

Dear Executive Team,

We seek your leadership and unwavering support in championing health by ensuring the full implementation and seamless integration of a robust **smokefree hospital policy** across all NHS and healthcare settings.

Tobacco use remains the single biggest cause of preventable illness and premature death in the UK. As leaders in healthcare, we have a vital role in shaping a culture of health and wellbeing – for both our patients and our workforce.

Together, we can deliver a future where our hospitals are sanctuaries of health and recovery, free from the harms of smoking.

Why a smokefree hospital?

Clinical evidence

Smoking impairs healing, increases risk of complications, and prolongs hospital stays. There is no safe exposure to tobacco smoke, including second and third hand smoke where smoke particles are carried into the hospital on clothes and hair and to the most vulnerable individuals that we are charged with caring for. We have a duty to protect everyone, and a smokefree environment also supports recovery and reinforces cessation support.

Patient expectations

Increasingly, patients and visitors expect hospitals to be healthy environments. Allowing smoking on-site sends a contradictory message.

Staff health and culture





A smokefree hospital supports our workforce to quit or remain smokefree, reducing sickness, absence and improving overall wellbeing.

Policy alignment

Implementing smokefree hospital grounds aligns with the NHS Long Term Plan, NICE guidance (NG209), and our collective duty to tackle health inequalities driven by tobacco use.

A whole-system approach

We are not asking for isolated signage or unenforced policies. A successful smokefree approach includes:

-  Clear, visible leadership and support from senior clinical and operational leads.
-  Effective communication with staff, patients, and visitors.
-  Training staff to offer Very Brief Advice (VBA) and access to stop smoking services.
-  Embedding tobacco dependence treatment into clinical pathways.

Practical support for patients and staff, including nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), e-cigarette options, varenicline and cytisine. Our hospitals have a responsibility to ensure ease of access to these tobacco dependency treatments and medications.

Greater Manchester's Smokefree Hospitals toolkit

The Smokefree Hospitals toolkit is here to help you create a smokefree culture across your Trust.

Underpinned by behavioural science and real insights, this practical resource is packed with everything you need to make a lasting change – from step-by-step strategies and communications, to ready-to-use templates and tools. It supports you to form steering groups, introduce a clear smokefree policy, and empower clinical teams to confidently support patients in quitting for good.

Access the toolkit here:

www.makesmokinghistory.co.uk/partner-resources/smokefree-hospital-toolkit/

Inside your Smokefree Hospital box, you'll also find examples of the assets in action.

Thank you

By visibly backing smokefree hospitals, you set a powerful example: one that protects health, supports staff, and aligns with our values as a healing profession.

If you have any questions or would like additional support in implementing smokefree policies, please do not hesitate to contact us at gmhscp.makingsmokinghistory@nhs.net.

Thank you once again for your continued leadership. By working together, we can accelerate progress to make smoking history in Greater Manchester, and make a lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Coyne

Assistant Director - Population Health, Make Smoking History and Treating Tobacco
Dependency Lead, NHS Greater Manchester

Matt Evison

Professor Matt Evison - Clinical Lead and Tobacco Dependency Specialist for Make
Smoking History in Greater Manchester