

Press Release

9 December 2008

MPHDS 18

Market Chairman gives thumbs up to Manchester Smokefree Homes!

Clinton Hanham has given his support to Manchester Stop Smoking Service's campaign to protect children from tobacco smoke. An event will be held at Grey Mare Lane Market on Wednesday 17 December 2008, from 8.30am – 2.00pm, to raise awareness of the Smokefree Homes campaign. People will have the opportunity to register their homes smokefree or to ask about local support to quit smoking.

Cigarette smoke contains more than 4000 chemicals, including ingredients of ant poison, rocket fuel and floor cleaner. These spread around the room and the house – even if the windows are open. Children living in smoky environments can breathe in the equivalent of 150 cigarettes per year.

The Smokefree Homes campaign aims to protect children and young people from the harmful effects of breathing in other people's cigarette smoke. Children not exposed to cigarette smoke are likely to be healthier, with less risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, asthma, coughing, wheezing & chest infections, behavioural problems, learning difficulties and middle ear infection.

Along with information about Smokefree Homes, there will be Christmas festivities, including a brass band playing Christmas carols, Santa giving gifts to children, refreshments, Christmas stocking fillers and a prize draw – all free of charge.

Clinton Hanham, Chairman for Grey Mare Lane Market said, "I support Manchester Stop Smoking Service and their excellent work on Smokefree Homes. It is important to help protect children and young people from breathing in other people's cigarette smoke. Come and find out more information and join in the festivities."

Tony Lloyd, MP for Central Manchester said, “Manchester Smokefree Homes is an important initiative. The health of our children is our future.

I would encourage everyone to go down to Grey Mare Lane Market and register on the Smokefree Homes scheme. If you want support to stop smoking there will be advisors on hand to help you quit.”

Manchester Stop Smoking Service has trained advisors, who can support anyone who lives or works in Manchester to stop smoking. Abbie Paton, Acting Tobacco Lead said, “Everyone’s welcome to come down and join in the fun. We hope to raise awareness of the importance of protecting children from tobacco smoke with the Manchester Smokefree Homes Scheme. Everyone registering with the scheme receives a free activity pack with signs, stickers and more to help keep their home free from smoke.”

For support to quit smoking or to register on the Smokefree Homes scheme call 0161 205 5998.

Ends

For more information contact

Jenny Cowell, Communications Officer 0161 861 2916

Notes to editors

- Photo: Mark Brown, Primary Care Project Worker, Manchester Stop Smoking Service and Clinton Hanham, Chairman of Grey Mare Lane Market, give thumbs up to the Smokefree Homes campaign.
- Manchester Stop Smoking Service is part of Manchester Community Health, the provider arm of NHS Manchester
- The Smokefree Homes initiative is a joint campaign between NHS Manchester, SureStart, Manchester City Council, and Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.
- Since the Smokefree Homes initiative started in 2004 2,176 homes have registered on the scheme.