



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Smoking cessation funding reforms

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There are significant changes to local government funding from 2026/27



MHCLG are **simplifying** the local government funding landscape by consolidating revenue into the Local Government Finance Settlement.



Funding will begin to be **consolidated** from 2026/27.



Indicative allocations have been published for the **full 3-year SR period** (2026/27-28/29).



The Public Health Grant (PHG) will remain **ring-fenced** for public health.

This has implications for smoking cessation funding which will be consolidated, but remain ring-fenced, from 2026/27

Consolidating three separate funding streams into the PHG which represents a total of £153m p/a:

1. **Existing spent on SSS from the Public Health Grant** (using 23/24 R03 data): £64m
2. **Stop Smoking Services additional grant:** £70m
3. **Swap to Stop scheme programme funding:** c.£17m



This will remain ring-fenced only to be spent on Stop Smoking Services.

There are three conditions associated with the funding, which broadly mimic what was in the previous SSS grant

USE OF FUNDING

Funding must be spent on stop smoking services:

- **Minimum amount** to be spent
- Must not replace programmes in **NHS** in-patient and maternity settings
- Must not be used for **wider tobacco control** activity e.g. enforcement or vaping cessation.

**Financial reporting moving to bi-annual from 26/27.*

DELIVERY AND REPORTING

Must increase activity and report outcomes:

- Increase the number of people setting a **quit date**
- Increase **4 week quits**
- **Report activity** in the Stop Smoking Services Collection.

ASSURANCE (NEW)

Self-assessment audit required if performance is below threshold:

- If an LA is achieving **less than 5%** of their smoking population setting quit dates, they must **submit a self-assessment audit** within the financial year to DHSC
- For those above 5%, the audit is recommended although not mandatory



What does this mean in practice?

- Greater **certainty** over long-term funding – three years of allocations published.
- Increased **funding** protected for Stop Smoking Services.
- More **flexibility** over how to spend the money – Swap to Stop scheme funding has been consolidated.
- Additional support for **service improvement** – Self-Assessment and Improvement Tool.

Next steps

1. Finalise and close the previous grant/scheme (now-June 2027)
2. Issue new payments via the PHG (April 2027)
3. Launch the audit tool (April 2027)
4. Ensure alignment with PHG assurance processes (throughout FY 26/27)

Our asks of you

- Keep using **partnerships** to deliver outcomes.
- Continue to focus efforts on the areas and groups that need **most support**.
- Make use of the most **effective quit aids**, including through continued funding for vapes.
- Continue to drive **service improvement**, including through the Self-Assessment and Improvement Tool.
- **Feedback!** This is a new model so tell us what works, what the barriers are etc.

