Community Links (South Lanarkshire) is a supporter of [Scotland’s Charter for a tobacco-free generation](#). As an independent charitable organisation, they are committed to provide local agencies and service providers with the tools to equip people in their community with the knowledge to seek the best available resources for individual needs. This particularly includes providing information around the harm of smoking and second-hand smoke, and to ensure smokers have access to resources to stop smoking if they want to.

In the last year, Community Links has surpassed the goals of its Charter pledges. They instituted smoke-free areas, hosted events about the harm of tobacco, and continued to provide resources to support individuals in their efforts to stop smoking.
Promotion of Scotland’s Charter for a Tobacco Free Generation campaign around new tobacco policies

⇒ Working in partnership with NHS Lanarkshire, Community Links developed a promotional video for social media highlighting the NHS Stop Smoking Service and stories of service users who have successfully stopped as a result of using the service.

⇒ Community Links designed and developed key messages with young people from North and South Lanarkshire around tobacco use and the implementation of new tobacco-free policies on hospital grounds. These messages are played through portable speakers attached to installed smoke alarms in the hospital entrance. Once cigarette smoke enters the hospital entryway from outside, the smoke triggers the alarm and the young people’s voices begin playing, serving as a reminder of the new smoke-free hospital grounds policy and that smoking is harmful to health.

⇒ Community Links continues to promote the benefits of signing the Charter through their social media networks, e-newsletter and verbally to partners and colleagues.
Opportunities for families to learn about the dangers of tobacco & how to remain fit and healthy

In March 2018, Community Links organised a ‘Health and Wellbeing’ event in Burnbank, South Lanarkshire. Similar to the ‘Health and Wellbeing’ event hosted in Hillhouse, the Burnbank event was well attended by over 50 families with the aim of providing information and interactive resources related to smoking and second-hand-smoke.

Carbon monoxide breath testing was offered as a successful smoking intervention technique to help people stop smoking. Another individual provided further information about stop smoking services or pharmacies in the area that could also support individuals’ stop smoking attempts.

As a result of hosting this event and offering these services, one community member signed up to the stop smoking service at Boots pharmacy and has successfully quit smoking.
Acknowledgement of the availability of supportive resources

Community Links promotes NHS Lanarkshire and local pharmacy stop-smoking services within local communities and online.

They supported the #notafavour campaign in their local community and encouraged volunteers, board, and staff to participate and support it. Community links continues to display a variety of smoking and second-hand smoke-related information and resources in its offices, local community hubs, and via newsletters and social media outlets.

A set of smoker vs non-smoker lungs are often on display in staff offices and events. They are used as an interactive tool for people to learn about the harm of smoking and second-hand smoke. It reminds people about the importance of maintaining good health through making healthy choices.

For further information please contact:
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Pledge your support towards a tobacco-free generation:
www.ashscotland.org.uk/charter