

Call for evidence: Underage Vaping in London

July 2026

The London Assembly Health Committee has launched an investigation into underage vaping in London. The objectives of the investigation are:

- To understand to what extent underage vaping in London is a problem, by exploring its prevalence and impact
- To ask what action London boroughs are taking to tackle underage vape sales
- To ask what impact the Tobacco and Vapes Act could have on underage vaping and explore any potential challenges to implementation in London
- To explore young people's attitudes on vaping in London
- To explore what further action the Mayor, Government and boroughs should take to tackle underage vaping in London

The Committee would like to invite those who have knowledge and awareness of underage vape use in London to provide written evidence to the Committee. The information you provide will help to inform the work of the Committee and influence its recommendations.

The Committee is keen to hear from public health agencies, health professionals, academics, schools, education bodies, charities, advocacy groups, local authorities, and Trading Standards and licensing professionals.

¹ ASH, [Use of vapes \(e-cigarettes\) among young people in Great Britain](#), July 2026

² Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, [Nicotine vaping in England: 2022 evidence update main findings](#), 29 September 2022

³ NHS, [Young people and vaping](#)

Background

- Almost 20 per cent of 11-17 nationally report they have tried vaping and 6 per cent 'currently vape'. Data suggests underage vaping increased significantly between 2021 and 2023, coinciding with the growth of disposable e-cigarettes.¹
- Evidence generally suggests that in the short to medium term, vaping poses a small fraction of the risks of smoking.² However, the long-term effects of vaping are not yet known. According to the NHS, children are 'more sensitive' to the effects of vaping due to their developing lungs and brains.³
- Although the sale of vapes to under-18s is illegal, evidence suggests underage sales are common.⁴ Research also indicates that illicit vape products, including those containing toxic levels of chemicals, are being used young people.⁵
- The Tobacco and Vapes Act, passed in May 2026, aims to reduce vaping and prevent the next generation from ever being able to buy cigarettes.⁶ One of the key changes in the Act is the introduction of a mandatory licensing scheme for all retailers selling vapes.⁷

⁴ NCST, [Patterns and prevalence of vaping in young people](#), 2025

⁵ The Standard, [London's illegal vape hotspots: Interactive map reveals millions of devices seized worth tens of millions of pounds](#), 15 February 2026

⁶ LGA, [Tobacco and Vapes Act FAQs](#), April 2026

⁷ LGA, [Tobacco and Vapes Act FAQs](#), April 2026

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How to respond

The Committee welcomes any evidence relevant to the following questions:

1. To what extent is underage vaping a problem in London, and what impact is it having on children and young people?
2. What are the main factors driving underage vaping in London and how are young people accessing vapes?
3. What evidence is there about the health impacts of unregulated vaping products?
4. What impact are the measures in the Tobacco and Vapes Act likely to have on underage vaping and the underage use of other nicotine products, such as nicotine pouches, in London?
5. What opportunities and challenges do you foresee in implementing the measures in the Tobacco and Vapes Act related to vaping in London?
8. What resourcing challenges might London boroughs have in monitoring and enforcing the measures related to vaping and other nicotine products, such as nicotine pouches, in the Tobacco and Vapes Act?
9. What additional support, powers or resources are needed to ensure the successful implementation of the measures related to vaping in the Tobacco and Vapes Act?

Written submissions should be sent to scrutiny@london.gov.uk with 'Health Committee call for evidence' as the subject line. The deadline is **30 September 2026**. You do not need to answer all questions - please answer only those that are most relevant to you or your organisation.

What we will do with the responses

The submissions will be used to inform the London Assembly Health Committee's investigation. Responses may be used and quoted in a report or output from the Committee.

In the large majority of circumstances, we will publish written submissions and the names of the individuals or organisations that submitted them online. This is to ensure transparency about what evidence the Committee has received. Exceptions to this are usually applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If there is a reason that you would like your evidence not to be published with your name (submitted anonymously) or not to be published at all (submitted confidentially), please let us know and the Committee will consider the request. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required

Additional questions for London boroughs, Trading Standards professionals and relevant associations.

6. What is your assessment of the scale and nature of underage vape sales in London?
7. What are the main challenges facing local authorities and Trading Standards teams in tackling underage vape sales and the sale of illicit or non-compliant vaping products?

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to release non-personally identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

About the Health Committee

The London Assembly consists of 25 elected members, who publicly examine the policies and programmes of the Mayor of London and relevant agencies through committee meetings, plenary sessions, site visits and investigations.

The Health Committee carries out investigations into health and wellbeing issues in London. It scrutinises the work of the Mayor on health issues, and health issues and policy in London more broadly. It routinely publishes findings and recommendations from its investigations.

The members of the committee are:

- Krupesh Hirani AM (Chair)
- Emma Best AM (Deputy Chair)
- Marina Ahmad AM
- Andrew Boff AM
- Alex Wilson AM
- Carolien Russell AM

Contact us

Email submissions	scrutiny@london.gov.uk Please use 'Health Committee call for evidence' as the subject title
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