



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The NHS Trail-Blazing the Way Towards Manchester's Smoke Free Status.**

North, South and Central Manchester Primary Care Trusts are helping to trail-blaze the NHS into smoke free status by launching their new tobacco control policies on No Smoking Day this year- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Each of the Trusts have reviewed their own tobacco control policies as Manchester moves towards smoke free status by 2006, to ensure that both staff and patients receive maximum protection from second hand smoke while working and accessing health care services in the city.

Jane Sunter, the Tobacco Lead working on behalf of North, South and Central Manchester PCTs said, "The PCTs in Manchester are totally committed to providing Smoke Free environments for all staff and patients in their care. Each Trust felt that it was time to modernise their policies, extending the Smoke Free principle to include not only PCT premises such as clinics, health centres and office buildings, as is currently enforced, but also to the grounds and car parks of those premises."

This action comes as part of a wider movement towards Manchester becoming a Smoke Free city by 2006. Jane Sunter added, "In the NHS we are all too aware of the devastating effect smoking and second hand smoke can have on people's health. The PCTs provide an integral part of the NHS workforce and have led by example by providing healthy, Smoke Free environments for their employees and service users".

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In line with up-grading effective Smoke Free policies, modern employers also need to be sympathetic to providing help and support for those workers that need help to quit. North, South and Central Manchester PCT's have also taken the bold step in providing such services.

Any employee within the three PCT's who wants to give up smoking, or just needs help 'getting through the day,' has been permitted 10 hours paid time leave per year to be able to access Manchester Stop Smoking Service for information, support and subsidised nicotine replacement therapy.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The Government's Scientific Committee of Tobacco and Health (SCOTH) estimates that exposure to second hand smoke increases a non-smoker's risk of having a heart attack by up to 24%; lung cancer rates are increased by 20% for women and 30% for men and stroke incidence is increased by 82%. Other conditions associated with exposure to second hand smoke include:
  - nasal cancer
  - asthma exacerbation
  - decreased lung function
  - middle ear disease
  - reduced fertility
2. A study published in the BMJ earlier this week estimated that exposure to second hand smoke in the workplace is responsible for the deaths of 2 employed people per working day (617 deaths per year).  
*(Jamrozik, Konrad (2nd March 2005) BMJ)*