



Information Governance Team

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25 August 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI864317679

Thank you for your request for information relating to Compliance with Mandatory Smoking Cessation Provisions.

You have requested the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information regarding Coventry City Council's compliance with the NICE Guideline NG209 (Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating dependence), specifically the mandatory requirements updated in February 2025.

The February 2025 update stipulates that local stop smoking services must ensure that a comprehensive range of evidence-based interventions are accessible to adults who smoke. This includes four primary pillars of cessation: behavioral support, medicinally licensed products (including Cytisinicline), nicotine-containing e-cigarettes, and specific cost-effective behavioral programs.

In light of these mandatory must requirements, please provide the following:

Service Accessibility Audit: Please provide any internal audit or compliance report conducted following the February 2025 update to ensure the Council is meeting its mandatory obligation to provide a full range of accessible cessation methods.

This information not held and we are advising as per Section 1(1).

Evidence for Exclusion of ACE: NICE recommendation 1.12.10 specifically identifies Allen

Carr's Easyway (ACE) in-person group seminars as a cost-effective behavioral intervention. Given the Council's mandate to must ensure accessible behavioral support, please provide the evidence-based justification for excluding the ACE method from your current service menu.

The Council commissions stop smoking services in line with current NICE guidance, national commissioning guidance, local population need and the available evidence base.

Although NICE identified Allen Carr's Easyway as a potentially effective and cost-effective intervention, NICE Guideline NG209 Evidence Review P: Effectiveness and cost effectiveness of Allen Carr's Easyway, published in May 2022; The committee discussed where Allen Carr's Easyway could fit within the hierarchy of stop smoking interventions. However, because of the uncertainty in the evidence base and the lack of evidence comparing Allen Carr's Easyway with the most effective interventions currently recommended by NICE, the committee agreed that they were unable to determine its relative effectiveness.

The National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCT) Local Stop Smoking Services and Support: Commissioning, Delivery and Monitoring Guidance (2024) states that Allen Carr's Easyway has some evidence of effectiveness but not currently recommended and notes that there is insufficient evidence to reliably place it within the effectiveness hierarchy of stop smoking interventions.

The Council currently meets its obligation to provide evidence based behavioural support through commissioned interventions that are recommended within current national guidance, including behavioural support delivered by NCSCT trained practitioners alongside access to approved, first line, evidence based quit aids.

Comparison of Behavioural Options: Please provide any recorded information held by the Council that compares the quit-success rates and cost-effectiveness of your currently commissioned behavioural support providers against the data for Allen Carr's Easyway as cited in the NICE NG209 evidence reviews.

This information not held and we are advising as per Section 1(1).

Commissioning Gap Analysis: Please provide any documentation showing how the Council has addressed the must requirement for choice and accessibility if only one form of behavioural support (e.g., 1-on-1 coaching) is currently offered to the exclusion of group-based seminars like ACE.

Coventry City Council's commissioned Integrated Adult Lifestyle Service supports a range of evidence based behavioural support formats, including one-to-one, group and remote support, delivered by trained NCSCT practitioners alongside access to recommended first line stop smoking aids, in line with NCSCT and NICE guidance.

Future Procurement Timelines: If the current exclusion of ACE is due to existing contract cycles, please provide the date when the smoking cessation service contract is next due for tender and whether the 2025 NICE must requirements have been integrated into the new specification.

The Integrated Lifestyle Service contract is currently out to tender with the new contract commencing on 1st April 2027.

The service specification requires the provider to deliver stop smoking interventions in accordance with current NICE guidance and NCSCT commissioning guidance. Commissioned interventions and service delivery.

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If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

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