

Inspection Top Tips

Smoking & Vaping

May 2025



Children's Homes Regulations

Regulation 10 - (1)

The health and well-being standard is that:

- a) the health and well-being needs of children are met;
- b) children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and
- c) children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles.



Children's Homes Guide

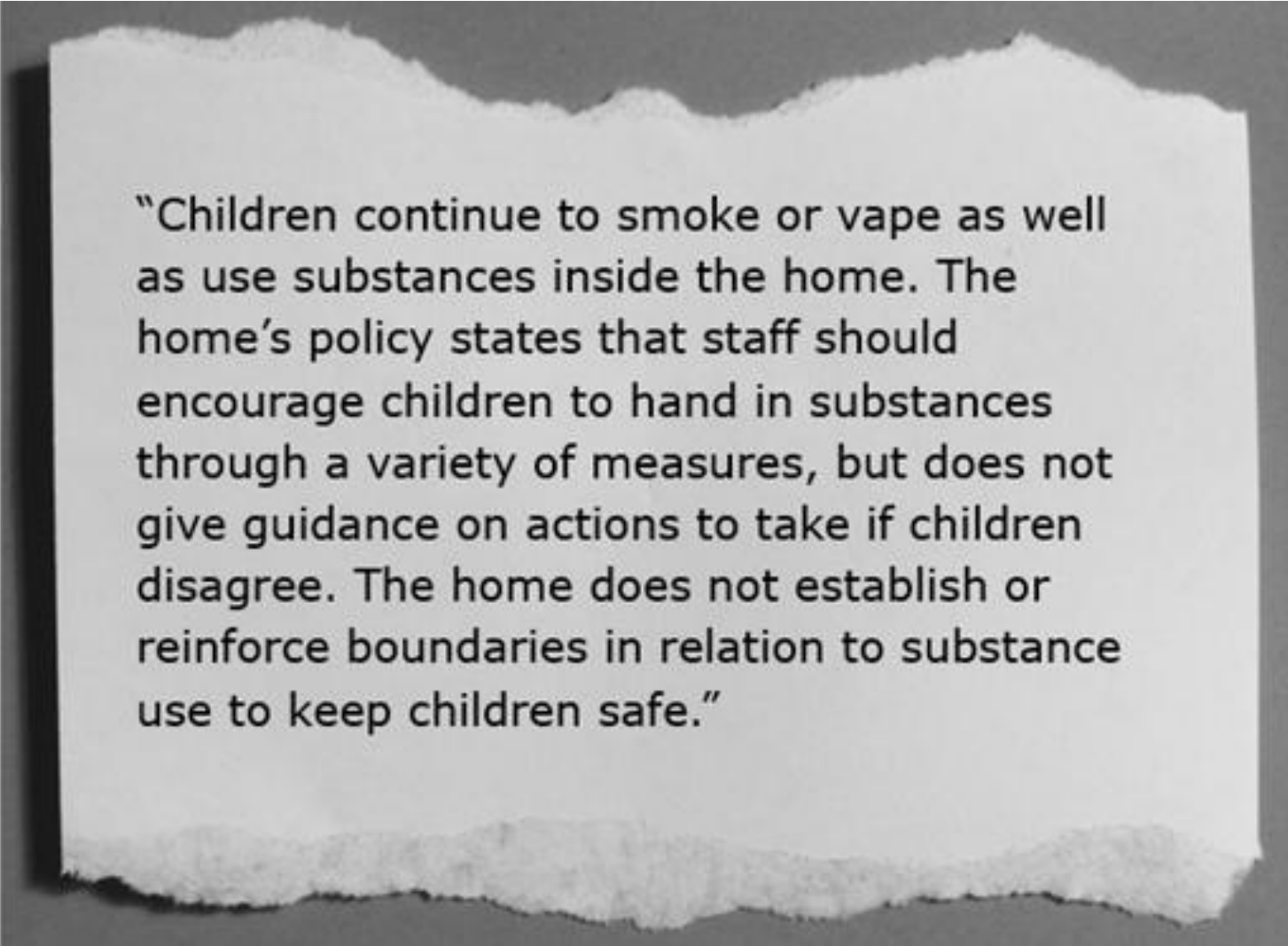
- **7.7** The specific responsibilities of the home towards supporting the health and well-being of each child should be agreed with the placing authority and recorded in the child's placement plan. It is the joint responsibility of the registered person and the placing authority that this is agreed at the time of placement.
- **7.18** Staff should have the relevant skills and knowledge to be able to help children understand, and where necessary work to change negative behaviours in key areas of health and well-being
{including} drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

- The registered person should ensure that children are offered advice, support and guidance on health and well-being
- Smoking and Vaping are not directly addressed but are contained within the Health Standards to promote healthy lifestyles which are key in care planning and referenced in the guidance referenced above



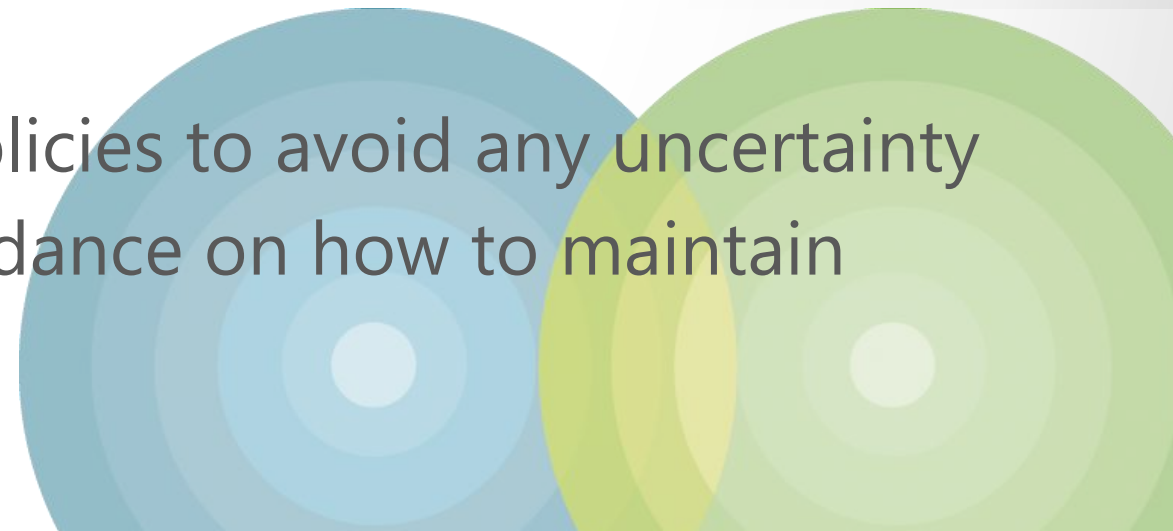
Ofsted comment from inspection – inadequate home...



"Children continue to smoke or vape as well as use substances inside the home. The home's policy states that staff should encourage children to hand in substances through a variety of measures, but does not give guidance on actions to take if children disagree. The home does not establish or reinforce boundaries in relation to substance use to keep children safe."

Top tips...

1. The legal vaping age is 18 as it is for tobacco, adults who buy either product for a child is undertaking an illegal act while as is smoking in a car with children
2. A child who smokes or vapes has learned the behaviour and is not committing an offence... those who sell or provide them with the product are – understand why the child uses the product in light of this
3. Have clear smoking and vaping policies to avoid any uncertainty of what is acceptable and give guidance on how to maintain these boundaries



Top tips continued...

4. Think about staff modelling and whole home approaches. Talk with staff about assumptions that 'smoking is the least of our worries'
5. Provide support and guidance with cessation programs with achievable steps
6. Provide information on the way these products work though the addictive elements they contain and with vapes the harmful content being clear that these are not safe options



Questions to consider...

- Do I understand why the child smokes or vapes?
- Do I have a clear cessation plan for the child?
- Do I know all the harmful and addictive element?
- Do all staff know the importance of consistent care around smoking and vaping
- Am I clear on the law?



Smoking and Vaping Cessation training...

This course provides staff with evidence based knowledge and skills to make a difference to young people and demonstrate you are putting their health outcomes front and centre. Managers and staff will have the opportunity to bring and reflect on their policies, organisational strategy and performance around smoking and vaping cessation.

You can express interest for this course using the link below:

[Smoking and Vaping Cessation Training](#)

