

**Oldham Borough Council
Record of Decision**

1. **TITLE:** **Proposal for the use of Section 31 Grant Funding to Support Stop Smoking Services**
2. **SERVICE AREA:** Public Health Service
3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**
For 2026/27, funding for smoking cessation is ringfenced in the Section 31 Public Health Grant. Oldham Council is required to allocate £680,030 of this grant to smoking cessation services. In addition to the £356,960 included in core funding of the integrated health improvement service Your Health Oldham, it is proposed that an additional £323,070 is provided to the same service.
4. **DECISION MADE BY:** Chief Executive
5. **DECISION:**
 1. To allocate an additional £323,070 to ABL (Your Health Oldham) by a route advised by the council's procurement team.
 2. From 2027/28 onwards, decisions regarding the spend of Section 31 public health grant funds ringfenced for tobacco control and smoking cessation are delegated to the Director of Public Health for Oldham Council.
6. **REASON FOR DECISION:**
 1. Tackling smoking is one of the most evidence-based and effective interventions that we can take to prevent ill health. Reducing smoking prevalence would have a significant impact on improving population health, reducing demand on health and social care services and tackling health inequalities.
 2. As part of their plans to create a smokefree generation, in 2024 the government began investing an additional £70 million per year to support local authority led stop smoking services and support. The funding has been provided through a dedicated Smoke Free Generation Grant (Section 31).
 3. In 2024, Oldham Council took the decision to accept additional funding from a Section 31 grant (Smoke Free Generation Grant) to reduce smoking prevalence, on an annual basis between 2024/25 and 2028/29. This cabinet decision specified that the additional funding would be used to bolster additional smoking cessation services provided by Your Health Oldham, with a new focus on priority groups. It was acknowledged that there may be some variation in amount received year by year during the 5-year period, based on smoking prevalence data.
7. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**
 1. Option 1 (preferred Option): to allocate an additional £323,070 to ABL (Your Health Oldham) by a route advised by the procurement team.
 2. Option 2: To allocate the additional funding to another provider of smoking cessation services, which is not recommended. Your Health Oldham is a high-performing service which delivers positive outcomes for the health and wellbeing of Oldham residents, and to procure an additional service would not represent good use of resources.

3. Option 3: To fail to award additional funding to smoking cessation, which would leave Oldham Council in breach of the Section 31 Public Health Grant conditions by failing to spend the ring-fenced amount.
9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** Not applicable.
10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Cabinet Report: Proposal for use of additional Smokefree Generation funding (26th February 2024).