



Rotherham Smokefree Charter

Rotherham Tobacco Control Alliance has developed the Rotherham Charter to enable organisations to demonstrate their commitment to the reduction of tobacco use in the borough and to support them in the development of policies and practices to protect staff in the community from exposure to secondhand smoke.

By signing the Rotherham Tobacco Control Charter you are committing to the following principles:

1. We will have a comprehensive workplace smokefree policy
2. We will provide information to our staff and customers/patients/service users about the benefits of quitting smoking and the support available locally
3. We will provide information to our staff and customers/patients/service users on how to reduce their exposure to secondhand smoke
4. We will have a named Smokefree Champion on our workforce
5. We will not permit the sale of tobacco products (legal or illicit) on our premises
6. [Where home visits are offered] We will request customers/patients/service users to provide a room which has been smokefree for a minimum of 30 minutes, as far as is practicable, prior to a planned visit by our staff

Signature:

Date:

Job Title:

Organisation:

Rotherham Smokefree Charter: Guidance notes for fulfilling the charter

1. We will have a comprehensive workplace smokefree policy

National smokefree legislation means that all enclosed premises and work vehicles are now smokefree by law. This does not negate the need for a workplace smokefree policy, as this should cover a wider range of issues than the legislative position. A comprehensive policy should incorporate the following topics:

- *The purpose of the policy*
- *Smoking will only be permitted during official breaks*
- *Staff who smoke will be requested to not smoke in uniform or while wearing a staff badge, near entrances and to not drop smoking related litter.*
- *The premises will be free of tobacco litter and measures will be taken to ensure that entrances to the premises are kept free of tobacco litter*
- *That the policy applies to anybody working on the premises or for the company, including agency staff and sub-contractors as well as substantive employees*
- *What support to quit is available (see below)*
- *Use of illicit tobacco is not tolerated*
- *The consequences of non-compliance*

Some smokefree policies are now also including regulations around the use of electronic cigarettes. Whilst these products are not covered by the smokefree legislation employers may wish to adopt local restrictions on their use in working time or on work premises as they can look like regular cigarettes and give the impression to visitors and other employees that it is acceptable to smoke.

An example policy can be supplied; please contact Alison Iliff on Alison.iliff@rotherham.gov.uk

2. We will provide information to our staff and customers/patients/service users about the benefits of quitting smoking and the available local support

Smoking kills. It is the single biggest cause of preventable illness and premature death, particularly through cancer, circulatory and respiratory diseases. The effects begin even before birth. Women who smoke during pregnancy are three times more likely to have a low birth-weight baby and are more likely to suffer a miscarriage or premature birth or other complications.

There is support available for anybody wanting to quit smoking from the local NHS Stop Smoking Service and from some general practices and pharmacies.

Rotherham NHS Stop Smoking Service: 01709 422444 or call into the Quit Stop at 16 Bridgegate, Rotherham.

Written materials can be obtained free of charge from the local service or from the Smokefree Resource Centre: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk/resources/>

3. We will provide information to our staff and customers/patients/service users on how to reduce their exposure to secondhand smoke

Breathing in other people's cigarette smoke is called passive, involuntary or secondhand smoking. Secondhand smoke, also called environmental tobacco smoke, comprises *sidestream* smoke from the burning tip of the cigarette and *mainstream* smoke which is smoke that has been inhaled and then exhaled by the smoker. More than 4000 chemicals are contained in tobacco smoke and these can be inhaled by children and non-smokers through secondhand smoke.

Smokefree legislation has reduced exposure to secondhand smoke in public places, but smoking in homes and cars remains a risk to children and non-smokers. You can't remove the risk from tobacco smoke by opening windows, using fans, smoking in one room or not smoking in front of the children. Even with a window open, smoke from one cigarette can linger for up to 2.5 hours. **There is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke.** The only way to protect your family from tobacco smoke is to not allow anyone to smoke inside your home or car.

Written materials can be obtained free of charge from the Smokefree Resource Centre:

<http://smokefree.nhs.uk/resources/>

4. We will have a named Smokefree Champion on our workforce

The Smokefree Champion will advocate on, and be the main source of information and advice for staff and customers/patients/service users about, tobacco control issues. They will ensure information about local stop smoking services are promoted within the organisation on noticeboards and through other internal communications mechanisms and publicise national events such as No Smoking Day.

5. We will not permit the sale of tobacco products (legal or illicit) on our premises

It is a criminal offence for anyone to sell, transport or possess illicit tobacco products. Illicit tobacco describes smuggled, bootlegged and counterfeit products or the resale of products purchased outside the UK for personal consumption.

6. [Where home visits are offered] We will request customers/patients/service users to provide a room which has been smokefree for a minimum of 30 minutes as far as is practicable prior to a planned visit by our staff

There is currently no law that protects staff working in customers'/patients'/service users' homes from exposure to secondhand smoke. As a responsible employer, this action takes steps to protect your workforce and to reinforce a message to the individual receiving a home visit that their smoking behaviour can impact on others as well as themselves. Whilst there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke (see 3 above), this compromise position demonstrates to customers/patients/service users the importance of protecting staff from exposure to secondhand smoke.

For further information and support on implementing the Rotherham Smokefree Charter please contact Alison Iliff, Public Health Specialist, on 01709 255848 or by email at alison.iliff@rotherham.gov.uk