

Smokefree Playground Survey Results: Cheshire East

- During September 2012, a survey was conducted with 162 adult visitors to play areas in 17 Local Authority parks across Cheshire East Council to evaluate levels of public support for the introduction of a voluntary code of smokefree practice. The parks were located in geographically diverse areas to ensure that a wide range of residents were canvassed for their views and included: Barony, Brereton, Buglawton, Congleton, Cooperative, Deva, Elworth, Knutsford Town, Milton, Poynton, Queens, Sandbach, South, Stapeley, Tatton, West and Wistaston.
- As table 1 illustrates, the majority of the survey sample (130/162; 80.2%) were female and two-thirds were aged between 20 and 40 years old (107/162; 66.0%).

Table 1: Age and Gender of Participants

Age (years)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
19 years and younger		1 (0.7)	1 (0.6)
20-30	7 (21.9)	29 (22.3)	36 (22.2)
31-40	12 (37.5)	59 (45.4)	71 (43.8)
41-50	6 (18.7)	23 (17.7)	29 (17.9)
51 years and over	7 (21.9)	18 (13.9)	25 (15.5)
Total	32	130	162

- The majority of participants (152/162; 93.8%) either had, or cared for children at home. Nearly one in four (36/162; 22.2%) smoked tobacco or shared their home with a smoker.
- Nearly half (72/162; 44.4%) used the park play areas on a regular basis, either daily or weekly, a third (50/162; 30.9%) utilised the play area once a month whilst the remainder (40/162; 24.7%) were visiting from another area.
- All but two of the participants felt that it was important not to smoke in front of children (160/162; 98.8%) and the overwhelming majority also supported the introduction of a voluntary smokefree code within the immediate play area (158/162; 97.5%). As table 2 highlights, support for these measures was equally high amongst smokers (94.4% and 91.7% respectively) and non-smokers (100.0% and 99.2% respectively).
- Similarly, a large proportion of participants (136/162; 84.0%) agreed with the extension of the voluntary smokefree code to include a 10 metre perimeter of the play area although support was notably lower amongst smokers (26/36; 72.2%).
- However, participants were less in favour of the introduction of a voluntary smokefree park code, with only one in two, and most notably non smokers, supporting this policy (92/162; 56.8%).

Table 2: Support for Smokefree Practice

Smokefree Code	Number (%)		Support
	Non Smokers (n=126)	Smokers (n=34)	Total (n=162)
It's important not to smoke in front of children	126 (100.0)	34 (94.4)	160 (98.8)
I would be in favour of a voluntary code of not smoking within the immediate playground area	125 (99.2)	33 (91.7)	158 (97.5)
I would be in favour of a voluntary code of not smoking within 10 metres of the playground area	110 (87.3)	26 (72.2)	136 (84.0)
I would be in favour of a voluntary code of not smoking within the entire park	78 (61.9)	14 (38.9)	92 (56.8)

- **In conclusion, these results illustrate high public support for the implementation of a voluntary smokefree code within the play areas of Local Authority parks in Cheshire East.**

Appendices

5.1: It's important not to smoke in front of children

	Non Smokers (%)	Smokers (%)	Total (%)
Disagree			
Uncertain		2 (5.6)	2 (1.2)
Agree	126 (100.0)	34 (94.4)	160 (98.8)
Total	126 (100.0)	36 (100.0)	162 (100.0)

5.2: I would be in favour of a voluntary code of not smoking within the immediate playground area

	Non Smokers (%)	Smokers (%)	Total (%)
Disagree		1 (2.8)	1 (0.6)
Uncertain	1 (0.8)	2 (5.5)	3 (1.9)
Agree	125 (99.2)	33 (91.7)	158 (97.5)
Total	126 (100.0)	36 (100.0)	162 (100.0)

5.3: I would be in favour of a voluntary code of not smoking within 10 metres of the playground area

	Non Smokers (%)	Smokers (%)	Total (%)
Disagree	6 (4.8)	6 (16.7)	12 (7.4)
Uncertain	10 (7.9)	4 (11.1)	14 (8.6)
Agree	110 (87.3)	26 (72.2)	136 (84.0)
Total	126 (100.0)	36 (100.0)	162 (100.0)

$X^2=6.44$, $p=0.040$

5.4: I would be in favour of a voluntary code of not smoking within the entire park

	Non Smokers (%)	Smokers (%)	Total (%)
Disagree	25 (19.8)	17 (47.2)	42 (25.9)
Uncertain	23 (18.3)	5 (13.9)	28 (17.3)
Agree	78 (61.9)	14 (38.9)	92 (56.8)
Total	126 (100.0)	36 (100.0)	162 (100.0)

$X^2=11.01$, $p=0.004$