

Vaping Position Statement

City and Hackney Tobacco Control Alliance

The City and Hackney Tobacco Control Alliance (TCA) is committed to protecting public health, adhering to the [WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control](#) and ensuring compliance with all national tobacco and vaping laws, guidelines and policies.

Vaping can be an effective tool to help adult smokers to quit, however the message for non-smokers is clear - **if you don't smoke, don't vape**.

The rising use of vapes among children and young people is a concern. This statement outlines our joint position and the guiding principles contained within it will inform local policy and action, with the primary aim to protect the health and wellbeing of our local communities.

In our approach to vaping, we recognise the following principles:

1. **Harms of tobacco use:** Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death, disease and disability in our communities, and reducing smoking among disadvantaged groups is the most effective way to address health inequalities. The City and Hackney TCA remains focused on tackling the harms from tobacco.
2. **Relative harms of vaping:** Current evidence indicates that nicotine vapes are substantially less harmful than using tobacco, although they are unlikely to be risk-free. Vaping exposes users to far fewer toxins, significantly reducing health risks compared to smoking tobacco. In the short and medium term, vaping poses a small fraction of the risks of smoking, but we must remain vigilant to the additional risks of using illicit vapes which may contain unregulated ingredients.

We acknowledge the environmental harm caused by improper and unsafe disposal of vapes, particularly disposable vapes. We expect all retailers to fulfill their legal duty to provide recycling facilities for used and unwanted vape products.

3. **Effectiveness of vapes as harm reduction tools:** Nicotine vapes are the most popular stop smoking aid in England and research shows that they are highly effective in helping smokers to quit. Alongside behavioral support, the City and Hackney TCA endorses the use of legal (MHRA-approved) nicotine vapes and other evidence-based smoking cessation aids as tools to reduce tobacco-related harms. Vapes provided through stop smoking services will not be sourced from the tobacco industry.

4. **Prevention:** We strongly discourage non-smokers, particularly children and young people, from taking up any form of vaping. It is critical to prevent individuals who have never smoked from being introduced to vaping and to avoid the potential for future smoking and other harmful behaviors.
5. **Unacceptable marketing practices:** Marketing strategies targeting children, young people and never-smokers are unacceptable and detrimental to public health. City and Hackney TCA strongly opposes such practices, and upholds ethical standards in line with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control by implementing measures to prevent industry interference and protect against exploitative marketing.
6. **Ongoing review commitment:** The TCA will review this position statement on a regular (at least annual) basis, in response to emerging evidence on relative harms and to ensure it continues to align with national policy and regulatory frameworks.