

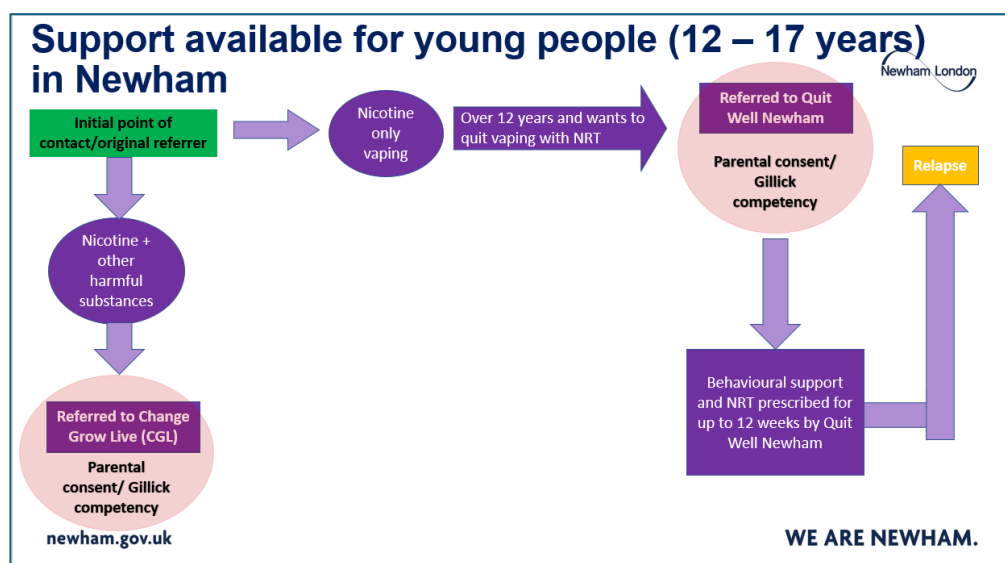
The London Borough of Newham responded to:

- Anecdotal evidence around the rise in vape use, and use of vapes to take drugs (e.g. THC and synthetic cannabinoids). This also aligned with national data.
- Concerns from Newham Trading Standards team around the sale of illicit vapes to underage users, especially single-use vapes.
- Reports from Community Safety Partnership, Newham Intelligence Partnership Board, schools, Metropolitan Police and young people of links with vaping and mental health, and vapes used by gangs as a tool for exploitation.

A *Vaping, Smoking and Young People Working Group* was set up in 2022 under the Newham Smokefree Alliance, and a Young Person Action Plan on vaping and smoking was published in 2023. This centred around four key areas, applying the NG209 NICE guidance as a framework:

1. Knowledge and data: Identify opportunities to systematically collect quantitative and qualitative data on vaping, considering behaviours and attitudes towards vaping amongst young people in Newham.
2. Prevention: Identify and implement strategies to prevent uptake of vaping.
3. Promotion: Promote support to quit vaping, smoking and drug-taking whilst raising awareness around misinformation.
4. Treating dependence and addiction: Strengthen referral pathways into specialist services.

Referral pathways were set up as outlined in the figure below. Specialised support is provided by Quit Well Newham or Newham Rise (CGL) depending on the needs of the young person.



Newham Rise (CGL) offer support for drug or alcohol use for 11–18-year-olds, including young people using vapes with substances such as THC or synthetic cannabinoids. Quit Well Newham offer nicotine vaping cessation for 12+ year olds. Support is available for those wanting help with harm reduction, reducing vape use and stopping completely. Quit Well Newham provide low-dose NRT if needed.

Youth Vaping Training has been delivered to frontline staff who encounter young people, as well as parents and carers. The training is designed to tackle misinformation around the use of vapes and provide guidance on how to begin an initial conversation with a young person, adapting VBA and referring to the principles outlined on the Talk to Frank website.

Further details can be found at: [Vaping and young people in Newham](#)

Message to other services

*“The Youth Vaping Support Programme’s success is rooted in a persistent, youth-centred approach, with services delivered in schools where students feel most at ease. A strong partnership between Quit Well Newham and CGL enables meaningful, judgment-free engagement. Even when students don’t commit to quitting, they’re provided with resources to encourage future change. By overcoming barriers and building trust, this approach supports a lasting reduction in youth vaping - **paving the way for a smoke-free generation**”*

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