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Children in Scotland welcomes smoking ban

Children in Scotland, the national agency for all those working for children and their families, welcomes the Scottish Executive's proposal for a comprehensive ban on smoking in public places in 2006.

In its response to the Executive's consultation, Children in Scotland recorded children and young people's opinions on smoking gathered by members of its participation network. When asked whether such a law should be enacted one young person said: "Yes, because it saves lives – does there have to be another reason?"

Bronwen Cohen, chief executive of Children in Scotland said: "This is joined up government at its best, and is worth hundreds of health projects and advertising campaigns.

"This will make a great difference to Scotland's poor health record, not just by influencing adults' behaviour, but by sending a clear message to our children and young people that smoking is bad for your health and that we value them enough to protect them from its effects."

Scotland follows Ireland and Norway in their introduction of a smoking ban in enclosed public places in 2004.

Notes for editors

1. Children in Scotland is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that relevant policies, services and provisions are of the best possible quality and able to meet the needs of a diverse society.

2. A copy of the full consultation response to "Smoking in public places: a consultation on reducing exposure to second hand smoke", August 2004 is available to download from Children in Scotland's website. Visit www.childreninscotland.org.uk or contact Nicola Pay on 0131 222 2419. The response is based on discussions with members of Children in Scotland.

3. Bronwen Cohen is available to comment in more detail. Contact Nicola Pay on 0131 222 2419.