



Press Release

10 March 2008

MPHDS 08

Celebrities give support to Manchester on No Smoking Day

Manchester Stop Smoking Service will be holding an event on 12 March 2008 in Hale Top, Civic Centre, Wythenshawe from 8.30am – 2.00pm. Actress Liz Dawn, who played Vera Duckworth in Coronation Street has given her support along with Manchester City Football Club and John Robb local musician from the band Gold Blade.

On the day there will be trained stop smoking advisors waiting to offer help, advise and support to people who want to stop smoking and make their homes smokefree.

Manchester Stop Smoking Service provides support in many places across the city including pharmacies, all the hospitals, clinics and community centres. All these services will be able to provide a voucher for free or discounted nicotine replacement therapy (patches, gum etc). This is also available on prescription from the GP.

Liz Dawn, who has stopped smoking cigarettes, recently appeared on TV sharing her story and encouraging people to stop smoking to avoid the health problems associated with cigarette smoking. In support of Manchester Stop Smoking Service Liz Dawn said:

“Stopping smoking was the best thing I ever did to improve the condition of my lungs and make sure that my family, friends and colleagues could breathe in Smokefree air.

“There are now loads of different support services available to help you quit and No Smoking Day is a fantastic opportunity to start to think about quitting and taking the first step to becoming the new smokefree you!”

Manchester City Football Club is actively encouraging people to lead healthier lifestyles through the City in the Community project and player Joe Hart said:

“No Smoking Day is a fantastic opportunity to quit smoking cigarettes. There are services available across the city to support people who want to quit and make their homes smokefree.”

John Rob a local Manchester musician said:

“Smoking looks rubbish and stinks. Even worse it makes you look dried and haggard. As a musician now the smokefree legislation is in place our band can now play gigs without breathing in second-hand smoke which is fantastic!”

It is estimated that 406,000¹ smokers across the North West plan to kick the habit on the first annual No Smoking Day since the no smoking legislation was introduced in England, on 1 July 2007. From July – December 2007 over 2,000 people have quit smoking in Manchester with help and support from their GP, pharmacist, midwife or advisor from the Manchester Stop Smoking Service.

Jane Sunter, Manchester Stop Smoking Service Manager said: “This year we are going into the heart of the community in Wythenshawe to offer local people the practical support and advice they need to help them stop smoking and make their homes smokefree.”

For more information and help with quitting smoking please call the Manchester Stop Smoking Service on 0161 205 5998 or visit www.stopsmokingmanchester.co.uk.

Ends

For more information please contact,
Jenny Cowell, Manchester Stop Smoking Service on
0161 861 2196 or 07977 909 748

Notes to editors

- ¹ No Smoking Day charity figure www.nosmokingday.org.uk
- No Smoking Day (NSD) is organised by a charity of the same name run by four full time staff. Based in London, the charity is funded by a coalition of governmental and voluntary sector organisations with an interest in health.
- Manchester Stop Smoking Service provides specialist support from trained professionals, to help the people of Manchester to quit smoking or prevent them from starting. The service is provided as part of Manchester Primary Care NHS Trust.
- Photographs attached of:
Liz Dawn, former Coronation Street actress, Vera Duckworth
Joe Hart and Micah Richards, football players for Manchester City FC
John Robb, Musician in Manchester Band Gold Blade