

Questions from Councillors to Cabinet – 25 July 2023

Question from Cllr G Taylor

Preabamle

In March/April 2023 the proportion of children experimenting with vaping had grown by 50% year on year, from one in thirteen to one in nine. Children's awareness of promotion of vapes has also grown, particularly in shops where more than half of all children report seeing e-cigarettes being promoted, and online where nearly a third report e-cigarette promotion. Only one in five children now say they never see vapes promoted, down from 31% last year. It is an offence to sell e-cigarettes to children under 18 in the United Kingdom and children means those aged 11-17 years old, unless otherwise specified. (Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). Use of e-cigarettes (vapes) among young people in Great Britain. 2023.)

Question 1

Nationally 48% of young people aged under 18 years who vape say they purchase vapes from shops. It is illegal to sell vapes to young people under the age of 18. Therefore how much enforcement work has Dorset Council undertaken in the last year on the illegal sale of vapes from shops in Dorset to under 18 year olds?

Question 2

The report also gives a figure nationally of 46% of young people being given vapes. Would Dorset Council and their partners, Public Health Dorset, consider an awareness campaign on the dangers of vaping?

NB. There are no local statistics publicly available for vaping in children under 18 in Dorset. Government data is based on reports by ASH and the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project (ITC) Youth Tobacco and Vaping survey. There is however anecdotal evidence of the use of vapes by children in our schools.