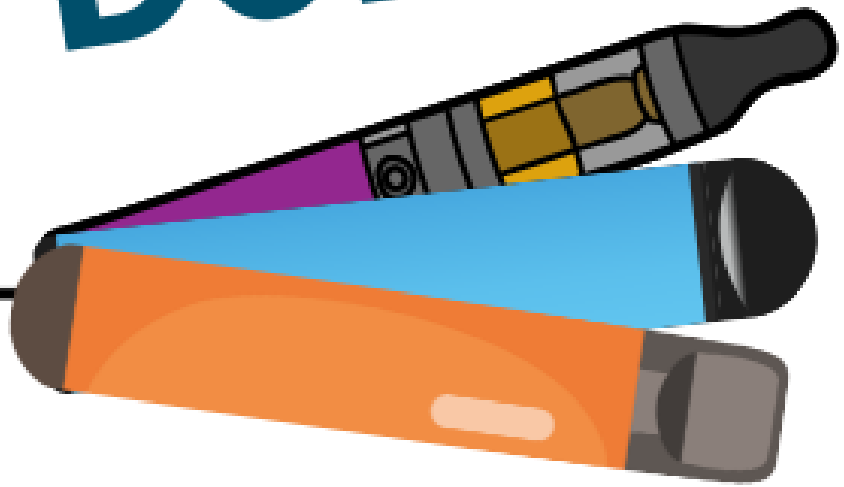


# The Vape Debate



*"Starts as a peer thing, ends with nicotine addiction."\**

June 2025

\*Survey comment from anonymous parent

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# Contents

Executive summary	3
About us	3
Foreword from Chief Officer, Sam Cook	4
Introduction	5
Methodology	6
Who took part – Demographics	7-8
The Findings	9-24
- Young people who vaped – Who are they?	10
- Why do young people first try vaping?	11
- When are young people vaping?	12
- Where do young people vape?	12
- Where do young people get their vapes from?	14
- What are the main reasons young people continue to vape?	16
- Parents habits	18
- Illicit substances	20
- Health concerns	21
- Experiences of support they've engaged with	22
- What more they think should be done	22
- Children who don't vape	23
- Where they would go for support	24
- Best ways parents can raise concerns	24
The Government's new Tobacco and Vapes Bill	25
Recommendations	26
Conclusion and Next steps, Signposting and Further Information	27

# Executive Summary

- 41% of children and young people (CYP) surveyed who currently vape are aged 15.
- 18% of CYP who are currently vaping first tried vaping aged under 8.
- The main reasons for CYP trying a vape for the first time were curiosity, someone shared it with them, and to relieve stress/mental health issues.
- The most popular time for CYP to have their first vape of the day is in bed in the morning – which is an indicator of addiction.
- The way that parents and CYP perceive the benefits or negative changes resulting from vaping is in direct contrast. 14% of CYP noted positive changes and 6% CYP noted negative changes, compared to 0% of parents who noted any positive impacts, and 63% of parents who noted negative impacts.
- Just less than half of school staff and only 1 in 4 of parents/guardians are aware of the new legislation.



## About us

Healthwatch Salford is your health and social care champion. Whether you've had a good or bad experience, we can use your feedback to improve services for everyone and we have the power to make NHS leaders and other care providers listen to what you have to say. We're completely independent and impartial and anything you say is confidential. We also offer information and advice to help you to get the support you need.

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# Foreword from Chief Officer, Sam Cook

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*Vaping amongst children and young people in Salford is a fast-growing problem. However, it's apparent that it's a problem still not fully addressed or understood by professionals and some parents.*

*Children and young people are putting their health and development at risk by vaping and becoming addicted at a very early age. For adults wanting to quit smoking, vapes may represent a lower-risk alternative to smoking cigarettes. However, the risk for children is not the same. Many children who are addicted to vaping have never smoked, with vaping acting as a gateway rather than a quitting strategy. The two situations should and must not be compared.*



*The fact that young people are using vaping as a way of relieving anxiety is also extremely worrying. Another area of potential risk is Oral Health – it's already known that vaping can have a negative effect on oral health, but this risk is even greater in children\*.*

*The findings in this report must be understood and acted upon by professionals across Salford. Measures to deal with this on an ongoing basis must be implemented, not just a 'one off' approach.*

*We have a duty to our children and young people in Salford to tackle this issue now. I truly believe we have failed them if we don't.*

## Response from Public Health in Salford

*Public Health in Salford would like to thank Healthwatch Salford as well as all the young people, parents and teachers who contributed to this vaping research project. The resulting report offers valuable insights into young people's experiences with vaping across the Salford borough, providing a deeper understanding of the challenges and perceptions of those consulted. The report will help to raise awareness of vaping related issues in relation to young people among Salford's partners and stakeholders and inform future plans.*

\*<https://www.bupa.co.uk/dental/dental-care/news/is-vaping-bad-for-your-teeth>

# Introduction to the project

The prevalence of vaping among children and young people (CYP) nationally has increased exponentially over the last few years. Ash (Action on Smoking and Health) found in 2024\* that around 18% of 11-17-year-olds have tried vaping.

In 2023 1 in 7 of 14-17 year olds in the North West claimed to vape regularly which is more than double the level recorded in 2020\*\*.

There is not much data on the numbers in Salford, but an internal analysis published by the Youth Service in June 2023 showed that out of a small sample size of 40 CYP aged 11-18, a high proportion vaped.

Government concerns have resulted in the new Tobacco and Vapes Bill being introduced on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, which has been called “the biggest public health intervention in a generation”.\*\*\*

The Bill is expected to ban single-use disposable vapes in England and Wales as well as:

- A ban on advertising and sponsorship of vaping and nicotine products
- A ban on selling vapes, including non-nicotine vapes, and nicotine products to those under 18.
- Outlawing free distribution of vape and tobacco products and their sale from vending machines
- Powers to regulate flavours, packaging, and display, and update product standards.

To coincide with the new Bill being introduced we developed this project to explore what the issues are around vaping amongst CYP in Salford and the impact that CYP, parents/guardians, and school staff believed the new legislation would have.

\*(New data reveals continued concerns regarding youth vaping: ASH calls for urgent government action – ASH)

\*\* (<https://www.tradingstandards.uk/news-policy-campaigns/news-room/2023/number-of-young-people-smoking-in-north-west-falls-to-record-low>)

\*\*\*Tobacco and Vapes Bill 2024-25: Progress of the Bill – House of Commons Library

# Methodology

We first established a working group including Staff and volunteers from Healthwatch Salford; Public Health; The Youth Service; School Improvement staff at Salford City Council and Early Break which are the organisation that are commissioned to offer support to young people on illicit vapes. We consulted with young people on the name of the project and agreed on “the Vape Debate” and then involved them in choosing the logo.

The working group met to agree on a project plan and methodology. Together we designed 6 surveys to gather information from all our target audiences: secondary school children and young people (CYP); secondary school staff; parents of secondary school CYP; primary school CYP; primary school staff; parents of primary school CYP. The questions we asked regarding primary school CYP were amended to make them age-appropriate and were only aimed at Years 5 and 6.

The surveys were launched immediately after the February half-term and closed after Easter. The surveys were promoted heavily through schools in order to reach CYP, and Headteachers were asked to allow pupils to complete the surveys during class time. We attended the Secondary school Headteacher’s meeting (SHAPAS) to present the project, and it was promoted through the weekly council newsletters that are sent to all schools. We wrote letters to Headteachers and teachers introducing the project and signposting them to further support regarding concerns about pupils vaping. We also wrote to parents telling them that pupils would be offered the chance to complete the survey in school and giving them the chance to opt-out. Schools were also the main way of reaching school staff. In order to reach parents we went through schools, but also publicized the surveys via our own social media etc. Because the project was extended into the Easter holidays, we also used Youth Service and holiday clubs to reach yet more CYP.

# Who took part – Demographics

We received a total of 1487 completed surveys, which can be broken down into 829 parents/guardians, 493 children and young people (CYP), and 165 teachers. 78% went on to give us more details about their backgrounds.

## Their religion or belief system

	Number		Number
Agnostic	1	No Religion	349
Atheist	3	Other religion of belief	3
Buddhist	6	Pagan	4
Catholic	15	Prefer not to say	45
Christian	549	Scientology	1
Gaianism	1	Sikh	1
Hellenic Polytheist	1	Spiritualist	0
Jewish	1	Unsure	2
Muslim	19	Total	1007

## What their ages were (CYP)

Age group	Number	Age Group	Number
9 years old	45	14 years old	79
10 years old	86	15 years old	125
11 years old	58	16 years old	9
12 years old	23	17 years old	2
13 years old	62	18 years old	3

## Where they lived



478 in Eccles, Winton, Irlam and Cadishead  
 55 in Ordsall, Claremont & Pendleton  
 129 in Swinton & Pendlebury  
 55 in Broughton, Kersal & Irwell Riverside  
 301 in Walkden, Little Hulton, Worsley & Boothstown  
 64 lived outside of Salford  
 82 preferred not to say

## What their ages were (Adults)

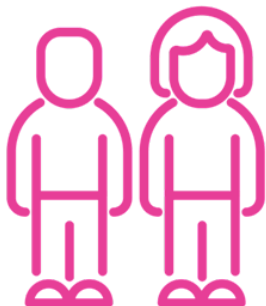
Age group	Number
18-24	8
25-49	590
50-64	134
65-79	6
80+	1
Prefer not to say	15

## What their ethnicity was

	Number
<b>Asian</b>	
Bangladeshi	4
Chinese	7
Indian	6
Pakistani	4
Other Asian background	7
<b>Black/African/Black British/Caribbean</b>	
African	32
Caribbean	1
<b>Mixed/Multiple Ethnicity</b>	
Asian and white	2
Black African and White	6
Black Caribbean and White	7
Other mixed/multiple	8
<b>White</b>	
British, English, Northern Irish, Scottish and Welsh	283
Irish	3
Other White	3
<b>Other</b>	
Other ethnic or national group	29
Prefer not to say	27

# Who took part – Demographics

## What gender they identified with



838 female  
350 male  
8 non-binary  
1 intersex  
37 preferred not to say



88 adults and 23 children said that they were a carer for someone.

1 child said they were aroace  
9 said they were asexual,  
24 were bisexual,  
6 identified as gay male,  
189 as heterosexual/straight,  
8 as lesbian/gay female,  
4 as pansexual and  
12 preferred not to say



**86**  
children

Had a long term disability  
or health condition.



**181**  
adults

Had a long term disability  
or health condition.

11 adults said they were asexual,  
8 were bisexual,  
2 identified as gay male,  
658 as heterosexual/straight,  
6 as lesbian/gay female,  
7 as pansexual and  
35 preferred not to say



# The Findings

Throughout the next section of the report, the findings and quotes have been colour-coded in order to differentiate between the different audiences:

Parents: Green

Children and Young People (CYP): Orange

School staff: Blue

## The general picture:

Of the 829 parents who responded, 6% were parents of primary school children. Overall, the highest response was from parents of CYP in Year 7 (22%), followed by Year 8 (19%) and Year 9 (19%).

57% of parents have never smoked, and 14% of parents are currently vaping.

When parents were asked if they were aware of their child vaping 8% said yes, and 15% answered yes or unsure.

93% of all parents are very or somewhat concerned about the number of children and young people vaping.

Out of 493 CYP who submitted surveys, 37% attend primary school. 13% of CYP answered that they currently vape or answered sometimes. In addition to this a further 5% answered that they used to vape. This directly matches national figures reported by Ash showing that 18% of CYP have tried vaping\*.

When all CYP were asked if they think vaping is safe, 6% said that they thought it was. However, if we just look at primary school children less than 1% thought it was safe.

When CYP were asked about the long-term potential health effects of vaping, they showed a good knowledge, with the most popular answers being lung disease, nicotine addiction, breathing problems and chest pains.

Out of 165 staff in schools, 7% work at primary schools. When staff were asked if they were concerned about the numbers of CYP vaping in schools 69% of staff were concerned. They reported that it was a particular problem in Year 10, followed by Year 11, and Year 9. From talking to pupils some staff estimated that between a quarter and a half of their pupils vape.

\*New data reveals continued concerns regarding youth vaping: ASH calls for urgent government action – ASH

# Young people who vaped

## Who are they?

Out of the CYP who currently vape and answered the question on gender, 55% are female and of those who answered age, 41% are aged 15. When asked how long they have been vaping for, the most popular answer was 1-2 years (18%), very closely followed by 3-4 years (17%).

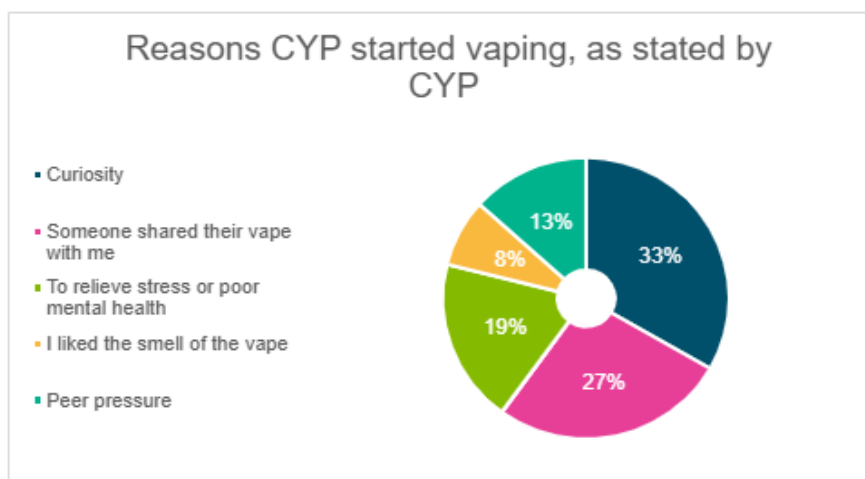


Most CYP who vape tried their first vape at aged 12 (24%), however, 18% were aged under 8.

Age CYP tried their first vape	%
Younger than 8	18%
9	8%
10	3%
11	18%
12	24%
13	16%
15	3%

## Why do young people first try vaping?

The most popular reasons for young people first trying a vape were as follows:



CYP sharing vapes is a significant issue commented on by CYP, parents/guardians and school staff.



*"Children often share vapes with each other outside of the school and use their pocket money to buy vapes."*

*"Young people share vapes all the time. They are easy for young people to smuggle into school premises."*



Young people's mental health was also mentioned by all audiences:



*"I know the impacts of vaping have been devastating to my child. I am extremely concerned at the ease of obtaining them, using them like a badge, how addictive they are and how catastrophic for his mental health. They look nice, have nice flavours and colours targeted towards children whilst damaging them. No one and nowhere is doing enough to protect our children. It's an epidemic which is also impacting younger children seeing this and how wildly acceptable it has become."*

*"I found out through school my child was vaping, and I was very unhappy she was doing it to deal with bullying. I'm hoping she's stopped now ??"*

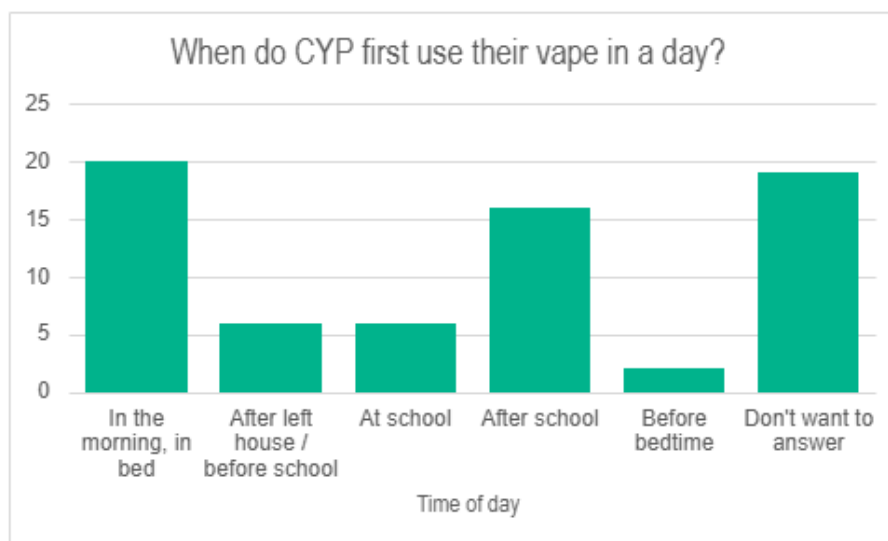
According to the Mental Health Foundation, one in six children nationally will be affected by mental ill health and nationally 75% of them aren't getting the help they need. The S.A.M report\* published in 2024 by Healthwatch Salford highlighted the need for young people's mental health services to be a priority in Salford.

85% of parents whose child vapes are concerned about the potential impact of vaping on their child's health and wellbeing.

\*[\(Salford Adolescent Minds \(S.A.M\) Report | Healthwatch Salford\)](#)

## When are young people vaping?

Looking at when CYP first used their vape:



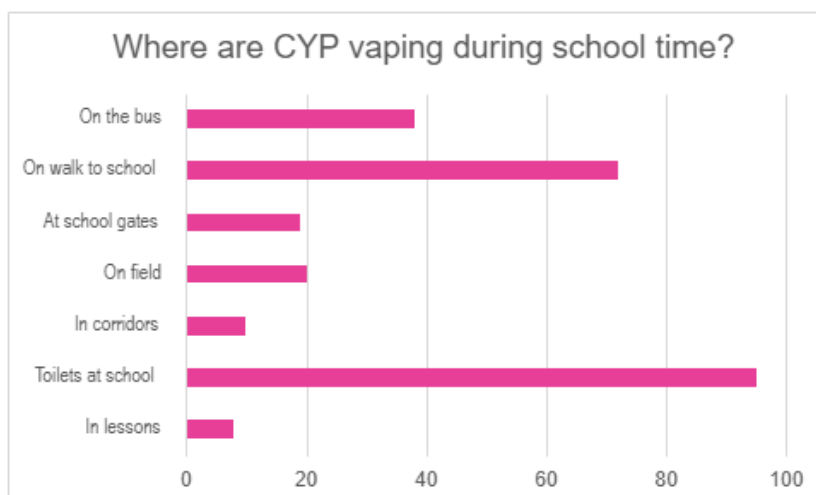
The most popular answer is in bed in the morning, and this is a recognised indicator of addiction, as detailed in the Fagerstrom test for nicotine addiction\*.

When CYP were asked about the frequency of their vaping behaviour the most common answer was daily. This answer was reiterated by parents.

## Where do you people vape?

CYP tell us that the most popular place to vape is out with friends, at home, or walking to and from school. 8 said in the school corridors.

When we asked school staff where CYP are vaping, 48% say that CYP openly vape on school premises or they are unsure. When asked which specific areas are the most popular to vape:



\*Microsoft Word – Fagerstrom\_info.docx



Some parents raised concerns about school staff vaping openly on school premises and the example that this sets to their children.

"HALF OF THE STAFF stand outside before and after school vaping/smoking right in front of the students, which is a horrible example, and the message that this is giving to the students." (secondary)

"The difficulty with raising awareness is the number of school staff vaping which kids obviously see. It's hard to sound serious as a parent if adults at school do what we don't want the kids to do. The same applies to college staff unfortunately." (secondary)

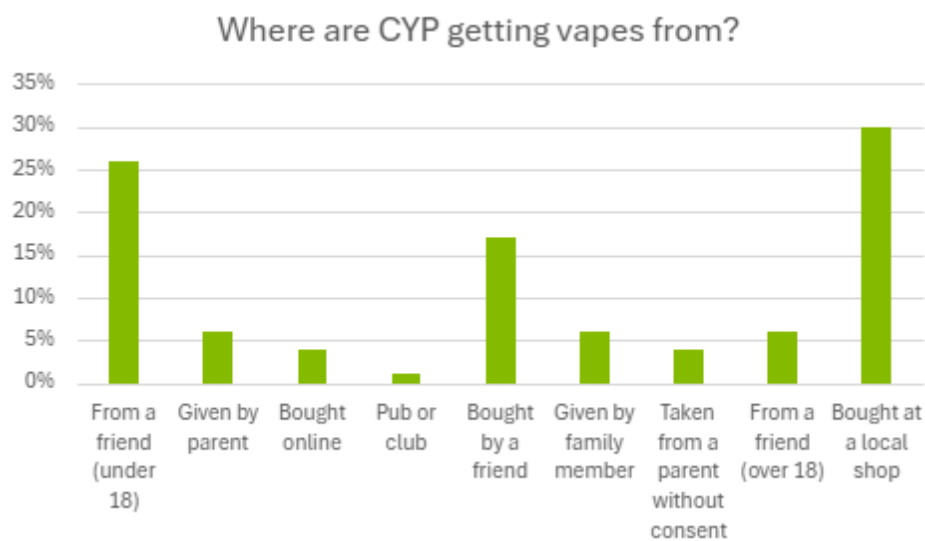
52% of school staff told us that they have never confiscated a vape, but when they do they report that this can lead to confrontation with the pupil due to the cost of refillable vapes.

"Unfortunately, the ease of using vapes means that students use them far more than they would have used cigarettes and are often enabled by parents who buy rechargeable ones that cost a lot of money, causing conflict when trying to confiscate them. These vapes are now used almost like pacifiers by students." (secondary)



# Where do young people get their vapes from?

When CYP were asked where they got their vapes and e-liquid from the most popular answer was 'the local shop (30%)', followed by 'given by a friend under 18 (26%)', and 'bought for them by a friend (17%)'. 12% of CYP stated that they were 'given them by their parent/guardian or another family member'.



Ash\* found in 2024 that despite laws prohibiting the sale of vapes to under-18s, 48% of underage vapers reported purchasing vapes from shops.

Looking at figures\*\* between 2022 and 2024, Salford was recently named as the area with the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of illegal vapes seized in the whole of England.

In 2023/2024\*\*\*, officers from Salford City Council Trading Standards made 88 seizures, removing more than 79,058 non-compliant e-cigarettes and 35,100 illegal vape devices (in a single raid) from businesses in the city, with an estimated retail value of over £1 million. 32 test purchases were undertaken to retailers resulting in 5 sales to under 18-year-old volunteers, equalling a 16% failure rate.

In 2024/2025 Trading Standards undertook 41 visits to test purchase for under-age sales of vapes, and the figure has increased to 43% who failed. (figures as yet unpublished).

Shops who fail may be given a warning, a formal caution or are prosecuted.

\*New data reveals continued concerns regarding youth vaping: ASH calls for urgent government action - ASH

\*\*Millions of vapes seized in England as illegal trade targeted - BBC News

\*\*\*<https://www.partnersinsalford.org/media/iy3gsort/salford-public-health-annual-report-2023-24.pdf>

14% of parents expressed concern about the availability of vapes in local shops near schools, and how easily accessible vapes were.

"I've reported the shop that sells the vapes to the children and still he's there selling his vapes to underage children."

"I feel like stopping vaping with the child is a lost battle from the parent perspective. Most small shops are selling vapes and liquids to underaged kids."

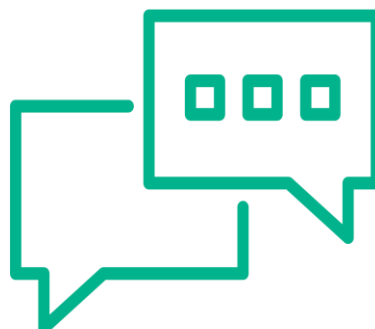
"I feel like school or council should put more effort in collecting empty vapes around the areas of schools and public parks as some children are picking vapes off the ground, charge and refill them and keep using, which is both unhygienic and dangerous."



"There needs to be more repercussions for those caught selling vapes to underage children and more deterrents for children to want to do it."

Parents expressed feelings of helplessness in tackling this issue:

"As a parent, I can only confiscate so many vapes found on my child but before I know it there is another one. "



## What are the main reasons young people are continuing to vape?

When CYP were asked who they know or see that vapes, the most popular answer was friends (19%), but 13% people said other family members and 8% people said parent/guardian/carer and siblings.

Of those CYP who currently vape or have vaped in the past 22% said their parent/guardian knows/knew they vaped. Of those CYP who are at primary school who vape 50% say their parent/guardian knows, and 25% say their parent /guardian gives them vapes\*.

Teachers report that family members giving young people vapes is an issue:

"We educate them but don't always get the support of parents when they are called because we have caught their child vaping – they sometimes are the ones buying the vapes for them."



Unsurprisingly we found that by far the most popular flavours amongst CYP who vape are fruity (berries, citrus, tropical) which 66 % of CYP selected, followed by 19% menthol/mint, 12% energy drink, and 10% dessert (chocolate, caramel).



"They taste too good and fill gaps of boredom in young children."

The new Bill bans the sale of certain sweet and fruity flavours with the aim of deterring CYP from vaping.

\* This figure is 2 (50%) and 1 (25%) CYP respectively

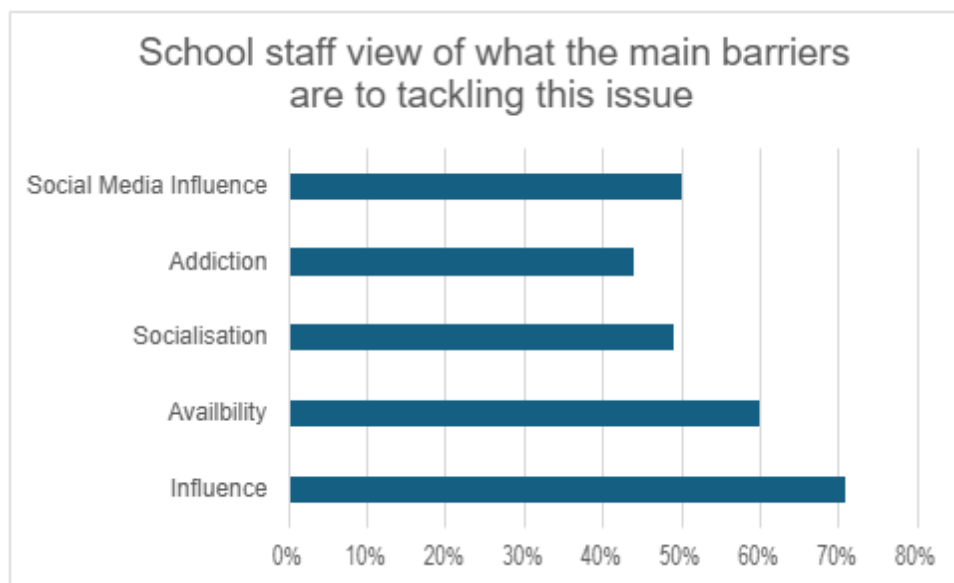


### What are the reasons that you continue to vape as stated by CYP.

I enjoy using them	18%
I like the flavours	17%
I'm addicted to them	13%
It's cheaper than smoking	6%
Because my friends do it	10%
I like the colour of the e-cigarette	5%
To help me quit smoking	2%
Just to give it a try	8%
It's become a habit	18%
I like the colour of the packaging	3%

Of those who answered that they are addicted, 50% of them are vaping in bed in the morning which could confirm this belief that they are indeed addicted.

When school staff were asked what the main barriers to tackling this issue were, 71% said peer support, followed by 60% availability.



*"The problem is the peer pressure, accessibility and number of students who vape outside of school."*

*"My child had tried vaping in year 7 as his peers were vaping. My child disliked it, and it made him anxious however I'm concerned how easily available it is to children and how much younger they seem to be when trying."*



## Parents habits

Of parents/guardians who believe their child currently or might vape, 53% of parents/guardians are current or former vapers/smokers.

### Smoking habits of parents who believe their children vape or might vape.

Current smoker (do not vape)	13%
Current smoker and vaper	3%
Former smoker (currently vape)	14%
Former smoker (do not vape)	21%
Never smoked (currently vape)	3%
Never smoked	47%

Of those parents who answered a question on whether they are concerned about the potential impact of vaping on their child's health and well-being, 93% are concerned. When parents were asked about if their child vapes, 8% said yes, 15% said yes or unsure, and 85% said no. Looking at parents who never smoked, only 5% of them are aware of their child vaping.



"What you find is a lot of students who vape, have parents who vape. If parents are not on board, then it is difficult for schools to implement anything."

"I do not condone my child vaping and do everything in my power to stop it, but I cannot be everywhere with them. I do currently vape as I used this as a means to stop cigarettes and aim to stop vaping too. My child has seen me struggle yet still chooses to vape, I know this because I find them in their pockets. I'm on board with anything that helps tackle this problem."

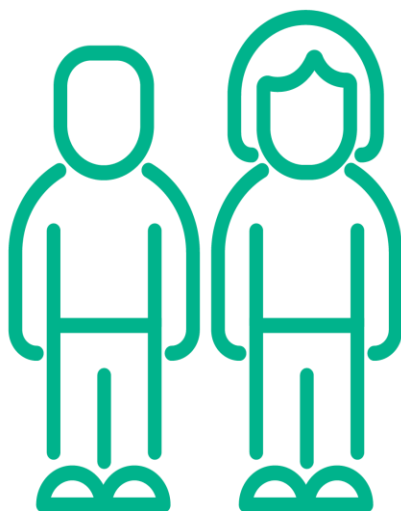


However, there were references to parents buying vapes for their children and one school staff member said:



"Parents buy them for their children; what hope is there convincing them it's bad."

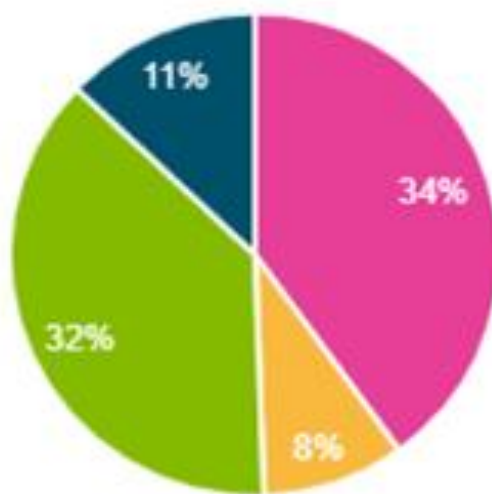
"I worked in a shop, and I've witnessed that some parents are allowing their children to vape by buying the vape themselves and give it to them. I wish Salford City Council can really do something about this."



## Illicit Substances

When CYP were asked if they had smoked or vaped an illegal substance 34% said yes, 8% aren't sure, 32% haven't, and a further 11% did not want to answer the question. This indicates there may be a bigger problem with illicit substances than our data shows.

### Have you ever vaped an illicit substance?



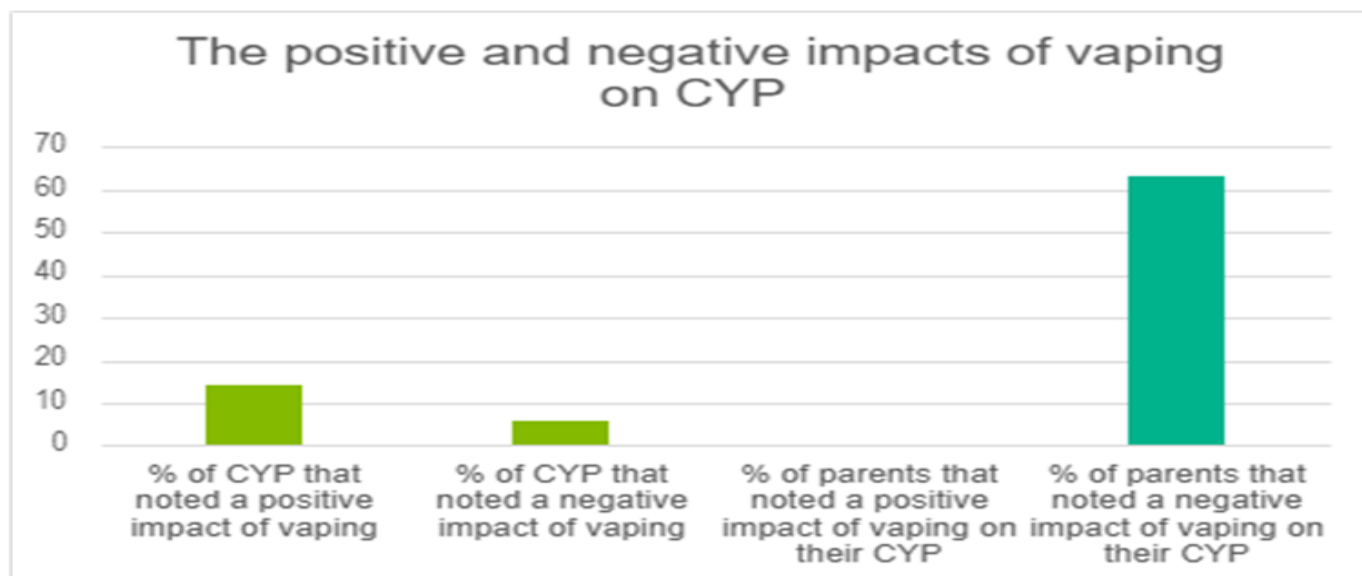
■ Yes ■ Not sure ■ No ■ I don't want to answer

72% of school staff told us that CYP were under the influence of other substances or were unsure.

“They are too easy for young people to add other harmful /illegal substances to. There is no way of school staff knowing whether or not there are illegal drugs contained within vapes – is there some way of enabling schools to test vapes to see if they contain other substances?” (secondary)

48% of parents who know their child vapes said that their child had smoked an illicit substance or they were unsure.

## Health concerns



Amongst CYP, 14% who said they vape noted positive changes, 6% noted negative changes. Of these 6% said they feel happier, 11% said they feel less stressed, 8% said they feel more relaxed.

This is compared to parents where 0% of parents who said they know their child does or might vape noted positive impacts of vaping, and 63% noted negative impacts of vaping. Of these, 20% said their CYP are more angry, 27% said they were more agitated, 31% said they have a lack of motivation.

The number of CYP who have had a negative reaction to vaping or needed medical support was 3. When school staff were asked 62% said that CYP had needed medical attention in school due to vaping or were unsure.

When CYP were asked if there is nicotine in their vapes, of those who answered 83% said yes.

When CYP were asked if they have ever tried to reduce or quit, 75% who answered have tried, and further 2 said they hadn't tried but they do want to reduce or quit.

Only secondary school children were asked how they felt about their vape use and 46% said their vape use bothered them.

So, it appears that parents are much more likely to notice the negative impact of their child vaping, compared to CYP who focus more on the positive benefits of vaping. Obviously if young people are indeed addicted to vaping then parents will need specialist support to help their child to succeed in reducing or quitting the habit.

16% of parents said that they had spoken to their child about reducing or stopping their vape use. 61% of these parents said it had no impact on their child's vape use, but 35% said their child stopped vaping.

## Experience of support they've engaged with

When asked where CYP would seek support with their vaping the most popular answer was friends (32%) followed by youth workers (19%) and another family member (10%).

When school staff were asked where they would go to for support for pupils who are vaping, 42% mentioned going to the headteacher, 19% mentioned the youth service, and 13% online. Under "other" comments a further 15% mentioned the safeguarding lead within the school or the safeguarding lead at the council. Only 11% of staff had actually sought external support for pupils who are vaping, and 38% of them said the experience was positive.

When parents were asked where they would go to for vaping support for their child, the most common answer was GP (40%), online (28%), school (26%). Less than half said that the experience was positive.

## What more they think should be done

When CYP were asked about what education their school had provided about vaping, the most popular answer was lesson time, followed by guest speaker, and assemblies. (non-vapers answered too)

Of those CYP who answered if they would like additional information sessions to find out more about vaping, the impacts and where to go for help, 80% said no.

When school staff were asked if they think anything else should be done in schools to educate CYP on vaping 41% said yes. And when the staff were asked if they would like further support 58% said yes.

One staff member said:

*"I think the only way to address the issue is in school, with relatable people, work groups, allocated vape spaces for maybe year 11 where they can be targeted for the support. All children try to keep it a secret in school, as it is against the rules, but as we know they always find a way. If there was a more open way of addressing the issue, I think more children would be forthcoming for support to stop."*

## Children who don't vape



There were no differences at all between how secondary school pupils and primary school pupils rate the reasons not to vape. However, other answers for primary include: they are too young; health fitness reasons: they don't want to get addicted, and the smell of vaping.

There were comments from both secondary and primary school pupils, and parents, about the smell of vapes, e.g. the smell in the school toilets.



"My child complains about vaping in the school toilets where the smell is so strong it gives her a headache.

I do not feel that the school is doing anywhere near enough to tackle the issue." (secondary)



"My son refuses to use the toilets at school partially because of others vaping habits.

Other schools have installed an alarm in toilets, so this should be in all of them." (secondary)



"Schools should monitor the toilets - that's where they all congregate and vape. In and out of lesson time." (secondary)

## Where they would go for support

**When staff were asked if their school had adopted a specific policy on dealing with youth vaping:**

50 % of staff said yes including 1 primary school teacher  
23 % of staff said no including staff from 5 primary schools  
36 % said unsure (which did not include any primary schools)

This would indicate that there are many schools, particularly primary schools who do not have a policy on vaping. However, within most schools there were staff that gave conflicting answers, so more work needs to be done on not only having a policy but ensuring that all staff are aware of the policy.

## Best ways schools can raise awareness

When schools were asked if they provide education on vaping 63% of staff said yes, including staff from 2 primary schools.

Parents believed that the best way of raising awareness of the risks of vaping would be guest speakers, with the suggestion of health professionals talking about the health impacts of vaping, using people with lived experience, and more education on the risks during lesson time.

When parents were asked if they would be interested in additional support sessions to find out more about vaping and the impacts of this on CYP health, 71% said no, and 29% said yes.





# The Government's new Tobacco and Vapes Bill

The surveys were circulated just 3 months before the new Bill was scheduled to come into legislation, and there appeared to be a general lack of awareness regarding the new Bill.

When school staff were asked just less than half were aware of the new legislation.

When parents were asked only 1 in 4 of were aware of the new Bill.

When parents and staff were asked if the new Bill would make a difference there appeared to be a negative view on the impact that the new legislation would have.

When school staff were asked 44% thought that the Bill would have a negative or no impact.



"Prohibition will lead to an underground economy; massive profits for gangs and children, and young people being recruited and exploited by gangs to sell vapes in schools, and on the street."  
(secondary)

74% of parents whose child vapes/might vape thought that the Bill would have no impact, 22% thought it would have a positive impact and 4% felt it would have a negative impact.



# Recommendations

## Short term (0-6 months)

**Communication** – Regular discussions across all Schools, e.g. standing agenda item at SHAPAS meeting, and council newsletter, monitoring numbers of vaping incidents and sharing good practice on tackling the issue.

**Monitoring** – School Safeguarding Officers to track levels of vaping incidents within schools, and report to the Children's Safeguarding Board for monitoring and action. CYP vaping needs to be monitored on an ongoing basis not just as a one-off piece.

**Raising awareness** – With just less than half of school staff and only 1 in 4 parents being aware of the new legislation, Salford City Council alongside other relevant bodies to develop a plan to raise awareness of what the new Bill means.

**Learning** – Early Break specialist assemblies and workshops to be rolled out to all secondary schools in Salford (In view of the fact that a significant amount of young people, parents and teachers have reported that CYP are under the influence of other substances.)

## Medium/long term (6 months – 2 years)

**Learning/Awareness** – All schools to have a policy on vaping, including primary schools, and all schools to ensure that all staff are aware of the policy.

**Learning** – Catch Your Breath sessions which have been trialed in a small number of primary schools to be rolled out across all primary schools so that CYP are reached before they start vaping. (With 18% of CYP who vape starting before the age of 8.)

**Communication** – Healthwatch Salford to produce a fact sheet on nicotine in vapes, and how to report illegal sales so that parents are empowered to support their child. To be distributed through Family Hubs and other organisations. (With 83% of CYP who vape saying that they are aware they contain nicotine yet still vape, and feelings of helplessness reported by parents.)

**Communication** – Salford City Council to also make information available online to parents who want to support their child to reduce or quit vaping – including access to the Trading Standards North West report, how to report establishments who sell vapes illegally, signs of addiction, sign posting etc.

**Communication** – The Youth Service/Youth Council to develop a section of their website/communications dedicated to vaping, signposting to support etc. (In view of the fact that youth workers are seen as trusted individuals who CYP would go to for support in quitting/reducing vaping.)

**Awareness** – Schools to allocate private areas where staff can vape without being seen by pupils or parents, where possible.

**Learning** – The Youth Service/Youth Council/Schools to consider developing a student role of "wellbeing champions". (With most CYP reporting that they would ask a friend for support with reducing or quitting vaping.) This role could include vaping, mental health and other areas the CYP feel relevant.

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# Conclusion and next steps

This project has helped us to gather a picture of the numbers of young people in Salford who are vaping, the attitudes to vaping of young people, parents and school staff, and knowledge around the Government's new Tobacco and Vapes Bill. We have learned that parents and staff are very concerned about young people vaping, and pessimistic about the impact that the new Bill will have.

We have developed recommendations, and these will be followed up in 2 years' time to monitor the progress and impact that has been made.

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# Signposting and further information

More information on what support Early Break offers can be found [here](#). For support on illicit vapes contact Mandy Winnard at Early Break [mwinnard@earlybreak.co.uk](mailto:mwinnard@earlybreak.co.uk)

More information on what support Catch Your Beath offers can be found [here](#).

For support around other vapes contact the Youth Service at [youth.services@salford.gov.uk](mailto:youth.services@salford.gov.uk)


In order to report the sale of illegal vapes [Citizens Advice consumer service online](#) or by calling 0808 223 1133.

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