

February 2022



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have recently received a number of reports and information from various sources to indicate that a number of shops selling vapes across Adur & Worthing have been selling their products to underage customers. It would also appear that the use of vapes by school aged children has increased locally and we believe that some children are selling vapes via social media sites such as Snapchat.

As you are no doubt aware, it is illegal for vapes and associated vaping products to be sold to any person under the age of eighteen. It is also illegal for these products to be purchased for someone under the age of eighteen. For further information about the regulations, law and guidance around vaping, please see the Government website page [here](#).

What We Are Doing

We are currently working closely with a number of agencies who can help monitor the concerns we have around children being able to access and use vaping equipment. This includes Sussex Police, Licensing, Trading Standards, local schools and colleges.

At present, we are gathering information about possible premises of concern so that we can support our partner agencies in any relevant investigations they may need to carry out.

What Can You Do?

If you believe or know that your child is using vapes, please speak to them about the legalities around vaping. Whilst there is currently little data, it is thought that there may also be health and wellbeing implications associated with vaping. Please consider exploring this further with your child where appropriate.

As vapes can be purchased online, it may also be worthwhile being aware of any online orders your child may make.

In the event that you are aware of a shop or premises selling vapes and vaping products to children, please report this to Trading Standards. Information about what you are able to report can be found on the Citizens Advice Bureau website [here](#). You can find out how to report [here](#) and [here](#).

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Conclusion

If you have any concerns about the issues mentioned in this letter, or want to know more about the work we are doing to keep young people safe, please contact the Safer Communities Partnership (safer.communities@adur-worthing.gov.uk).

We know that by working together with you, our wider community, we will have a greater chance of making Adur and Worthing a safer place for everyone to enjoy.

Yours faithfully,

Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership