

Submission by ASH Ireland to Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework for public consultation, March 13, 2017

ASH Ireland has been the leading anti—tobacco advocacy group in Ireland and our continuing mission is to reduce the impact of smoking and nicotine addiction in Irish society and is fully supportive of the Government’s stated goal of introducing a smokefree Ireland by 2025.

In its ongoing advocacy and media presence, ASH Ireland has played an integral part in the success to date of de-normalising smoking in Irish Society, including the implementation of the workplace smoking ban on the 29th March, 2004 and other legislative initiatives in the past decade.

Following on from ‘workplace smoking ban’ milestone ASH Ireland presented a paper and were first to raise the possibility of introducing a ban on smoking in cars transporting children with the then Minister for Health, Mary Harney. During his first few weeks in office, ASH Ireland again raised the possibility of introducing this legislation with Minister James Reilly and he gave a very positive indication in regard to our proposal. The initiative was then taken up by Senator John Crown and this intervention was hugely important in driving the ASH Ireland proposal to the approval of the legislation and its enactment.

In recent years ASH Ireland has focussed on a number of new initiatives that align perfectly with Tobacco Free Ireland’s manifesto, including:

Pursuing a campaign of tobacco free campuses for all third-level institutions

In 2012 ASH Ireland first approached the issue by corresponding with all the third level institutions in Ireland suggesting the idea of smokefree third level campuses. Later that year ASH hosted its first Smokefree Seminar, which was attended by representatives of five (5) third level institutions.

In 2013 ASH Ireland held meetings with UCD and Trinity College, Dublin. In October that year UCD students voted in favour of a Smokefree Campus and in 2014 UCD banned the sale of cigarettes on campus and made a commitment to make further moves towards a Smokefree Campus.

Also, in 2013 ASH issued a ‘Go Smokefree Toolkit’ to all third level institutions and in 2014 Westport College became the first third level institution in Ireland to go smokefree. Athlone IT followed in 2015 with a near total smokefree policy and in 2016 Trinity College announced Smokefree Areas on campus.

UCD has also begun to implement Smokefree Policies in specific outdoor areas on campus.

In 2016 ASH Ireland hosted an international Smokefree Seminar for all third level institutions and other stakeholders. The majority of third level institutions were represented at this seminar. The seminar was addressed by:

- Dr Patrick Doorley, Chairman, ASH Ireland
- Dr Luke Clancy, TobaccoFree Research Institute Ireland
- Mr Martin Murphy, Stadium Director, Aviva Stadium
- Professor Shane Allwright, Registrar, Trinity College, Dublin
- Dr Mr Mark Simpson, Head of Internal Communications, UCD
- Mr Kevin Ronan, President Students’ Union, Athlone IT
- Dr Des Cox, Chair, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Policy Group on Tobacco and Consultant Paediatrician at Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital
- Mr Michael Murphy, Principal, Westport College of Further Education

ASH Ireland has followed up with all attendees, and those who sent apologies, and will be seeking to continue the progression in this area.

Promote tobacco free campuses for all health care, governmental and sporting facilities

ASH Ireland has a long history of advocating for tobacco-free campuses in this area and has actively and recently engaged with Mental Health Institutions and sporting bodies (FAI, IRFU, GAA etc) in pursuit of this goal. ASH Ireland worked directly with the IRFU on the smokefree issue, during its construction of the AVIVA stadium, which is now entirely smokefree.

ASH has also lobbied government and the Department of Health and Minister for Health to make Leinster House smokefree. ASH Ireland also has a successful history of lobbying for price increases on tobacco products on an annual basis (budget).

Further develop the tobacco free playgrounds initiative in conjunction with local authorities by way of voluntary measures or by the introduction of bye-laws

In recent years ASH Ireland has been in contact with all county and city councils in regard to the introduction of 'smokefree' in all children's playgrounds, under their control. When we last elicited responses on this issue – the overall response was very positive. We have highlighted this fact in the media.

We have recently followed up with all the City and County Councils in Ireland on this initiative, which shows some 80% success to date.

Promote tobacco free environments and in particular parks and beaches in conjunction with the local authorities by voluntary measures or by the introduction of bye-laws

ASH Ireland has also engaged with the OPW in recent years to advocate for the introduction of smokefree environments in areas such as St Stephen's Green and Dublin Zoo and other national heritage sites. We have also highlighted the successes in France – Nice became the first French seaside resort to introduce a tobacco-free beach in 2012 – and Canada – The Vancouver Park Board Smoking Regulation bye-law prohibits smoking in and around all public parks – as evidence these goals are attainable, either through voluntary measures or the introduction of bye-laws.

ASH Ireland is delighted to contribute to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government's recently released '*Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework*' public consultation process.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact ASH Ireland.

Submitted on behalf of ASH Ireland by:



Dr Patrick Doorley, Chairman.

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