

Tobacco Alliance FAQ: Environmental Health

What is Tobacco Control?

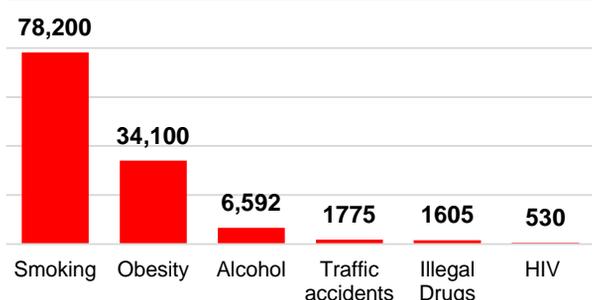
A co-ordinated and comprehensive approach to reducing the prevalence of smoking. There are six internationally recognised strands of tobacco control which are: stopping the promotion of tobacco; making tobacco less affordable; effective regulation of tobacco products; helping tobacco users to quit; reducing exposure to second-hand smoke; and effective communications for tobacco control.

What is a Tobacco Control Alliance?

Local partnerships within local authority boundaries working on effective local activity to reduce smoking rates and tackle health inequalities. Alliances typically include a wide range of members, from trading standards and environmental health to fire and rescue, education, health staff, childrens' services, as well as elected members and local NGOs and businesses.

Why is tobacco control important?

Annual deaths (England)



See [ASH Factsheet: Illness & Death](#) for sources

The role of Environmental Health in reducing smoking

- Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) are responsible for the protection of people from harmful exposures in the environment, this includes secondhand smoke.
- EHOs enforce and monitor compliance to bans on smoking in public and work places and vehicles.
- EHOs also investigate complaints about smoke in residential properties.

How can Environmental Health contribute to a Tobacco Control Alliance?

- Work with local stop smoking services to deliver brief smoking cessation advice and make referrals to stop smoking services when doing smoke free inspections.
- Work with Trading Standards to provide advice on illegal and counterfeit tobacco at site visits and inspections.
- Work with alliance members to extend smokefree areas (e.g. parks and hospitals) and share information about smokefree homes and cars campaigns when making inspections.

What can Environmental Health gain by joining a Tobacco Control Alliance?

- **Increased effectiveness of tobacco control.** By co-ordinating work with different partners. Alliances can improve tobacco control and reduce exposure to secondhand smoke
- **Intelligence sharing to reduce inequalities.** By working with partners such as Trading Standards and the Police, EHOs can help drive down health inequalities by educating at risk communities about the dangers of exposure to secondhand tobacco, such as smoking in cars carrying children and shisha smoke.



Smoking and litter: Cigarettes butts are the most commonly littered item and are found on 73% of England's streets. They pose a safety risk and cost local authorities in cleaning costs. Some EHOs are authorised to deliver Fixed Penalty Notice for littering and there are opportunities to combine health messages with anti-litter campaigns and find innovative ways to reach out to smokers and encourage them to quit as the example from the City of London shows.

