

Interventions for preventing uptake of smoking in school aged children

Research Question(s)

- What is the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of multi component interventions based in educational establishments* combined with community-based and/or family-based interventions in preventing the uptake of smoking in school-aged children?
 - Which components of these interventions are the most effective and cost-effective?
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- **Population:** School-aged children. Researchers to specify and justify age group(s) selected for study.
 - **Intervention (non-NHS):** Intervention(s) to prevent uptake of smoking in school-aged children. Intervention(s) must combine components based in educational establishments* with components based in the community and/or family settings. Researchers to specify and justify.
 - **Comparator:** Usual practice in educational establishments*.
 - **Outcomes:** Measures of smoking uptake and prevalence in school-aged children. Attitudes towards future smoking uptake may also be considered. Researchers to specify and justify
 - **Duration of follow up:** At least 3 years. Researchers should also indicate how long term impact might be assessed. Should a study be able to demonstrate suitable methodology, recruitment and retention rates, the programme would be pleased to consider subsequent extension requests to enable longer follow up.
 - **Impact on inequalities:** Research design should consider the impact of the intervention on health. Researchers to specify and justify
 - **Design:** Primary research. Researchers to specify and justify.
 - **Setting:** Educational establishment(s)* and communities and/or families.
 - **Public engagement:** Proposals should incorporate a mechanism for public involvement.

* Educational establishments include: state sector, special and independent schools, city technology colleges, academies and grammar schools, pupil referral units, secure training and local authority secure units, further education colleges and private sector establishments.

Background to commissioning brief:

Adolescents who begin smoking at younger ages are more likely to become regular smokers and less likely to quit in adulthood. Helping young people to avoid starting smoking is a widely endorsed goal of public health policy; however, there is uncertainty about how best to do this.

Research is required with the aim of preventing school- aged children from starting smoking. Analysis of which intervention(s) and which components of the intervention(s) are effective and cost-effective, to be included in research. The proposed study design should facilitate investigation of effects across the social gradient. Evaluations of existing interventions are welcomed.

Notes to Applicants

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