

## **Smoke-free Bristol**

**Photo opportunity:** Journalists/photographers/film crew are invited to bar BSB The Waterside, Canons Road, BS1 5UH, at 1.15pm today, Friday 1st December. BSB/The Bell partner James Townend, Director of Public Health Dr Hugh Annett, and Cllr Barbara Janke will be available for interviews.

### **++Date set for a Smoke-free Bristol++**

Bristol welcomed the announcement made by Government today that Smoke-free legislation will come into effect from 1st July 2007.

Chair of the Bristol Partnership and Leader of Bristol City Council, Councillor Barbara Janke said: "I am very pleased that the Government have chosen to make this announcement prior to Christmas. It sends out a clear message to businesses and organisations that they need to be ready by next summer to ensure their premises are smoke-free for staff and customers. The city council will be able to offer businesses advice and support and we will work with our partners in health to reduce harm from second-hand smoke and enable places to become smoke-free."

The legislation is designed to control smoking in enclosed workplaces and public places. Environmental health officers will be expected to enforce the regulations. The regulations will also determine the level of fines.

Dr Hugh Annett, Director of Public Health in Bristol said: "This is a great Christmas present to Bristol and the rest of England. In Bristol we have been campaigning for smoke-free workplaces and public places as we know this will really make a difference to people's health. We are also pleased that people who have previously had to work in smoky atmospheres will now have protection. There is also growing evidence of the effects of second hand smoking, particularly on children. The future health of our children depends on ensuring they do not become smokers, and also that children are protected from the damaging effects of second-hand smoke."

Bristol has been working towards compliance with the law since the Charter for Smoke-free Bristol was signed by leading organisations in the city in January 2005. Smoke-free Bristol revealed last year that there was widespread support for making the city smoke-free. Work towards making Bristol smoke-free has included:

- A smoke-free conference in March this year
- A successful seminar for pubs in September
- Information for workplaces and the hospitality trade wanting to go smoke-free has been available on [www.smokefreebristol.org](http://www.smokefreebristol.org).

Further seminars are planned for the spring when the final version of the regulations is released.

Once the regulations have been set before parliament MP's will then be able to comment. The final version of the regulations are expected in February.

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For further information contact Lynda Wookey at Bristol City Council Corporate Communications on 0117 922 3463.

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **Background to smoke-free Bristol & The Bristol Partnership**

The smoke free Bristol initiative is a 5-year local action plan to protect people living and working in the city from the harmful effects of second hand smoke.

Smoke-free Bristol is an initiative of the Bristol Partnership.

The Bristol Partnership is a collaboration between many different local agencies and includes Bristol City Council, the Bristol North and Bristol South and West Primary Care Trusts, Avon and Somerset Police Constabulary and local employers who have joined together as the Bristol Partnership.

In January 2005 the Bristol Partnership signed a smoke-free charter committing them to working towards a smoke free city. This states: "We

recognise that smoking is the number-one cause of preventable death in Bristol and across the United Kingdom.

"We cannot tolerate the terrible toll of death, illness and misery that smoking causes to the people of Bristol. We promise to do all we can to bring it to an end."

**The partnership is determined to:**

- Educate and inform local people about the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke
- To encourage more businesses to go smoke free
- Reduce smoking prevalence in our area
- Support the enforcement of the law on advertising tobacco products
- Reduce under age sales of tobacco products to children
- Encourage and support smokers who want to give up and to promote local support to stop services

For more information about smoke-free Bristol and the Bristol Partnership visit [www.smokefreebristol.org](http://www.smokefreebristol.org)

**Groups that are vulnerable to secondhand smoke:**

- Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at a higher risk of pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma and middle ear disease (WHO International Consultation on Second Hand Smoke and Child Health)
- Non-smokers who are exposed to cigarette smoke at work have double the risk of developing adult asthma when compared to those who work in smoke free environments (Jaakkola et al American Journal of Public Health 2003)
- Asthma UK estimated in 2004 that there were 5.2 million people suffering from asthma in the UK, 1.1 million were children (Asthma UK)
- 80 per cent of people who suffer from asthma say that cigarette smoke triggers or worsens their attacks (Asthma UK survey)
- The British Heart Foundation combined data from different studies to show that there are 1.84 million people (just under 2 million) people suffering from angina in the UK (Source BHF)
- The British Heart Foundation estimates that 1.273 million people living in Britain have had a heart attack (source- BHF)
- An estimated 360 000 people living in the UK have had a stroke previously (extrapolated from ONS stats)
- There were an estimated 750 000 pregnant women in England and Wales in 2000 and the number is unlikely to have changed greatly (ONS)

See the ASH site for details of the effects on health of secondhand smoke: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.ash.org.uk)

**Key Facts about Bristol**

- Surveys in Bristol show that over 80% of respondents are bothered by secondhand smoke and would prefer it if indoor public places were smoke free
- In 2005 in Bristol there were over 10,000 workers exposed to secondhand smoke in their workplace
- The percentage of Bristol households that are smoky is well over 30%, which significantly damages the health of children living in smoky rooms
- The percentage of Bristol adults who smoke is higher than the average

for England. Lung cancer death rates in the south and west of Bristol are 35% higher than the average for the former Avon county