



Manchester Stop Smoking Service

NEWS RELEASE

Friday October 15

## **MANCHESTER STOP SMOKING SERVICE IN FAVOUR OF A SMOKE FREE CITY**

Manchester Stop Smoking Service congratulates the decision of Manchester City Council, who recently voted in favour of working towards Manchester becoming a Smoke Free city by 2006.

Manchester City Council are gearing up for a government white paper, to be published later this year. The white paper is expected to impose a ban on smoking in all workplaces and enclosed public places; this will include all bars, clubs, pubs and restaurants across Manchester. The City Council believes that Smoke Free status will bring about nothing but positive implications for the city and its citizens, bringing about a cosmopolitan, modern city.

Manchester has the lowest life expectancy in the whole of England. To a large extent, this is a result of high levels of coronary heart disease and cancers, both of which are often caused by smoking. It is clear that if Manchester wants to do something to improve the life expectancy of its residents, it needs to tackle tobacco.

Jane Sunter, Manager of the Manchester Stop Smoking Service, had this to say, "Smoke Free city status in Manchester will greatly help smokers trying to stop. It is also crucial to protect the health of our local workforce. The Manchester Stop Smoking Service see the Council's step towards Smoke Free Status not only necessary to address the prevalence of smoking, but also as a constructive step towards raising the profile of the city."

To support the move towards Smoke Free status, the City Council will increase smoking cessation support, working closely with the Manchester Stop Smoking service. The aim of the Manchester Stop Smoking Service is to provide a service that incorporates specialist support from trained professionals, to help the people of Manchester to give up smoking or prevent them from starting.

-Ends-

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Notes to Editor

(1) The term 'Smoke Free City' implies:

- All workers in enclosed spaces, to include those in offices, shops, restaurants, bars and factories will be protected from exposure to secondhand smoke
- People with children will be encouraged to keep their homes Smoke Free to protect the health of their children.
- All schools will have a no smoking policy throughout and education about smoking to help prevent children taking up the habit
- All hospitals will have a clear policy about smoking to protect the health of staff and patients.

(2) Life expectancy 2001-2003

	Manchester	England
Men	71.8 years	76.2 years
Women	77.8 years	80.7 years

(3) Over the course of the last six months, there have been several surveys of public opinion about smoke free public places. They have usually found approximately 70% of the public in favour of smoking ban in enclosed public places.

(4) Anyone who requires support and advice on stopping smoking, can contact the Manchester Stop Smoking Service on 0161 205 5998.