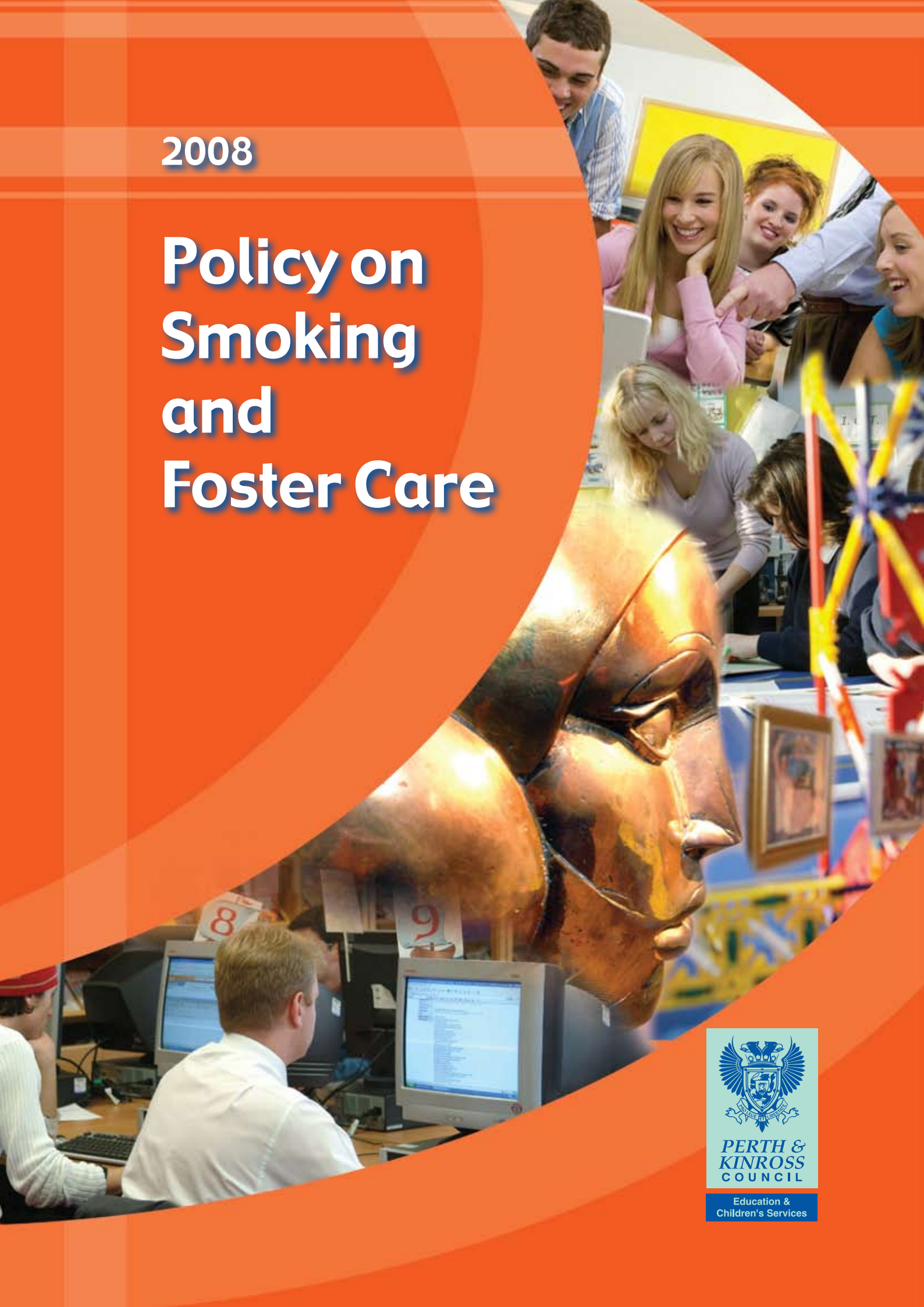


2008

Policy on Smoking and Foster Care



**PERTH &
KINROSS
COUNCIL**

Education &
Children's Services

Introduction

The policy on Smoking and Foster Care supports the following corporate and service objectives:

- ❑ *Integrated Children's Services Plan: We will promote Health Improvement for all Children in Perth and Kinross*
- ❑ *Corporate Plan: Healthy, Caring Communities*
- ❑ *Education & Children's Services: Improve Health and Wellbeing*
- ❑ *Education & Children's Services Policy Statement: Integrated Working*

It takes into account the introduction of the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005, and best practice guidance from BAAF (British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering: Practice Note 51, 2007). The results of a working group comprising representation from medical, health, social work staff and foster carers have formed the basis of this policy, together with consideration of managers and Elected Members. The aim is to promote the health and wellbeing of children who are Looked After and Accommodated, while at the same time ensuring that as wide a choice of placement as possible is available to meet the needs of children and young people from 0-18 years.

From the implementation date of this policy, the following conditions apply:

- 1 *Fostering and adoptive applicants for children up to the age of 11 years must be non-smokers. This also applies to other adults in the house.*
- 2 *Fostering applicants for children of all ages with a disability must be non-smokers: disability in this context means children who are often unable to play outside, all children with respiratory problems such as asthma and all those with heart disease or other medical condition deemed relevant by the medical adviser.*
- 3 *Foster carers who have successfully given up smoking should not be allowed to adopt or foster high risk groups (children under 5, children with a disability, chest problems, heart disease or other medical condition deemed relevant by the medical adviser) until they have stopped smoking for a minimum period of 12 months.*
- 4 *With effect from the implementation date of this policy, new applicants for young people aged 12 years upwards who smoke will require to smoke outwith the house.*
- 5 *Placement within a smoking household can only be made where the young person does not have a known respiratory problem; has given his/her consent and has parental consent.*

- 6 Existing foster carers who continue to smoke, and new foster carers of young people outwith the categories listed above, should be proactively encouraged to stop smoking. Information on smoking cessation classes can be provided by the Specialist Nurse for Looked After Children.
- 7 All foster carers who smoke should follow the guidelines issue by the National Safety Council (NSC) (2004) which include:
 - Don't smoke around children or permit others to do so
 - Keep your home smoke-free
 - Smoke only outside the house
 - Never smoke in the car with the windows closed, and never smoke in the car when children are present
- 8 Foster carers who smoke should receive extra information about the risks of burns and fires from smoking, and carer preparation sessions should include input on this policy and on all risks associated with smoking.
- 9 All carers should be advised against buying cigarettes for adolescents. Cigarettes should never be used as a reward for good behaviour.
- 10 Social Workers should carefully consider the importance of promoting non-smoking and should actively help all Looked After children to stop smoking. Social Workers should not smoke with young people, nor in the view of children.

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