

Safeguarding Children Information Update
Live Consultations
Updated 14th November 2018

Open consultation - The sale of energy drinks to children (30/08/18)

Energy drinks are soft drinks that contain higher levels of caffeine than other soft drinks and may also contain a lot of sugar (though low- or zero-calorie energy drinks are available). Evidence suggests that excessive consumption of energy drinks by children is linked to negative health outcomes such as headaches, sleeping problems, irritation and tiredness.

Under current labelling rules, any drink, other than tea or coffee, that contains over 150mg of caffeine per litre requires a warning label saying: 'High caffeine content. Not recommended for children or pregnant or breast-feeding women'. Despite the warning labels, however, children are still consuming these drinks; recent evidence shows that more than two thirds of UK children aged 10-17, and nearly a quarter of those aged 6-9, are energy drink consumers.

We are hearing strong calls from parents, health professionals, teachers and some industry bodies and retailers for an end to sales of high-caffeine energy drinks to children. Many larger retailers and supermarkets have voluntarily stopped selling energy drinks to under-16s. While we recognise the efforts of retailers who have already acted, there are still many retailers who continue to sell these drinks to children. Legislating to end the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to children would create a level playing field for businesses and create consistency, helping ensure that children do not have access to energy drinks in any shop.

We are therefore consulting on ending the sale of energy drinks to children, but we are aware that the evidence base around these products and their effects is complex. We want to use this consultation to gather further views and evidence on the advantages and disadvantages of ending the sale of energy drinks to children, and on alternative options, before making a decision.

Closing date: 21st November 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ending-the-sale-of-energy-drinks-to-children>

<https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/obesity/sale-of-energy-drinks-to-children/>

Revised national standards for children in the youth justice system 2019

(29/10/18)

The national standards for youth justice services are for youth offending teams and other professionals working with children in the justice system.

The Youth Justice Board checks services to make sure these standards are met, on behalf of the Justice Secretary.

The current standards were published in April 2013 and the purpose of this consultation is to get feedback from the sector on revised standards.

These draft revised standards were created with support from a range of experts working in the sector, regulatory bodies, inspectorates and other government departments. They are based on our 'child first, offender second' principle and are outcomes focussed.

Closing date: 26th November 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revised-national-standards-for-children-in-the-youth-justice-system-2019>

Calorie labelling for food and drink served outside of the home (14/09/18)

The government is seeking views on its plans to make places serving food and drink outside of the home display calorie information.

Currently, nearly one in four children in England are obese or overweight by the time they start primary school, and this rises to one in three by the time they leave primary school. Obese children are more likely to become obese adults, and obesity in adulthood increases an individual's risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease, fatty liver disease and a number of cancers.

We know that it is regular overconsumption of a relatively small number of calories that leads to individuals becoming overweight or obese. Research tells us that it is likely that eating out frequently, including eating takeaway meals, contributes to this gradual overconsumption of calories.

To make sure that people have access to clear and accurate information about the calorie content of the food and drink that they and their families are eating when dining out, we intend to introduce legislation to make calorie labelling compulsory in the out-of-home sector. This includes, for example, restaurants, cafes, pubs and takeaways, as well as online businesses that sell food or drink for takeaway or home delivery that is ready to be eaten or drunk.

Making this information available can help people to make informed and healthy choices for themselves and their families and regulate their energy intake and that of their children effectively. This will contribute to efforts to reduce rates of children being overweight and obese.

We know that the effectiveness of making calorie labelling compulsory will rest on how well it is implemented, and especially on making sure that requirements are easy for businesses to understand and implement. Through this consultation we invite views on the details of what we are proposing, to help us make sure it works in practice.

Closing date: 7th December 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/calorie-labelling-for-food-and-drink-served-outside-of-the-home>

<https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/obesity/mandating-calorie-labelling/>

Council Tax exemptions for care leavers (07/11/18)

As part of our commitment to improving the fairness of Council Tax, we are consulting on proposals to exempt care leavers from paying council tax until their 25th birthday.

Closing date: 19th December 2018

<https://beta.gov.wales/council-tax-exemptions-care-leavers>

<https://gov.wales/newsroom/finance1/2018/181107-young-care-leavers-to-be-exempt-from-paying-council-tax/?lang=en>