> (accessed: 02/01/2019)

10 Smokefree NHS, NHS Smokefree pledge, Publication date: January 2018 <http://smokefreeaction.org.uk/smokefree-nhs/> (accessed: 02/01/2019)

Summary

200 NHS England trusts were sent an FOI request; 151 were acute trusts and 49 were mental health trusts.

The following questions were asked in order to assess the trusts' policies concerning smoking on hospital property:

- Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?
- Are there smoking shelters?
- Is smoking banned in the car park?
- Is smoking banned in private vehicles?

130 acute trusts (86%) and 40 mental health trusts (82%) responded, giving 170 responses and an overall response rate of 85%.

76% of respondents said they did not tolerate any smoking on hospital grounds – 90% (36/40) of mental health trusts and 72% (93/130) of acute trusts. The region with the highest rate of smoke-free trusts was Greater London (91%, 21/23), while the region with the lowest was the Midlands and East (72%, 21/23).

Smoking shelters were provided by 22% (38/170) of the respondents, with acute trusts in the Midlands and East region (36%, 18/50) being the most likely to report giving shelter to smokers.

The vast majority of trusts (94%, 159/170) said they did not tolerate smoking in their car parks. Of the eleven trusts that said they permitted smoking in their car parks, every one was an acute trust.

A smaller majority (79%, 135/170) reported a ban on smoking in private vehicles. Again, mental health trusts were stricter than acute trusts with 88% (35/40) of them forbidding smoking in private vehicles, compared with 77% (100/130) of the acute trusts.

Acute trusts – smoking in car parks

Of the 130 acute trusts that responded, the overwhelming majority (92%, 119/130) said smoking was banned in the car parks of the hospitals they manage.

In Greater London 100% (23) of the responding trusts reported a ban on smoking in hospital car parks. In the South East the rate was 88% (22/25) and in the South West 85% (17/20). The other five trusts without a ban on smoking in the car park were located in the North (Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust and Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust) and in the Midlands and East region (University Hospitals of Leicester and University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust). These regions' intolerance of smoking in hospital car parks is above the national average, with 94% banning it in the North (49/52) and 96% (48/50) in the Midlands and East.

The eleven trusts without a ban on smoking in their hospital car parks were disproportionately located in the South of England. Three are in the South East (East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust and Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust) and another three are in the South West (Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust).

Acute trusts – smoking in private vehicles

Around three quarters (77%, 100/130) of the responding acute trusts said smoking was prohibited in private vehicles on hospital grounds. Once again the trusts in Greater London were the strictest, with 87% (20/23) of those reporting smoking was banned in private vehicles. The South West came in second place, with 80% (16/20) of trusts forbidding lighting up, even in one's own car. Meanwhile 76% (19/25) of South East trusts and 74% (37/50) of Midlands and East trusts ban the practice.

It is unclear how many of the 30 acute trusts that permit smoking in private vehicles on trust property extend the same freedom to members of staff while off duty. A handful of trusts clarified the situation. For example, Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said, 'Employees will not be permitted to smoke whilst in their own vehicle on trust premises.' However, as the information was not explicitly requested, the distinction was not consistently drawn and therefore no statistic can be reliably estimated.

Another uncertainty in the numbers collected arises from differences between the wording of trusts' policies and their interpretations by enforcers. For example, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust said, 'The trust would interpret its current policy as prohibiting smoking in private vehicles whilst on site, although this is not formally referenced in the current policy.' This leads to the question of how many of the respondents submitted that smoking was not banned in private vehicles based on the absence of its mention from their trust's policy document, even while security and other members of staff act day-to-day as though it was prohibited, leading to a de facto ban.

There is surprisingly little overlap between the trusts that allow smoking in the car park and those that allow smoking in private vehicles. Of the 11/130 trusts permitting smokers to light up in the car park, only six allow the same freedom after smokers have got into their cars (East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust). No exemption for lone drivers was mentioned by any of the trusts that ban smoking in cars while on NHS hospital sites.

The underlying principle of banning smoking in cars could be explained by James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's policy that bans individuals from smoking in their cars while at the same time permitting them to smoke in shelters. Explaining their policy, the Trust said, 'Smoking is prohibited in all enclosed and substantially enclosed premises in the trust.' This policy seems to be based on the alleged health impacts of inhaling secondhand tobacco smoke in enclosed spaces.¹¹

Mental health trusts – smoking in car parks or private vehicles

100% of the 40 mental health trusts that responded to our FOI requests reported that smoking was banned in the car parks of the facilities they provide, while 88% (35/40) said they also prohibited lighting up inside private vehicles.

¹¹ NHS Inform, Take it right outside, Publication date: November 2018, <https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/take-it-right-outside> (accessed: 02/01/2019)

The five mental health trusts that did not prohibit smoking in private vehicles were Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, Devon Partnership NHS Trust, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust qualified their answer, stating, 'As our premises are smoke-free, we would respectfully request that smoking does not take place in private cars, but our policy does not ban this.'

Acute trusts – smoking shelters

Over a quarter (28%) of the 130 responses from acute trusts said smoking shelters were available on their hospital sites.

Trusts in Greater London are the least likely to provide this facility with only one (4%) of the 23 respondents saying they had smoking shelters. That lone outlier is Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust where 'a small smoking shelter is available in the Westminster site but none are present on the Chelsea one'.

In contrast 18 (36%) of trusts in the Midlands and East region said their hospitals provided a refuge against the elements for smokers, a number that dwarfs those reported by the rest of the country.

In joint second-place for rate of smoking-shelter provision are the South West where 20% (4/20) of trusts said they provided shelters, and the South East (20%, 5/25). In the North only 17% (9/52) of acute trusts said they provided smoking shelters.

Some trusts made the point that, although they had smoking shelters, they were not for use by staff. As this information was not requested it was not consistently given, meaning no estimate can be reliably provided. However, certainly not all trusts with smoking shelters ban staff from using them. Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said staff could use any of the seven shelters across their two sites as long as they covered their uniforms.

While a handful of trusts said their shelters could not be used by staff, one trust said its shelters could not even be used by patients or visitors. Southport and Osmirk Hospital NHS Trust reported still having shelters but said 'they should no longer be used as places for patients or their visitors to smoke cigarettes ... The trust is considering their removal but financially this is not a priority at present.' It is possible they are still in frequent use despite there being a policy in place forbidding it; nevertheless, in order to be conservative in our calculations, we counted this trust as being among the majority without smoking shelters.

A couple of trusts stressed the importance of the positioning of their smoking shelters on hospital grounds. University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust described its strategy as being a response in February 2016 to 'an increasing number of breaches of the smoke-free policy by individuals on site, particularly around our main entrance.'

They continued, 'Smoking zones are set up on the perimeter of the hospital boundary outside the smoke-free core. The purpose of these shelters is to ensure a core smoke-free site which can provide a sensible option for those who wish to smoke ... since the introduction of this policy, the effectiveness has been monitored to ascertain whether smoking areas have helped to create more control over the problem. Whilst there has been some improvement the Trust has seen an increase of visitors smoking outside all main entrances. This highlights the need for additional shelters to help move smoking away from hospital entrances to ensure compliance.' Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust also reported having a ring of shelters on the perimeter.

Five trusts cited exemptions to their smoke-free policies. Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust said, 'Staff should apply a combination of professional and common sense judgements, and may use their discretion, exceptionally, in relation to some patients. For example, agitated patients in the Emergency Department where letting them have a quick cigarette will stop them getting more aggressive or violent; or Sussex Rehabilitation Centre (SRC) patients with brain injury who are likely to become unmanageably agitated without a cigarette; or those that have end-stage disease.'

Similar concessions were cited by Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Yeovil District Hospital NHS Trust.

Whether or not the trusts apply exemptions to their smoke-free policies in extreme cases like the ones described above was not explicitly asked within our FOI request so it is not possible to judge how representative these trusts are. However, only one of the 170 acute and mental health trusts (South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, a mental health trust) explicitly said that no exemptions would be made.

Mental health trusts – smoking shelters and other designated smoking areas

Only one of the 40 mental health trusts that responded to our FOI request said they had a smoking shelter.

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, the only mental health trust in our sample to provide smoking shelters, explained, 'Our trust became smoke-free in April 2016 ... This was part of our commitment to protecting the lives of everyone who uses, works within or visits our services. In October 2017 we took stock of our position on this following feedback from staff. As a result, we are now allowing service users, carers and visitors to smoke in designated areas of our inpatient sites or when visiting for outpatient appointments.'

Three (7.5%) of the mental health trusts said that while they did not have smoking shelters they had designated other areas for smokers. Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust said smoking was permitted within the garden of their two wards for patients with learning disabilities. Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation also said there were 'designated zones (very few)' and Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust reported amnesty areas for smokers in 'certain courtyards on mental health inpatient wards'.

2. How hospital smoking policies will change in 2019

Summary

200 NHS England trusts were sent an FOI request; 151 were acute trusts and 49 were mental health trusts.

The following questions/requests were included in the survey in order to assess how the trusts' policies can be expected to change in 2019:

- Does the trust have any plans to change its smoking policy?
- Please give details of planned changes to your trust's smoking policy.
- Please give the date on which the trust plans to implement the changes to its smoking policy.

130 acute trusts (86%) and 40 mental health trusts (82%) responded, giving 170 responses and an overall response rate of 85%.

12% of the trusts that responded (21/170) indicated they were considering changing their policies in 2019, with seven saying the change would take effect by January 1, 2019. Of the 21 trusts planning a change, 18 were acute trusts and three were mental health trusts.

An additional 16 trusts (9%) said their policies were undergoing a periodic review but did not give details. Of those, 14 were acute trusts and two were mental health trusts.

The trend is toward an increasing number of smoke-free trusts with 18 trusts saying they would tighten restrictions on smokers either by removing smoking shelters, extending non-smoking areas, or going completely smoke free.

44% (8/18) of the trusts planning partial or complete bans on smoking were in the Midlands and East region. None of the trusts said they had plans to relax the restrictions on smoking.

Acute trusts – plans to change smoking policies

Of the 130 acute trusts that responded to our survey, 14% (18) said they planned to change their smoking policy, 75% (98) said they had no plans to change and 11% (14) said their policies were under review and the outcome could not be predicted.

The trusts were asked for details of how their policies were expected to change. Their answers were coded with respect to what effect they would have on the smoking-policy environment: liberalisation, prohibition, neutral or no details.

None of the trusts were judged to be making changes that would liberalise their policies (ie reduce the restrictions on smoking). In contrast 16 trusts (50% of those that said they were changing or reviewing their policies) outlined plans to further curtail the freedom to smoke.

15 trusts said they were reviewing or changing their policies but did not provide enough details to determine the direction. One trust's changes were judged to be neutral in their impact on smokers.

Acute trusts – plans to partially or completely prohibit smoking

Two of the 16 prohibitionist trusts were in the South West: Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation. Great Western and Royal United Bath Hospitals both said they planned to remove smoking shelters, ban smoking in vehicles and enforce a smoke-free policy across all their sites by January 1, 2019.

In the South East Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust and Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust are also planning to get rid of their smoking shelters on January 1, 2019, with Portsmouth Hospitals saying they will give their shelters a second life as cycle storage.

The Greater London prohibitionists are Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust. Chelsea and Westminster said they would remove smoking shelters and 'extend non-smoking areas ... when possible.' It was not clear whether they plan to offer any designated

space for smokers or go completely smoke-free. Meanwhile, London North West University said they were likely to take 'actions to support the objectives of banning smoking throughout all [their] sites'.

Eight trusts in the Midlands and East reported plans to introduce increased or total prohibitions on smoking. University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust said they would remove smoking shelters on their Burton sites by January 1, 2019, bringing the policy in line with Derby's sites following the recent merger between the two. Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust similarly reported plans to go smoke free on January 1, 2019.

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust said it would convert smoking shelters into vaping shelters in March 2019 and reduce the size of smoking zones but it would not go completely smoke free. In the same month Bedford Hospital NHS Trust and Luton and Durnstable University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust plan to ban smoking completely on their sites. In April 2019 Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust will remove smoking shelters although they reported this change would be subject to a consultation, the date for which they did not provide. Finally Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust plan to introduce a complete ban on smoking in 2019 or 2020.

In the North, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said they would remove smoking shelters before the end of 2018. Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, which is already a 'smoke free' trust, said it would be providing additional training and guidance to staff to help them enforce the policy more effectively by March 2019.

Acute trusts – neutral

West Hertfordshire Hospital NHS Trust said their policy was 'under review around adopting best practice, and more specific processes and pathways – one of them being adding more information on effects of psychotropic medication, side effects and advice on how to use them'. It was judged that this policy change – based on the information provided – would not make the policy environment any more or less strict.

Acute trusts – no details of changes

Fifteen trusts said they had plans to change their smoking policies but did not give details. The majority of these said their policies were undergoing a periodic review, the results of which could leave the policies the same as before.

In the South West, Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust all said their policies were under review and that no completion date could be given.

In the South East, three more trusts (Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust and Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust) said their policies were under review. Surrey and Sussex said any resulting changes would be implemented by January 1, 2019.

In the Midlands and East region, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust said their recent merger with one another would require a policy harmonisation, although no further details were given. Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust responded that they were soon to move site and were in talks with Cambridge Biomedical Campus regarding a joint-policy, the details of which were not divulged.

In the North County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust and North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust all said their policies were under review, without providing any expected date of completion. East Cheshire NHS Trust and Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust both said their reviews would be finished by the end of March 31, 2019. Finally, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust said, 'The trust has announced, internally to staff, that the matter to change its smoking policy is being considered, but no further details are available at this time.'

Mental health trusts – plans to change smoking policies

Of the 40 mental health trusts that responded to our survey, 88% (35) said they had no plans to change their smoking policy, 8% (3)

said they planned to change their policy, while 5% (2) said their policies were under review and the outcome was as yet unknown.

The trusts were asked for details of how their policies were expected to change. Their answers were coded with respect to what effect they would have on the smoking-policy environment: liberalisation, prohibition, neutral or no details.

As with the acute trusts, none of the mental health trusts were judged to be making changes that would liberalise their policies (ie reduce the number of restrictions).

Two trusts (40% of those that said they were changing or reviewing their policies) said they planned complete or partial prohibitions (ie they planned to further curtail the freedom to smoke).

The remaining three trusts said they were reviewing or changing their policies but did not provide enough details to determine the direction.

Mental health trusts – plans to partially or completely prohibit smoking

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust said they planned to scrap an exemption to their smoke-free policy for in-patients with learning disabilities by January 1, 2019. Southern Health NHS Foundation, which already has a 'smoke free' policy, said it would further tighten its policies by enforcing 'the principle within the policy, additional training and guidance is to be provided to staff' and by 'including tobacco upon the prohibited substance and objects posters'.

Mental health trusts – no details of changes

Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust confirmed that changes were planned but confirmed only that they would be 'published on the trust's policy page in due course'. South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust said it would review and implement any changes by September 1, 2019. Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust indicated that a similar change to policy was on the way but did not provide a date or timescale.

3. Vaping in and around hospital buildings

Background

According to a 2015 evidence review published by Public Health England (PHE), e-cigarettes are around 95% less harmful than smoking.¹² In 2016 a report by the Royal College of Physicians came to the same conclusion: 'The available data suggest e-cigarettes are unlikely to exceed 5% of those risks associated with smoked tobacco products, and may well be substantially lower than this figure.'¹³

An updated review by PHE in 2018 said e-cigarettes could be contributing to at least 20,000 successful new quits per year and that 'switching completely from smoking to vaping conveys substantial health benefits'.¹⁴ This report came just a few weeks after a US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine report on e-cigarettes concluded. 'E-cigarettes are likely to be far less harmful than combustible tobacco cigarettes.'¹⁵

In its updated evidence review PHE gave the following advice to NHS Trusts:

To become truly smokefree, NHS Trusts should ensure:

e-cigarettes, alongside nicotine replacement therapies are available for sale in hospital shops; vaping policies support smokers to quit and stay smoke free

12 Public Health England, E-cigarettes: an evidence update, Published date: August 2015, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/e-cigarettes-an-evidence-update> (accessed 02/01/2019)

13 Royal College of Physicians, Nicotine without smoke: Tobacco harm reduction, Published date: April 2016, <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/nicotine-without-smoke-tobacco-harm-reduction-0> (accessed 02/01/2019)

14 Public Health England, PHE publishes independent expert e-cigarette evidence review, Published date: February 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-publishes-independent-expert-e-cigarettes-evidence-review> (accessed 02/01/2019)

15 The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, Public health consequences of e-cigarettes, Published date: January 2018, <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2018/public-health-consequences-of-e-cigarettes.aspx> (accessed 02/01/2019)

The government's Tobacco Control Plan for England includes a commitment to 'maximise the availability of safer alternatives to smoking'. It makes clear that e-cigarettes have an important part to play in achieving the ambition for a smoke-free generation.

Approximately three million people currently use e-cigarettes in the UK. It might be more if thousands of smokers did not incorrectly believe that vaping carries the same health risks as smoking.¹⁶ Misconceptions about the dangers surrounding e-cigarette use have even permeated the minds of policymakers, a point made in a report by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee in 2018:

'Some NHS mental health units are allowing unrestricted use of e-cigarettes, but it is unacceptable that a third of the 50 English NHS Trusts who responded to the Committee's survey ban them. Three-quarters of NHS trusts were mistakenly concerned about second-hand e-cigarette vapour, despite the negligible health risk.' The committee went on to recommend that mental health facilities allow e-cigarette use by patients 'unless trusts can demonstrate evidence-based reasons for not doing so'.¹⁷

This section of our report set out to find the levels of concordance between NHS England trusts' policies and the recommendations of Public Health England, the Royal College of Physicians and the House of Commons' Science and Technology Committee.

Summary

200 NHS England trusts were sent an FOI request: 151 were acute trusts and 49 were mental health trusts. The following questions were included in the survey in order to assess the trusts' policies governing vaping on hospital property:

- Is vaping permitted in hospital grounds?
- Is vaping permitted in hospital buildings, including hospital wards?

¹⁶ Public Health England 2018 E-cigarette evidence review

¹⁷ Science and Technology Committee (Commons), E-cigarettes inquiry, Published date: May 2018, <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/e-cigarettes-17-19/> (accessed 02/01/2019)

130 acute trusts (86%) and 40 mental health trusts (82%) responded, giving 170 responses and an overall response rate of 85%.

Vaping was permitted inside the buildings of approximately one in ten of the responding trusts (11%, 19/170), with the rate being much higher among mental health trusts (33%, 13/40) compared with acute trusts (5%, 6/130).

E-cigarettes could be used outdoors in 45% (77/170) of hospital trusts. Once again, mental health trusts were more tolerant, with 65% (26/40) allowing vaping on their hospital grounds compared with only 39% (51/130) of acute trusts.

Many of the respondents that permitted vaping, either indoors or outside, imposed restrictions on the model of e-cigarette that could be used. The single-use type was most commonly preferred, due to the alleged fire hazard posed during recharging of multi-use e-cigarettes and – particularly in mental health settings – a concern that refillable ‘tank models’ could be used to covertly take illicit drugs.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells, in the South East, was the only trust to say it provided shelters dedicated to e-cigarette users. Meanwhile a number of other trusts (eg East and North Hertfordshire, Luton and Dunstable University Hospital, University Hospitals of Leicester, Queen Elizabeth Hospital King’s Lynn and University Hospitals of North Midlands) indicated that outdoor shelters had to be shared by smokers and vapers.

While some trusts appeared to embrace vaping as a harm-reduction strategy (Avon and Wiltshire in the South West, for example, said they gave out free disposable e-cigarettes to all smoking in-patients), others were more ambivalent. Their attitude was summed up by a statement by Medway NHS Foundation Trust that read, ‘We do not encourage the use of e-cigarettes, but acknowledge their potential to help people quit smoking.’

Acute trusts – vaping in hospital buildings (indoors)

Of the 130 responding acute trusts, only six (5%) said they allowed vaping in hospital buildings.

The trusts that seemed to embrace e-cigarettes most strongly as a form of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) were Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust. Southport and Ormskirk said they took ‘a positive view on the use of e-cigarettes as an effective harm-minimisation strategy for people who smoke to move them away from harmful burnt tobacco toward a cleaner form of nicotine delivery’ and that they therefore permitted patients to smoke in bedrooms ‘subject to the appropriate care planning and advice with regard to safe use and possession of the devices’.

Similarly West Hertfordshire spoke about e-cigarettes as a strategy for ‘harm reduction’ and even said they provided certain patients with the ability to buy ‘E-burn’, a brand name for a type of disposable e-cigarette designed for ‘secure establishments where rechargeable devices are considered unsuitable or unsafe’.¹⁸ Patients can use an E-burn device ‘within their bedrooms ... they are not permitted to vape in communal areas within the hospital due to the minimal risk of passive vaping.’

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust were less enthusiastic, even though they were among the very small minority of trusts that allow the use of e-cigarettes in patient bedrooms. In their response they said, ‘In extreme circumstances, where the patient’s non-acceptance of NRT options and any other potential disruption (violence and aggression) is likely, then the senior sister will make a local decision on the risks and the availability of a separate side room [for vaping].’

Without providing any further details, Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust and University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust and West Hertfordshire all confirmed they permit vaping by patients in hospital buildings.

Two trusts (Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust and Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) said they had no policy governing vaping on hospital grounds. Cumbria said they were working on a policy to be introduced at an undisclosed time.

¹⁸ Inside Time, E-Burn ‘major success story’ <https://insidetime.org/e-burn-major-success-story/> (accessed 02/01/2019)

Acute trusts – vaping on hospital grounds (outdoors)

36% of the acute trusts (47/130) that responded to our survey said they allowed vaping in the open air outside their buildings.

In the South West four acute trusts said they permitted vaping on the grounds: Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust.

Two acute trusts in the South West (Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch) said they encouraged vapers not to use smoking shelters 'so that they may avoid secondhand smoking'. However neither said they provided separate shelters for those who want to vape.

Six of the 47 trusts that allow vaping outdoors are in the South East: Isle of Wight NHS Trust, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, Medway NHS Foundation Trust, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust.

The South East boasts the only trust in all of England that said it provided shelters specifically for vapers (Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells).

The ambivalence of some hospital trusts toward e-cigarettes is summarised by a statement from the South East Trust Medway: 'We do not encourage the use of e-cigarettes but acknowledge their potential to help people quit smoking.' Medway went on to say that 'the use of e-cigarettes is permitted on the site, but not ... by any of the entrances or along the front of the building.'

Four trusts in the Greater London region said they permitted vaping in their hospital grounds: Buckingham, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust.

Explaining their decision to keep vapers outdoors, King's College Hospital said it was due partly to fears about fire hazard from

chargers'; no exemption however was mentioned for single-use e-cigarettes, which do not pose any such hazard.

In the Midlands and East, 20 trusts indicated that e-cigarettes could be used in their grounds. The trusts were Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust, James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Luton and Dunstable University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust, North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospitals of Derby & Burton NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Four trusts in the Midlands and East expected vapers to share outdoor shelters with smokers. Those trusts are East and North Hertfordshire, Luton and Dunstable University Hospital, University Hospitals of Leicester and University Hospitals of North Midlands. As this information was not explicitly requested it is not clear how many other trusts have similar policies.

University Hospitals of Leicester were one of the few to specify how their policy related to staff. Unlike patients, who may vape in smoking shelters, staff must walk 500 metres away from the trust's perimeter before vaping.

The remaining 16 of the 51 trusts that permitted vaping outdoors were in the North: Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust, Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust,

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and Stockport NHS Foundation Trust.

Two trusts in the North stated they had designated special smoke-free outdoor spaces for vapers. Calderdale and Huddersfield said, 'The trust appreciates the use of smoking shelters may not be appropriate so those using e-cigarettes can vape outside trust buildings (but not outside entry/exit points).' Leeds Teaching Hospitals said vapers were designated space 'adjacent to smoking shelters'; it was not clear if that space provides vapers with shelter from the elements. Airedale, Manchester University and Stockport, on the other hand, all mentioned shelters were shared by smokers and vapers.

Another two trusts in the North spoke of e-cigarettes in positive terms, indicating they promoted their use to smokers seeking to quit. Southport and Ormskirk Hospital said, 'The trust takes a positive view on the use of e-cigarettes as an effective harm minimisation strategy for people who smoke. E-cigarettes may help them move away from using harmful burnt tobacco toward a cleaner form of nicotine delivery, and can help support cutting down and quitting altogether.'

Similarly, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals said, 'We know that quitting smoking is extremely difficult and we have therefore amended our smoke-free policy to permit vaping on hospital grounds to encourage the 'swap to stop' method of quitting tobacco.' However Sheffield also said that staff must not be identifiable as employees while vaping which suggests an ambivalent attitude to the use of e-cigarettes.

Mental health trusts – vaping in hospital buildings

Of the 40 mental health trusts that responded to our survey, 13 (33%) said they permitted vaping in hospital buildings. That rate is over six times higher than among the acute trusts (5%, 6/130).

The mental health trusts that allow vaping in hospital buildings are Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust; Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust; Devon Partnership NHS Trust;

East London NHS Foundation Trust; Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust; Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust; Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust; North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust; South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust; Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust; Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust; and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.

Many respondents require that models of e-cigarettes with certain precautionary features be used. A common concern is that, while recharging, malfunctioning e-cigarettes could cause fires. For this reason only single-use, non-rechargeable models are permitted by some trusts (Barnet, Enfield and Haringey, Devon Partnership, East London, Midlands Partnership, North West Boroughs, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, and South West London and St George's Mental Health). Meanwhile Leicestershire Partnership said they permitted patients to use rechargeable e-cigarettes in hospitals as long as a fire extinguisher was within ten metres of the socket. Surrey and Borders Partnership said they provided safety-checked chargers for patients to use.

Another advantage of the single-use models is that, unlike the 'tank models', they cannot be filled with illicit substances. This is an especially relevant point for mental health trusts which regularly deal with patients suffering from substance abuse problems. Of the trusts that do allow the tank models (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear; Tees, Esk and Wear, and Surrey and Borders Partnership), all specified that they must be used outside because the voluminous amounts of vapour some of them produce can trigger fire alarms. Surrey and Borders Partnership said patients can 'only keep one tank of liquid refuel at a time and must trade empty ones for full ones which staff of hospital will hold for the patients'.

Although the 13 trusts above said they permitted vaping within hospital buildings, the restrictions they have put on the type of model that can be used may serve as a de facto ban for patients who do not come into hospital with an approved model. While Midlands Partnership said they provided compliant e-cigarettes 'through vending machines and in shops in key sites on all inpatient premises', and Surrey and Borders Partnership said 'e-lites are

available on prescription', East London explicitly said e-cigarettes could not be purchased on site.

Mental health trusts – vaping on hospital grounds

Almost two-thirds of responding mental health trusts (65%, 26/40) said they allowed vaping in their grounds. This is substantially higher than the rate among acute trusts (39%, 51/130).

Four of the 26 trusts that permit vaping outdoors are in the South West: 2Gether NHS Foundation Trust, Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust, Devon Partnership NHS Trust and Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust.

One trust from the South West, Avon and Wiltshire, said they offered on admission a complementary single-use e-cigarette to all inpatients that smoke, with further e-cigarettes being available at cost price. Meanwhile patients on their drug and alcohol unit are given reusable vaping devices that they can keep when they are discharged. Another South West trust, Dorset Healthcare University, said they trialled vaping indoors but eventually restricted it to outside areas due to a 'number of instances where smoke alarms were activated by vaping'.

In the South East two trusts said they permitted vaping outdoors: Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust and Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Four trusts in London said outdoor vaping was permitted: Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust; Bradford District NHS Foundation Trust; East London NHS Foundation Trust; Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust.

East London impose restrictions on the type of e-cigarettes permitted (refillable models are prohibited) but do not supply the approved model from the pharmacy. Another London trust, Oxleas, said they did not allow staff to use e-cigarettes.

Seven trusts in the Midlands and East permit outdoor vaping. They are Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, Leicestershire

Partnership NHS Trust, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust and South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

At the Norfolk and Suffolk trust in the Midlands and East region, the freedom to vape outside can be taken away from a patient in the event that he or she tries to vape indoors. To manage such patients the trust reserves the right to 'look after' e-cigarettes which are 'given to them to use outside of trust buildings when required, or at the discretion of ward staff if there are concerns around safety.'

In the North, 13 trusts reported that vaping in outdoor spaces is permitted. They were: Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust; Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust; Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust; Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust; Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust; North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust; Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust; Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust; North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; and Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust.

4. How hospital vaping policies will change in 2019

Summary

200 NHS England trusts were sent an FOI request: 151 were acute trusts and 49 were mental health trusts.

The following questions were included in the survey in order to assess how the trusts' vaping policies can be expected to change in 2019:

- Does the trust have any plans to change its vaping policy?
- Please give details of planned changes to your trust's vaping policy.
- Please give the date on which the trust plans to implement the changes to its vaping policy.

130 acute trusts (86%) and 40 mental health trusts (82%) responded, giving 170 responses and an overall response rate of 85%.

More than one in five (22%, 37/170) indicated they were planning to change their policies in 2019. Of the 37 trusts preparing to change policies, 27 were acute trusts and ten were mental health trusts.

Another eight trusts (5%) said their policies were undergoing a periodic review but did not give details.

The trend was toward a liberalisation of e-cigarette policies with 24 trusts saying they were considering permitting vaping in 2019 (outside buildings, in special shelters, in hospital wards etc).

Acute trusts – plans to change vaping policies

Of the 130 responding acute trusts 21% (27) said they planned to change their e-cigarette policy, 75% (98) said they had no plans to change and 4% (5) said their policies were under review and the outcome could not be predicted.

The trusts were asked for details of how their policies were expected to change. Their answers were coded with respect to what effect they would have on the e-cigarette policy environment: liberalisation, prohibition, neutral or no details.

15 (47%) of those trusts that said they were changing or reviewing their policies) were judged to be making changes that would liberalise their policies on vaping (ie reduce the number of restrictions. In contrast only one trust (3%) of those that said they were changing or reviewing their policies planned to further curtail the freedom to vape.

Three trusts gave details of changes that, in our view, would have a neutral effect on the strictness of the policy environment. The remaining 13 trusts (41% of the changers) said they were reviewing or changing their policies but did not provide enough details to determine the direction.

Acute trusts – plans to partially or completely liberalise vaping policies

Three of the trusts planning to liberalise their policies on vaping were in the South West: Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, North Bristol NHS Trust and Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. Cornwall said they had begun work ‘to improve the availability of non-rechargeable, non-refillable e-cigarettes for mental health patients’.

North Bristol said they were looking to relax rules around e-cigarettes but did not provide details. Meanwhile Taunton and Somerset indicated they were reviewing their policy ‘in light of Public Health England guidance on vaping as the single biggest contributor to reducing smoking in adults’.

In the South East Ashford and St Peter’s Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust were also planning to liberalise their e-cigarette policies. Ashford and St Peter’s Hospitals said they were considering allowing vaping in outside areas although they did not provide an implementation date. Salisbury said they would ‘install vaping areas/shelters instead of smoking shelters areas’ by January 1, 2019.

The more liberal trusts in Greater London were Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust and Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust. Epsom and St Helier said a proposal to 'introduce vaping shelters on site, allow vaping in designated areas and improve signage' was in the consultation stage. Royal Free London said its policy would be reviewed in January 2019 and, 'in light of the latest evidence', the current ban on vaping would be re-evaluated.

In the Midlands and East region four trusts planned to liberalise their vaping policies: Luton and Dunstable University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.

Luton and Dunstable said they would amend their e-cigarette policy to follow the new guidelines from NHS England and the Department of Health by March 2019. Norfolk and Norwich said it was considering permitting vaping in its hospital grounds. Royal Wolverhampton, which already allows the use of e-cigarettes on its grounds, said they were considering permitting vaping on the wards from April 2019. Meanwhile University Hospitals of Leicester indicated they would convert smoking shelters into places exclusive for vaping by March 2019.

In the North, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust were the final four prohibitionists on our list of 15 trusts that gave reason to believe they would liberalise their policies on vaping. County Durham and Darlington, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals and St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals said they were looking to allow vaping in hospital grounds while Mid Yorkshire Hospitals said they would update their policy to include Public Health England guidance on e-cigarettes. None however gave an implementation date.

Acute trusts – prohibition

Only one acute trust indicated plans that would further restrict the freedom to vape. Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said it would remove shelters for smoking and vaping before the beginning of 2019.

Acute trusts – neutral

Three acute trusts gave details of changes that we judged would be neutral in their impact on the strictness of the policy environment. They were Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust and West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Stockport said they would edit their policy in February 2019 to remove inaccuracies because the existing policy said vaping was only allowed in shelters, even though the trust did not have any shelters, and vaping was permitted more generally in the grounds.

A merger between hospitals in Derby and Burton in July 2018 produced a new trust: University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust. The new trust responded to our FOI to say that, on January 1st 2019, the two sites' vaping policies would be brought into line with one another. They said this would involve a liberalisation for Derby, as vaping would be allowed on hospital grounds, whereas in the past it had not been; however, for Burton it would be a prohibition, as it would simultaneously ban vaping in hospital wards, which Burton had previously allowed. Since the overall impact is ambiguous, this case was categorised as being neutral in our analysis.

Finally, West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust said they would be reviewing a number of technical considerations, relating for example to 'how soon care plans should be implemented and are mandatory, risk assessments of patients prior to the purchase of e-cigarettes, how to advise the quantity of e-cigarettes per day'.

Acute trusts – no details of changes

Thirteen acute trusts said they had plans to change their e-cigarette policies but did not give details. The majority of these said their policies were undergoing a periodic review, the results of which could leave the policies the same as before.

Two acute trusts in the South West, Poole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, said their policies were under review but provided no completion date or details.

In the South East, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust provided too few details to put them into one of the categories above, although each said some work on their vaping policies could be expected in 2019.

Four acute trusts in the Midlands and East were also included in the 'no details' category: Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Papworth Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Basildon and Thurrock and Nottinghamshire said a review was underway but didn't elaborate. Heart of England and Royal Papworth each indicated their policies would change in 2019 as the result of mergers but did not give any details.

In the North East, Cheshire NHS Trust, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust, Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust and Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust also fell into this category. Rotherham indicated changes would come in April 2019, without providing details. Sheffield Children's said they would create a policy from scratch to regulate vaping in 2019. Manchester University and North Tees and Hartlepool invoked section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that allows public bodies to withhold information intended for future publication.

Mental health trusts – plans to change smoking policies

Ten (25%) of the 40 mental health trusts that responded to our survey said they planned to change their e-cigarette policies, 68% (27) said they had no plans to change their policy, while 8% (3) said their policies were under review and the outcome was as yet unknown.

The trusts were asked for details of how their policies might change. Their answers were coded with regard to effect the changes would have on the vaping policy environment: liberalisation, prohibition, neutral or no details.

Nine of the mental health trusts (69% of the 13 that said they were changing or reviewing their policies) were judged to be

making changes that would liberalise their policies (ie reduce the restrictions on vaping).

None of the mental health trusts reported changes to existing policies that would completely or partially prohibit vaping on hospital grounds.

The remaining four mental health trusts (31% of those changing or reviewing their policy) said they were reviewing or changing their policies but did not provide enough details to determine the direction.

Mental health trusts – plans to liberalise vaping policies

The nine mental health trusts with plans to relax their e-cigarette policies were Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation, Humber NHS Foundation Trust, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.

Proposals to allow patients to vape in their bedrooms were being considered by Avon and Wiltshire but at the time of our FOI request no implementation date could be given.

Birmingham and Solihull said they were looking 'to extend the access to approved e-cigarettes for more service users across more sites to alleviate the inappropriate smoking that occurs in some areas', again with no date provided for implementation. Similarly, Humber said it was looking at vaping as an option for patients who do not take well to standard nicotine replacement therapies, with a rollout date of January 2019.

Free provision of rechargeable, pen-like e-cigarettes was being trialled in some wards at Northumberland, Tyne and Wear to assess take up, with an eye to expanding availability in 2019 depending on the results. Currently the trust provides disposable e-cigarettes to smoking in-patients upon arrival. Similarly Tees, Esk and Wears

Valleys were piloting disposable e-cigarettes given out free of charge on admission to smoking inpatients.

Oxleas said their policy would be reviewed in early 2019 with a view to relaxing the rules.

At South Essex Partnership smoking shelters may be converted into places exclusively for vaping in September 2019.

South West London and St George's said disposable e-cigarettes would be permitted, but only by inpatients, at some point in 2019.

Finally, South West Yorkshire said proposals were underway to permit single-use e-cigarettes, with no implementation date mentioned.

Mental health trusts – no details of changes

Four mental health trusts said their e-cigarette policies were under review but did not give enough details to determine the direction of the change. Those trusts were Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

5. Methods of enforcement

Summary

200 NHS England trusts were sent an FOI request. 151 were acute trusts and 49 were mental health trusts.

The following question was included in the survey:

- How are the trust's smoking/vaping policies enforced?

130 acute trusts (86%) and 40 mental health trusts (82%) responded, giving 170 responses and an overall response rate of 85%.

Nine methods of enforcement were identified in the responses from acute trusts:

- signage
- interaction with staff
- audio address systems
- security/wardens
- CCTV/monitoring
- smoking cessation advice/support
- leaflets/welcome packs/appointment letters
- disciplinary action against staff
- confiscation of tobacco/vaping equipment

For mental health trusts, none of the responses included references to audio address systems, CCTV/monitoring, wardens/security or staff disciplinary, meaning the total number of methods fell from nine to five.

It is likely that many trusts did not give comprehensive answers. For example, while 88% of acute trust respondents mentioned using signage to enforce their policies on smoking and vaping, the remaining 12% did not explicitly deny using this method of enforcement; therefore, the percentages given below should be interpreted as reflective of the minimum number of trusts using each method of enforcement.

Signage was mentioned by 152 (89%) of the 170 of responding trusts, with 88% (114/130) of acute trusts, and 95% (38/40) of mental health trusts including it in their answers.

Medics, nurses, kitchen workers, admin staff etc were all expected to act as enforcers by at least 32% (55/170) of trusts, with a rate of 34% (44/130) in acute trusts and 28% (11/40) in mental health trusts.

Public address systems play recorded messages at the press of a button to scold smokers and vapers in 32% (42/170) of the trusts that responded to our survey but none of the 40 mental health trusts mentioned using them. Two trusts, Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals and Taunton and Somerset, said their public address messages were recorded by children.

Smoking cessation advice and support (nicotine withdrawal therapy) was mentioned as an enforcement strategy by 14% (24/170) of trusts, with 12% (15/130) of acute trusts and 18% (7/40) of mental health trusts mentioning it in their response. One trust, Sherwood and Forest Hospitals, said it could not challenge anyone smoking on site 'until there is confidence that everyone has been offered NRT ... and intensive behavioural support.'

Security guards and wardens were used by 14% (24/170) of trusts – none of them mental health trusts. Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust had appointed four 'smoking cessation wardens' while University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay said they hired staff to enforce its smoke-free policy 'from time to time'.

Leaflets, welcome packs and information on appointment letters were given as a means of communicating the policies by 14% (23/170) of trusts – 9% of acute trusts (12/130) and 28% of mental health trusts (11/40).

CCTV and monitoring was mentioned by 12% (20/170) of trusts – 14% (18/130) of acute trusts and 5% (2/40) of mental health trusts. Medway NHS Foundation Trust said they 'often use CCTV to spot smokers who will then be escalated to site environment officers'. East Kent Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said they 'use CCTV footage as evidence' against staff caught breaking their smoke-free policy in a disciplinary hearing.

Staff disciplinary procedures can be launched to punish employees that break the smoke-free policy or help patients break it in 6% of trusts (10/170) but this was only mentioned by acute trusts. Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said staff could jeopardise their jobs merely by smelling of smoke.

The power to confiscate smoking paraphernalia was mentioned by 2% of respondents (4/170) – two acute trusts (Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust) and two mental health trusts (Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust).

Acute trusts – methods of enforcement

Signage was used by 88% (114/130) of the responding acute trusts to spread awareness of their smoking and vaping policies.

Medics, nurses, cleaners, admin staff etc were expected to act as enforcers of the policies in 34% (44) of the responding trusts. The level of obligation implied by the policies varies between trusts. For example, while Northumbria Healthcare said they ‘encouraged’ staff to approach rule-breakers, North Cumbria University Hospitals used stronger language, saying it was the ‘responsibility of every member of staff to stop people breaking the policy’.

Northern Lincolnshire Goole NHS Foundation Trust said ‘reporting of non-compliance’ was the responsibility of all staff which – assuming some paperwork or communication with security is entailed in making a report – could have widely varying opportunity costs of time, depending on whether the employee filing the report is a kitchen worker, a nurse, a surgeon, etc.

Commonly the trusts suggested staff could be putting themselves in danger by confronting rule-breakers. For example, Buckinghamshire Healthcare said ‘staff are expected to approach those in breach of the policy to advise them the trust is smoke free (when it is safe to do so)’; Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital said they encourage ‘safe challenging’; Nottingham University Hospitals said they ‘recognise there will be occasions where an employee does not feel confident to challenge a smoker ... if a smoker does not respond to a polite request the employee should contact security immediately’.

32% (42/130) of acute trusts reported that audio address systems play recorded messages at the press of a button to scold rule-breakers. According to Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals the audio address systems are intended to make communicating with rule-breakers a less daunting prospect because it removes the personal element. They explained that, at their sites, a button to activate the recorded message is available for anyone to press 'without putting themselves in a position of confrontation'.

Children's voices are used by the public address systems at two acute trusts, Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals and Taunton and Somerset.

The public address systems seem most often to be located by the main entrances. Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals said their audio address system was employed 'where smokers congregate', Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals specified 'at the entrance of Hull Royal Infirmary', Northumbria Healthcare said 'outside our emergency department', while Warrington and Halton Hospitals said 'at the main entrances'.

One respondent, Warrington and Halton Hospitals, said they were launching an audio address system but did not provide a timeframe. They were nevertheless included in our headline figure of 42 acute trusts with audio address systems.

Security guards/wardens were cited as a means of enforcement by 18% (24/130) of acute trusts. Whether security guards play a leading or supporting role in confronting rule-breakers varies between trusts. For example, some trusts said the guards independently conducted routine patrols. Others said security patrolled with other types of staff members. Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust said 'managers are responsible for enforcement, and security shall assist', Christie NHS Foundation Trust said their security team 'regularly do rounds with the Health Advisory team', and Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital Foundation Trust said they had made 'smoke free everybody's business', with security there to 'assist in the adherence and compliance'.

Four 'smoking cessation wardens', whose role it is to 'provide both support and information to smokers/vapers in relation to smoking cessation, as well as enforcing the ban', have been appointed at

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust. At Medway NHS Foundation Trust a similar job role has been created with the name 'environment officer'. Medway said these employees 'monitor smoking activity, challenging behaviour where necessary and also sweeping the site boundaries to ensure any smoking litter is regularly removed to reduce the presumption that the area is suitable for smoking'. University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust said, 'From time to time, the trust employs staff to 'police' areas subject to smoking.'

CCTV was used to watch and identify smokers and vapers in 14% (18/130) of the acute trusts that responded to our survey. Ashford and St Peter's said they had CCTV cameras covering 'points where smokers congregate'. Medway NHS Foundation Trust said they 'often use CCTV to spot smokers who will then be escalated to site environment officers'. East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust said they 'use CCTV footage as evidence' against staff caught breaking their smoke-free policy in a disciplinary hearing.

Advice on smoking cessation and provision of nicotine withdrawal therapies were given as methods of enforcement by 12% (15/130) of acute trusts. Sherwood and Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said their smoke free policy was not being enforced because 'Public Health England state they want the policy to encourage and support patients to be smoke free rather than focusing purely on enforcement.' They added, 'The trust cannot challenge anyone smoking on-site until there is confidence that everyone has been offered nicotine replacement therapy and that they have received intensive behavioural support. This requires training staff to feel confident about discussing smoke free with patients. There must be a consistent message given to all patients and visitors.'

Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust said they dealt with the issue as part of the 'admissions procedure'. NRT prescriptions have 'significantly increased' at University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust, and staff are being 'properly trained' to talk with patients about smoking cessation at Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Leaflets, welcome packs and information on appointment letters are used by 9% (12/130) of acute trusts to tell patients and visitors about

their smoke-free policies. North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust said patients must 'sign a document upon admission showing understanding of and consent to the policy' while Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust said, 'Where possible, all trust correspondence, eg letters and appointment cards and all trust literature should contain a short, standard statement that the trust does not allow smoking throughout its grounds premises at all times.'

Staff disciplinary procedures are levelled against employees found breaking the policy at 8% (10/130) of acute trusts. Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust said, 'Staff who smoke or assist patients to do will face a disciplinary procedure unless a special exception exists.' Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said, 'Disciplinary for staff and/or smoking by any member of staff whilst on the trust site and/or during working hours ... will be treated as misconduct and may lead to formal action in accordance with the Trust Disciplinary Policy.' Hillingdon said even 'smelling of smoke' is a violation of the policy. University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust said job advertisements, tenders and contracts contained adherence to the smoke-free policy as a contractual condition.

Smoking and e-cigarette paraphernalia are confiscated by two acute trusts. Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust said, 'Non-compliant patients smoking or using e-cigarettes outside of the shelters will have their e-cig/cig confiscated.' Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust said, 'Upon admissions, patients ... should be asked to provide their tobacco and lighters/matches to the ward for safe keeping.'

Mental health trusts – methods of enforcement

Signage is used by 95% (38/40) of the responding mental health trusts to spread awareness of their smoking and vaping policies.

Leaflets and welcome packs are used by 28% (11/40) of mental health trusts to inform patients and visitors of their smoke-free policies. Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust said, 'Visitors are made aware of the smoke-free policy through signs, posters, leaflets as well as conversations with staff. Carers are provided with a list of the contraband items in the trust, which includes tobacco, cigarettes, lighters and matches.' Norfolk and

Suffolk Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust said, 'Smoke-free leaflets and wallet-sized cards are available in all sites.'

Members of staff are expected to approach rule-breakers at 28% (11/40) of mental health trusts. Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust said, 'Staff should challenge anyone smoking on site and provide support through a Making Every Contact Count (MECC) health chat.' An MECC health chat is a structured interaction and is designed to deliver consistent and concise information on healthy lifestyles; staff receive training on this technique at Lancashire Care.

North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust said, 'Trust staff at all levels have a responsibility to inform any individual seen smoking on trust premises they are not permitted to smoke. Staff are asked to be vigilant in monitoring and record significant smoking-related incidents on the trust incident-reporting system. Incidents are reviewed by managers and reviewed through the Smoke-free Steering Group, enabling targeted approaches and support for identified smoke-free incident themes.'

Quit smoking advice and nicotine replacement therapy were mentioned as methods of enforcement by 18% (7/40) of mental health trusts. At 2gether NHS Foundation Trust, the policy is not 'enforced', according to their response, with 'other methods of encouragement and support rather than punitive methods' like NRT being used. Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust said, 'Patients who are struggling to comply with the smoke-free policy should have a review of their nicotine replacement therapy, and consideration given to increasing the amount of behavioural support that has been provided.' In-patients were given 'smoking cessation packs' on admission at Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.

The power to confiscate smoking and vaping paraphernalia is reserved by two mental health trusts. Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust said, 'Patients should be asked to provide their tobacco and lighters/matches to the ward for safe keeping.' Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust said, 'Staff have permission to remove tobacco products, lighters, matches, etc from patients' property as with alcohol and illicit drugs, although this would always be a last resort.'

6. Summary & recommendations

In 2013 the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) asked all NHS trusts to go smoke free. According to our survey the majority of trusts are complying with this guidance: 76% of the 170 respondents said they no longer had designated spaces for smokers – 90% of the 40 mental health trusts and 72% of the 130 acute trusts. A further 18 trusts (11% of the sample) said they would go ‘smoke free’ in 2019.

A number of respondents spoke of efforts to create ‘smoke-free cultures’ which they have in part attempted by making enforcement ‘everybody’s business’. (32% said they expected medics, nurses, kitchen workers, admin staff etc to act as enforcers.) Some trusts however admitted they had concerns for the safety of their staff due to the heightened emotional states of the people they are required to approach, some of whom may be smoking to help cope with the stress of bereavement, personal health problems and other potentially life-changing events.

One means of keeping hospital grounds relatively ‘smoke free’ (without banning smoking completely or resorting to legislation and threats of fines and other penalties) is to actively promote safer nicotine products such as e-cigarettes. In 2018 Public Health England (PHE) asked NHS trusts to make e-cigarettes available for sale in hospital shops and to remove restrictions on their use. This advice has since been echoed by the Royal College of Physicians and the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee.

Despite this the majority (55%) of our 170 respondents said they did not permit the use of e-cigarettes on hospital grounds. (61% of acute trusts and 35% of mental health trusts said they prohibited the use of e-cigarettes in outdoor areas.) In addition 89% said vaping was banned inside buildings.

According to our survey a more liberal approach to vaping is however being adopted by an increasing number of hospital trusts. In addition to the 45% that currently allow the use of e-cigarettes outside hospital buildings, a further 24 (14%) said they will lift bans on the use of e-cigarettes in 2019.

While we welcome this and believe all NHS trusts should follow suit, this is not an 'either/or' situation. While it makes sense to allow the use of e-cigarettes on site, including buildings, banning smoking in the open air is a completely disproportionate response. Moreover, reports suggest that such policies are difficult to enforce without CCTV cameras, public address systems and the full engagement of staff who have far more pressing duties to fulfill.

The solution, we believe, is not a comprehensive ban on smoking on hospital grounds, forcing often vulnerable people off the premises with threats of fines or other penalties. Options include allowing smokers to light up away from hospital entrances or installing well signposted shelters where patients, visitors and staff can light up in some degree of comfort throughout the year.

Instead of the hardline approach favoured by Public Health England and other anti-smoking bodies, we therefore urge England's NHS trusts to adopt more pragmatic policies that put empathy and compassion ahead of excessive and illiberal dogma.

Our recommendations

- Individual NHS trusts should be allowed to devise policies on smoking in outdoor areas that best suit their patients, visitors and staff
- Options should include designated smoking areas, designated smoking shelters or no restrictions on smoking in the open air
- Smokers should be incentivised to smoke away from hospital entrances with the provision of comfortable smoking shelters, clearly signposted
- Where smoking bans are in place trusts must take steps not to discriminate against patients who are infirm or dependent on others to accompany them off site to smoke
- Vaping should be permitted in all outdoor areas
- The use of e-cigarettes should be allowed inside hospital buildings (including wards) at the discretion of hospital management

Appendix

Is smoking permitted in the car park?



Are there smoking shelters (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?



Is smoking permitted in private vehicles while on site?



Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?



ACUTE TRUSTS

	Is smoking permitted in the car park?	Is smoking permitted in private vehicles while on site?	Are there smoking shelters (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?	Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?
Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust				
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust				
Barts Health NHS Trust				
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Bolton NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No	No	No
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust				
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes*	Yes
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Christie NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Croydon Health Services NHS Trust				
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No

* small smoking shelter in West Middlesex site but not at Chelsea site

	Is smoking permitted in the car park?	Is smoking permitted in private vehicles while on site?	Are there smoking shelters (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?	Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
East Cheshire NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	No	Yes	No	No
East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes	No
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust				
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Foundation Trust				
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust				
Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust				
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust				
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Isle of Wight NHS Trust	No	No	No	Yes
James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust				
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust	No	No	No	Yes
Luton and Dunstable University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	Yes *	Yes*
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No

* in 1 of 5 sites

	Is smoking permitted in the car park?	Is smoking permitted in private vehicles while on site?	Are there smoking shelters (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?	Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?
Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	Yes	No
Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
North Bristol NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust				
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	Yes
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust	No	No	No	No
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	No	No	No	No

	Is smoking permitted in the car park?	Are there smoking shelters (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?	Is smoking permitted in private vehicles while on site?	Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust				
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust				
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust				
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Sussex MSK Partnership				
Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes	No	No
Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust				
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No	No	No
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
University Hospitals of Derby & Burton NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	No	No
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust				

	Is smoking permitted in the car park?	Is smoking permitted in private vehicles while on site?	Are there smoking shelters (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?	Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?
Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	No	Yes	No	No
West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Whittington Health NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust				
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Wye Valley NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust				

MENTAL HEALTH TRUSTS

2Gether NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	No	No	No	Yes
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation	No	Yes	No	Yes
Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust				
Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust				
Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	Yes
Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust				
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust				
East London NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Humber NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust	No	No	No	No
Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No

	Is smoking permitted in the car park?	Are there smoking shelters (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?	Is smoking permitted in private vehicles while on site?	Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?
Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	Yes	Yes
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
North East London NHS Foundation Trust				
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	No	No
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust				
Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust				
South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes	No	No
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust				
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	No	No	No	No
South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust				
Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	No	No	No	No
West London Mental Health NHS Trust				

Is vaping permitted on hospital grounds?



Is vaping permitted in hospital buildings?

**ACUTE TRUSTS**

	Is vaping permitted on hospital grounds?	Is vaping permitted in hospital buildings?
Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust		
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust		
Barts Health NHS Trust		
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	No	No
Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Bolton NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	Yes	No
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Christie NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Croydon Health Services NHS Trust		
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	No	No
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	Yes	No
East Cheshire NHS Trust	No	No
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No
East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	No	No
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No
Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust	No	No

	Is vaping permitted on hospital grounds?	Is vaping permitted in hospital buildings?
		
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	No	No
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Foundation Trust		
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust		
Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust		
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	Yes	Yes
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	No	No
Isle of Wight NHS Trust	Yes	No
James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	Yes	No
Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust	No	No
Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust		
London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust	No	No
Luton and Dunstable University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	Yes	No
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust	Yes*	No
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	No	No
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	Yes	No
Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
North Bristol NHS Trust	No	No
North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	No	No

* in 1/5 sites

	Is vaping permitted on hospital grounds?	Is vaping permitted in hospital buildings?
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	No	No
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	No	No
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	Yes	No
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	*	*
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust		
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No
Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	Yes	No
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	No	No
Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust	Yes	No
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No
Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	**	**
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust		
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust	Yes	No
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust		
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No

* No policy on vaping up to July 2018

** Policy not provided

	Is vaping permitted on hospital grounds?	Is vaping permitted in hospital buildings?
		
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	Yes	Yes
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	Yes	Yes
St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	No	No
Sussex MSK Partnership		
Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	No*	No*
Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust		
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	No	No
University Hospitals of Derby & Burton NHS Foundation Trust	Yes**	Yes**
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	Yes	No
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust	No policy	No policy
University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust	Yes	No
Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust	Yes	No
Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust		
Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	Yes	Yes
West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	No	No
Whittington Health NHS Trust	No	No
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust		
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	No	No
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Wye Valley NHS Trust	No	No
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust		

* Policy to be reviewed in 2019

** On Burton site only

Is vaping permitted on hospital grounds?



Is vaping permitted in hospital buildings?

**MENTAL HEALTH TRUSTS**

	Is vaping permitted on hospital grounds?	Is vaping permitted in hospital buildings?
2Gether NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	Yes	No
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	Yes	Yes
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation	No	No
Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust		
Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust		
Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	No policy	No policy
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	Yes	Yes
Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No policy	No policy
Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust		
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	Yes	Yes
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust		
East London NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes
Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Humber NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust	Yes	No
Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	Yes	Yes
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes
Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	Yes
Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
North East London NHS Foundation Trust		
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	Yes	No
North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust		

	Is vaping permitted on hospital grounds?	Is vaping permitted in hospital buildings?
Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust		
South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	No
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust		
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	No	Yes
South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust		
Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	No	No
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes
West London Mental Health NHS Trust		

The data above is based on responses to Freedom of Information requests received up to December 2018. Where subsequent policy changes have been reported in the media we have updated our information accordingly. A number of trusts said they would be updating their policies on smoking and vaping in 2019 but couldn't provide details. In those instances we have listed their existing policies as given in their responses to our questions.

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NHS
This is a
Smoke Free Hospital
Smoking is strictly
prohibited in buildings and
grounds

NHS Smoking Helpline (free) 0800 169 0 169

