

Youth Cabinet Vaping Motion February 2024

Presented by Bury Youth Mayor, Daniel Lewis and supported by Youth Cabinet Members

In December 2023 young people from Bury's secondary schools came together to meet with decision makers and discuss issues around safety at Bury's First Circles of Safety Conference. Following the conference Bury Youth Cabinet sent a survey to all secondary schools to gain the views of a wider cohort of pupils on the issues raised. Over 1000 pupils took part. The biggest issue that young people raised as making them feel unsafe was vaping. Young people said that:

- Witnessing vaping in school makes pupils feel the environment is unsafe
- Seeing the sale of vapes to young people makes young people feel unsafe
- Young people worry about the content of vapes
- The sale of vapes causes arguments among young people
- Young people have witnessed vapes being stolen which makes them feel unsafe
- Young people are unsure about the risks of using vapes
- Young people feel vapes are targeted at children and young people

Bury Youth Cabinet acknowledges that young people are susceptible to marketing and many become addicted to vaping. Therefore they resolve that there needs to be a careful balance between sanctions and deterrents for young people who are caught vaping. Youth Cabinet resolves that there must be robust mechanisms for tackling the sales of vapes to anyone under the age of 18.

This council notes:

- According to data held by Early Break: Levels of tobacco smoking amongst young people in the local authority area continue to fall but the percentage of young people in Bury claiming to vape regularly continues to rise (16% claimed to vape more than once a week, compared to 10% in 2020)
- Increasingly young people are trying vapes either before or instead of tobacco cigarettes.
- Young people try out of curiosity and because their friends vape.
- The flavours are a key factor in tempting young people to vape, and also in what they buy.
- Vapes contain chemicals that can cause lung disease as well as cardiovascular disease.

Therefore this council resolves to:

- Ensure schools have relevant information for their pupils about vaping.
- Ensure schools are delivering PSHE lessons that examine assertiveness and peer pressure.
- Support Youth Cabinet with a vape amnesty project where a number of vape bins are placed around the borough. Youth Cabinet would like funds to commission an artist who would work with pupils in our schools to use the discarded vapes to build a

sculpture which would then be used as part of a wider education programme delivered by Bury Youth Service.

- Lobby the government about making disposable vapes illegal and tighter restrictions on marketing.
- Investigate the sales of vapes to young people under 18.