**Hull Fostering - Policy**

**Electric Cigarettes / Vaping**

The aim of the policy is to provide guidelines around the use of E-Cigarettes (also known as Vaping) to provide a healthy and safe foster care environment for children and young people in placement, and for professionals and significant others who may visit the home. Foster carers need to be mindful that their behaviour provides a role model for the children in their care.

The policy of Hull Fostering, based on national guidelines, is that if carers smoke any form of cigarettes or other tobacco products they are prohibited from providing placements to children under the age of 5 years, and the same policy applies regarding the use of E- Cigarettes. There are some specific exceptions to this, such as when children are placed with Connected Persons foster carers (family or friends). If a child is placed in a smoking household then a clear written agreement should be made between the foster carer, fostering social worker, child’s social worker and health professionals where relevant, confirming that this is in the child’s overall best interests, and this should be to be placed on the child’s and the foster carer’s Liquid Logic records. Carers and other adult household members are expected to smoke outside of the house and smoking cessation is encouraged. There needs to be clear documentation within the foster household’s Safe Caring Policy and this is to be reviewed appropriately.

With regards to E- Cigarettes, additional factors to be considered in the foster household’s safe caring policy are:

* Where are the liquids stored – to prevent ingestion by young children
* Where is the E-Cigarette is charged
* Where is smoking prohibited

Children and young people must be given the choice of being placed with a non – smoking family; this includes placement with E–Cigarette users.

Carers who have successfully given up the use of E-Cigarettes for a continuous period of 1 year will be classed as habit- free, following a breathing test to verify this.