

## **Welcome and Introduction**

Andrew Lloyd and Donna Bone welcomed everyone to the forum and outlined the agenda.

## **Presentations**

The following notes are to be read in conjunction with the slide decks from the presenters.

## **Local Government Reorganisation - Karen Edwards, Executive Director, Rushmoor Borough Council**

### **Question**

How will services be delivered across the new council?

### **Answer**

Statutory services will continue to be delivered, nothing will be decommissioned. There are 413 different functions and services to consider. Conversations are starting now.

### **Question**

Will residents have a physical building to come into a reception for enquires?

### **Answer**

No decision has been made yet; it is a frequently asked question and will be taken into consideration.

### **Question**

What will happen with Mayoral elections?

### **Answer**

The North Hampshire Mayor would be a larger scale role focused on strategic planning and functions.

### **Question**

The number of councillors will drop at the end of the five year cycle, is this quite a significant reduction that our groups should be aware of?

**Answer**

At the moment we have three elected members per ward which is quite high. Guidance is that there should be no more than 100 councillors overall, meaning that we would go down to two per ward.

**Civil Society Covenant - Donna Bone, CEO, Rushmoor Voluntary Services**

No questions asked – if you have any please email [info@rvs.org.uk](mailto:info@rvs.org.uk)

**Smoke Free Hampshire - Corinne Puddicombe & Alison Bridge, Community Project Officers, Action Hampshire****Question**

Where do vapes come into this?

**Answer**

Vape usage has increased significantly and overtaken smoking. It can be a support aid to quit smoking. The long-term effects of vaping haven't been researched enough, and it can be quite an unregulated field. Hopefully more guidance will come in the future.

**Question**

Is vaping still considered a safe option by the service?

**Answer**

Smoke Free Hampshire do provide vapes as a way of helping to quit cigarettes. E-cigarettes are 95% less harmful than smoking.

**Question**

What is the impact of passive smoking on others?

**Answer**

Passive smoking has a huge impact, particularly on children. It affects their likelihood to smoke in the future as well as their health development. Smoke can linger in place for hours, so the recommendation is to have a smoke free policy for homes.

### **Question**

Do GPs know about this service?

### **Answer**

They will do, there are flyers at surgeries, and the campaign is quite wide across Hampshire

### **Question**

What is the percentage of smokers today compared to in the 1950s?

### **Answer**

40% of people smoked in 1950s so there is a significant reduction, but it is still the leading cause of preventable death

### **Comments**

VCSE organisations are getting involved to help spread the word about the programme, with young people attending colleges in groups to raise awareness. There is an opportunity for RVS member organisation to volunteer as Smoke Free Community Champions. Contact Heather if you are interested [cdm@rvs.org.uk](mailto:cdm@rvs.org.uk)

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill has now become law -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tobacco-and-vapes-bill-becomes-law>

### **Donna Bone – closing statement**

**Donna Bone closed the Voluntary Sector Forum and confirmed that the next VSF will be Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July at Hart District Council offices.**