**Response to RCP report**

1. “The Chief Medical Officer and the Directors of Public Health across Scotland welcome this report and its overall conclusions as part of the growing body of evidence on e-cigarettes.
2. “There is now wide recognition that e-cigarettes are significantly less harmful than smoking and it would be better if smokers used them exclusively instead of tobacco. This report highlights that e-cigarettes are useful for public health purposes only as a route towards quitting smoking tobacco completely.
3. “Although there is still a lot we do not know about e-cigarettes and they are not risk free, this report emphasises that risks are significantly lower than continued tobacco use and, therefore, we need to take a pragmatic approach. Individuals coming to smoking cessation services should be informed on different ways they can quit, which are most effective, different harm reduction options, and supported to quit using a method which suits them best, and this should include an e-cigarette if this is the preferred treatment option along with behavioural support to quit.”
4. “There is a balance to be struck between encouraging e-cigarette use with current smokers and protecting children and young people under 18 from advertising and promotion. Whilst there is currently no evidence that describes e-cigarettes acting as a gateway to taking up smoking, we (nonetheless) support the implementation of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 as a prudent measure from which we will learn and also add to the evidence base.”

“We recognise the importance of developing smoke-free policies in a range of settings including prisons, mental health, local authorities and the NHS; harm reduction approaches such as the use of e- cigarettes should be considered in these contexts.

1. “The report highlights that current policies have been more effective in preventing uptake rather than helping smokers quit. There is still much to do to address tobacco use in Scotland, and in particular the fact that smoking is most problematic in the least affluent parts of society. We should take measures that particularly benefit children and adults in deprived circumstances. Measures include preventing people from starting smoking and helping smokers living in the poorest circumstances to quit.” We recognise that it is a combination of tobacco control measures that will achieve longer term success.”