

**Rt. Hon Wes Streeting MP**

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Department of Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street

London SW1H 0EU

07 April 2025

Dear Mr Streeting,

**Open letter - In support of a Comprehensive 10-Year Health Plan for England**

As councillors and local leaders committed to improving the health and well-being of our communities, we write in support of the implementation of a robust and ambitious 10-Year Health Plan for England (10YHP).

Around 6 million people in the UK still smoke, and smoking remains the biggest cause of cancer and death in the UK. To help prevent more cancers and improve cancer outcomes in our local authorities, the 10YHP should include sufficient and sustainable funding for stop smoking measures to help people who smoke to quit, measures to support primary care professionals routinely deliver 'Very Brief Advice' (VBA) on smoking cessation, and a commitment to fully rollout and integrate tobacco treatment services in routine care, as set out in the Labour Manifesto and previous NHS Long Term Plan.

Local stop smoking services play a vital role in smoking cessation efforts. People using these services (which provide a combination of behavioural support and prescription medication) are around three times more likely to successfully quit than people attempting to quit without help. That is why we welcomed the Government's commitment to invest £ 70million in stop smoking services. This funding needs to be sustained to help local authorities plan for spending. It should also be in place for as long as is needed to make the UK smokefree across all socioeconomic groups, and distributed to the areas that need it most.

Reducing smoking rates and improving cancer outcomes requires a whole-systems approach. That is why we are also urging the Government to commit to measures in the 10YHP that support primary care professionals to routinely deliver VBA on smoking cessation. People who smoke see their GP 35% more than people who don't; this offers an early opportunity for primary care professionals to deliver cessation support, and they should be supported in delivering this intervention. It is also important that people who smoke receive cessation support

in secondary care; the UK Government should fully rollout and integrate tobacco treatment services in routine care, as committed to in their Manifesto.

It is vital that we prevent people from starting smoking. The recent passage of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill at Third Reading in the House of Commons brings us closer to helping create a smokefree generation – a key step on the road to a smokefree UK. To fully realise its impact, this must be backed by investment in effective enforcement. We welcomed the UK Government's commitment of £30m for enforcement agencies like HMRC, Border Force, and Trading Standards. This funding is crucial to tackle illicit and under-age sales in our local communities, and it is important that the funding is sufficient and sustained.

The Government has made welcome commitments, including their announcement to publish a National Cancer Plan, to ensure every cancer patient has the best chance of a positive outcome. Now is the time to ensure those commitments are delivered to help drive improvements in cancer prevention and care.

Councils play a vital role in delivering health and social care services in our local authorities. We look forward to working with the Government to deliver these services residents need and deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Adrian McCluskey	Support Executive for the Equality, Health and Well Being Portfolio, Leeds City Council
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Cllr Alec Sandiford	Member of Planning Committee, Stafford Borough Council
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Cllr Graeme Henderson	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, London Borough of Wandsworth
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Cllr Ian Ward	County Councillor, Isle of Wight Council
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Cllr Jenny Vaux	Councillor, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
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Cllr Joanne Harding	Executive Member Finance, Trafford Council
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Cllr Karen Watson	Vice Chair Housing and Health and Mayor Elect, Swale Borough Council
Cllr Mariam Khan	Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, Birmingham City Council
Cllr Marilyn Houston	Councillor, Cheshire East Borough Council
Cllr Matthew Winnington	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Health & Care, Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Maxine Sadza	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, Southend-on-Sea City Council
Cllr Megan Wright	Cabinet Member for Health, Bracknell Forest Council
Cllr Michael Mullaney	Leader of the Opposition, Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Pam Byrne	Councillor, Oldham Council
Cllr Piers Allen	Lead member for Adult Social Care and Chair, Health & Wellbeing Board, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Cllr Robert Lanzer	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, West Sussex County Council
Cllr Sandra Moore	Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships, BCP Council

Cllr Shirley Procter      Councillor, Trafford Council

Cllr Syeda Choudhury      Councillor, London Borough of Redbridge