

Potential Health Impacts of Illicit Tobacco/cigarettes

Smoking is one of the most significant contributing factors to life expectancy, ill health and health inequalities and therefore smoking is a key public health outcome in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

Combining the many health risks associated with smoking with the higher rates of smoking in the most deprived areas compared to the most affluent, means that a reduction in smoking would contribute towards a reduction in health inequalities, which is the overarching plan of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

There are further health inequalities that can be caused by illicit tobacco/cigarettes due to its disproportionate use - the low cost of illicit tobacco/cigarettes means that its sale is likely to target the most vulnerable smokers (including the young and those on low incomes). The location of this particular premise (in one of the more deprived area of Coventry) also means that the illicit cigarettes are more likely to be purchased by those on low income.

Whilst the government and local authorities are working to support smokers to quit, the availability of cheap tobacco and cigarettes discourages people from stopping.

Support also needs to be given to prevent people from starting to smoke. Again, the low cost of illicit tobacco and cigarettes can entice young people at an early age to start smoking as illicit tobacco might be affordable to them in comparison to duty paid tobacco/cigarettes