

Press Release

30 October 2007

MPHDS 03

Quit smoking text messaging service!

Manchester Stop Smoking Service has set up a text messaging service to encourage communities across Manchester to get the support they need to quit smoking.

The text messaging service will be promoted during a series of roadshows across Central Manchester; to help increase the uptake of the service users from the South Asian communities.

People do not need to be referred by a health professional. They can call directly on 0161 205 5998 or text 'LANG' plus the language they would like to be called back in to 81025. The stop smoking advisors will arrange an interpreter for support appointments if required.

The roadshows are being held at the following venues:

Date 2007	Venue	Time
Thursday 1 November	Longsight Library, 519 Stockport Road, Longsight	9:30am - 2:30pm
Friday 9 November	Zion Centre, Stretford Road, Hulme	10:00am - 2:30pm
Monday 12 November	Rusholme Health Centre, Walmer Street	9:00am - 1:30pm
Thursday 15 November	Greenheys Adult Learning Centre, Moss side	9:00am - 2:30pm.
Monday 19 November	Moss Side Surgery New Moss Pharmacy – Monton Street, Moss Side	9:00am - 1:00pm 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Jane Sunter, Public Health Development Manager/Tobacco Leader, said: "This is an exciting new development for the Manchester Stop Smoking Service, helping to ensure that appropriate support is accessible for all communities across the city.

More...1/2

“We have also produced leaflets in Urdu, Bangla and Arabic as well as English to inform people of the health risks of smoking or chewing tobacco and the benefits of stopping. These will be handed out during the roadshows.”

People can visit www.stopsmokingmanchester.co.uk for more information, support and advice.

– Ends –

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Notes to editors

- Manchester Stop Smoking Service is provided by Manchester Primary Care Trust (PCT). It offers specialist support from trained professionals, to help the people of Manchester to quit smoking or discourage them from starting. The service offers confidential support for men, women and children who live or work in Manchester.
- The stop smoking service provides discounted/free nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) if required. Day time and evening drop-in groups and one-to-one sessions across the city.
- The translation service is set up with Language Line, a national service for telephone interpreting that we can now use via the Manchester PCT’s subscription.
- The Interpretation service for support appointments is provided by Manchester PCT.