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**Smoking: Summary of Smoking and E-cigarettes policy and guidance for foster carers**

This summary relates to the Smoking and E-cigarettes policy that is available on the Bradford Fostering handbook for all foster carers to view.

*“The welfare and health needs of fostered children and young people should be paramount and at the heart of foster care. We believe that children and young people are entitled to live in smoke-free homes.” (The Fostering Network)*

Cigarette smoke is harmful to the health of children and young people. Bradford Council has a responsibility to make sure that children are not put at risk through the smoking behaviour and habits of adults.

You should be mindful that your behaviour provides a role model for all the children in your household and you should consider the effects your smoking will have.

The only way to reduce children’s exposure to passive or second-hand smoking is to maintain a smoke free home. Measures such as restricting smoking in the vicinity of the child or using fans or open windows to ventilate a room where smoking has taken place are ineffective.

The health risks associated with smoking include poisoning and increased risk of fire. Children are exposed to significantly increased health risks if they live in a smoking household for the long term. This is why it is important Bradford Fostering consider this in the matching of children with foster families.

Bradford Children’s Social Care expects that all foster carers do not allow smoking in their home

It is illegal to smoke in any vehicle used to transport children or to allow a child to be carried in a car where someone has been smoking.

If a young person who smokes moves in to your foster family, then Bradford Fostering expects that you will discourage the young person from smoking in the home. You should also make the young person aware of your house rules on smoking from the start. Young people must be told it is never acceptable to smoke in their bedrooms. It is expected that foster carers will educate children and young people in relation to the effects of smoking.

Foster carers must NEVER buy cigarettes or vape products for young people or use cigarettes/vapes as a reward. For your information, the legal minimum age that a young person can buy cigarettes, tobacco and cigarette papers is eighteen.

If carers or other family members are using e-cigarettes, they should be advised to do so only when children (of all ages) are not present. Ideally, carers will not be using e-cigarettes. This position will be reviewed regularly as new research evidence becomes available.

This document should be completed during the assessment process and thereafter reviewed within the foster carer annual review process.

**Smoking Agreement**

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| **Carer’s/carers’ names:**  |  |
| **What is the smoking behaviour in the family?** (i.e. who smokes/ how many each day/ cigarettes or vapes?)  |  |
| **Where will carers/ family members/ visitors smoke?** |  |
| **Outline any steps being taken to reduce or stop stopping and actions taken to deter children in the household from taking up smoking:**  |  |
| **Are there are higher risk children living in the family i.e. under 5s or children with respiratory other health conditions?** | Yes[ ]  No [ ] If YES please provide details:  |
| **I/ we have read the attached guidance and agree to take the measures set out (attached) to minimise the risk of harm from cigarette smoking.** **We will not smoke inside the home or in the car.** Please sign | …………………………………………………. (Carer 1)………………………………………………… (Carer 2) ……………………………………………….. (SSW) ………………………………………………. Date  |