

**News release for immediate use  
Welsh text below**

**Datganiad newyddion i'w ddefnyddio'n syth  
Testun Cymraeg isod**

### **Smoking ban will “benefit thousands with long term medical conditions”**

Thousands of people across Wales living with long term illnesses will benefit from the smoking ban this April.

The ban on smoking in enclosed public places in Wales, due to come into force on 2 April 2007, will bring major benefits to thousands of people with long term medical conditions. That's the message from the Welsh Long Term Conditions Alliance, a coalition of some of the leading health charities in Wales, set up last year.

Around one third of adults in Wales – an estimated 800,000 people – have at least one long term medical condition, many of which can be worsened by exposure to tobacco smoke:

- Smoking is known to be harmful to people with diabetes, and may also increase the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes in the first place.
- 79% of people with asthma report that their asthma is worsened by other people's smoke.
- Over 40% of people with COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) say they do not visit restaurants and pubs because of the impact that smoking has on their condition.
- People who have smoked have about twice the risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis as people who have never smoked, and smoking may also increase the severity of rheumatoid arthritis.
- Smoking is estimated to cause over 30,000 deaths a year from heart and circulatory diseases in the UK.

Nia Jeffreys of Asthma UK Cymru said, “Tobacco smoke excludes people with asthma from public places, and 40% of adults with asthma say they avoid smoky pubs and restaurants. It is excellent news that people with asthma will now be protected from the terrible effect of other people's smoke on their health.”

Simon Blackburn of Macmillan Cancer Support said, “Evidence shows that there is a 24% increased risk of developing lung cancer in non-smokers exposed to second hand tobacco smoke. The ban will have a significant impact on this major health problem.”

Delyth Lloyd of the British Heart Foundation (BHF) in Wales added, “The ban will be an historic milestone for the health of the nation. Not only will it be good news for non-smokers, who will be protected from second hand smoke, but it represents the perfect time for smokers across Wales to attempt to give up for good.”

Speaking on behalf of the Welsh Long Term Conditions Alliance, Andrew Misell of Diabetes UK said, “Tobacco smoke is linked to a range of long term health problems, and can significantly worsen pre-existing conditions. The Welsh Long Term Conditions Alliance welcomes moves to reduce smoking in Wales and to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke. This ban is a major step towards achieving these goals, and we look forward to further measures from the Assembly to reduce smoking in Wales.”

**ENDS.**

**For more information, and for case studies of people with long term conditions, contact Andrew Misell at Diabetes UK Cymru on 029 2066 8276 or 07764 905954, or e-mail [andrew.misell@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:andrew.misell@diabetes.org.uk); or Delyth Lloyd at BHF on 029 2038 2406 or 07885 435655, or 07764 290381 (out of office hours), or e-mail [newsdesk@bhf.org.uk](mailto:newsdesk@bhf.org.uk)**

### Notes to editors

- The Welsh Long Term Conditions Alliance is a coalition of charities working to promote the interests of people with long term medical conditions in Wales.
- Asthma UK Cymru is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the 260,000 people in Wales whose lives are affected by asthma.
- Arthritis Care provides information and self-management support to people with arthritis and also campaigns for improved services on their behalf.
- The British Lung Foundation is the only UK charity working for everyone affected by any type of lung disease.
- Diabetes UK is the charity for people with diabetes. They fund medical research, provide information and support to people with diabetes and campaign on their behalf.
- Macmillan Cancer Support improves the lives of people affected by cancer. They provide practical, medical, emotional and financial support and push for better cancer care.
- The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is leading the battle against heart and circulatory disease – the UK's biggest killer.

### Gwaharddiad smygu “o fudd i filoedd ag afiechydon parhaol”

Bydd miloedd o bobl trwy Gymru sy'n byw gyda salwch parhaol yn elwa o'r gwaharddiad ar smygu o fis Ebrill ymlaen.

Bydd y gwaharddiad ar smygu mewn manau cyhoeddus cae'dig, sy'n dod i rym 2 Ebrill 2007, o fudd mawr i filoedd o bobl gyda chyflyrau meddygol parhaol. Dyna'r neges gan Gynghrair Afiechydon Parhaol Cymru, coalisiwn o rai o brif elusennau iechyd Cymru, a sefydlwyd y llynedd.

Mae tua thraean o oedolion Cymru – sef tua 800,000 o bobl – yn byw gydag un cyflwr meddygol parhaol o leiaf, a llawer o'r cyflyrau hyn yn cael eu gwaethygu gan anadlu mwg tybaco:

- Gwyddom fod smygu yn niweidiol iawn i bobl â diabetes, ac mae'n bosibl ei fod hefyd yn cynyddu'r perygl i rywun ddatblygu diabetes Math 2 yn y lle cyntaf.
- Mae 79% o bobl ag asthma yn dweud bod eu cyflwr yn cael ei waethygu gan fwg pobl eraill.
- Mae mwy na 40% o bobl â COPD (clefyd ysgyfeiniol rhwystrol cronig) yn dweud na fyddant yn mynychu bwytaï a thafarndai oherwydd effaith smygu ar eu cyflwr.
- Mae pobl sydd wedi smygu tua dwywaith yn fwy tebyg o ddatglybu'r crydcymalau gwynegol na phobl sydd heb smygu erioed, ac mae'n bosibl bod smygu hefyd yn gwaethygu'r crydcymalau gwynegol.
- Mae'n debyg bod smygu yn achosi mwy na 30,000 o farwolaethau o glefydau'r galon a'r cylchrediad yn y Deyrnas Unedig bob blwyddyn.

Dyweddodd Nia Jeffreys o Asthma UK Cymru, “Mae mwg tybaco'n cau pobl ag asthma allan o lefydd cyhoeddus, ac mae 40% o oedolion ag asthma'n dweud eu bod nhw'n osgoi bwytaï a thafarndai myglyd. Newyddion gwych yw e y bydd pobl ag asthma bellach yn cael eu diogelu rhag effaith ofnadwy mwg pobl eraill ar eu hiechyd.”

Dywedodd Simon Blackburn o Gymorth Canser Macmillan, “Mae’r dystiolaeth yn dangos bod 24% mwy o berygl i bobl sydd ddim yn smygu ddatblygu canser yr ysgyfaint os byddan nhw’n anadlu mwg pobl eraill. Caiff y gwaharddiad effaith sylweddol ar y broblem iechyd bwysig hon.”

Ychwanegodd Delyth Lloyd o Sefydliad Prydeinig y Galon (BHF) yng Nghymru, “Carreg filltir bwysig yn hanes iechyd y genedl fydd y gwaharddiad. Yn ogystal â bod yn newyddion da i’r rhai sydd ddim yn smygu, a fydd yn cael eu diogelu rhag mwg ail-law, fe fydd yn gyfle gwych i smygwyr trwy Gymru drïo rhoi’r gorau i’r arfer am byth.”

Gan siarad ar ran Cynghrair Afiechydon Parhaol Cymru, dywedodd Andrew Misell o Diabetes UK Cymru, “Mae cyswllt clir rhwng mwg tybaco ac amryw broblemau iechyd parhaol, ac mae’n gallu gwaethygu gryn dipyn ar afiechydon sydd eisoes gan rywun. Mae Cynghrair Afiechydon Parhaol Cymru yn croesawu mesurau i leihau smygu yng Nghymru ac i leihau faint o fwg pobl eraill mae pobl yn gorfod ei anadlu. Cam mawr tuag at yr amcanion hyn yw’r gwaharddiad hwn, ac edrychwn ymlaen at weld rhagor o fesurau gan y Cynulliad i leihau smygu yng Nghymru.”

## **DIWEDD.**

**I gael gwybod mwy, ac i siarad â phobl ac afiechydon parhaol am eu profiadau, cysylltwch ag Andrew Misell, Diabetes UK Cymru ar 029 2066 8276 neu 07764 905954, neu e-bostiwr [andrew.misell@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:andrew.misell@diabetes.org.uk); neu Delyth Lloyd, BHF ar 029 2038 2406 neu 07885 435655, neu 07764 290381 (y tu allan i oriau’r swyddfa), neu e-bostiwr [newsdesk@bhf.org.uk](mailto:newsdesk@bhf.org.uk)**

## **Nodiadau i olygyddion**

- Coalisiwn o elsunau yn gweithio i hybu buddiannau pob sy’n byw gyda chyflwr meddygol parhaol yng Nghymru yw Cynghrair Afiechydon Parhaol Cymru.
- Mae Asthma UK Cymru yn gweithio i wella iechyd a lles y 260,000 o bobl yng Nghymru y mae asthma’n effeithio ar eu bywydau.
- Mae Gofal Arthritis yn darparu gwybodaeth a chefnogaeth hunan-reolaeth i bobl ag arthritis a hefyd yn ymgyrchu ar eu rhan dros well gwasanaethau.
- Sefydliad Prydeinig yr Ysgyfaint yw’r unig elusen yn y Deyrnas Unedig sy’n gweithio dros bawb sy’n byw gydag unrhyw fath o glefyd yr ysgyfaint.
- Diabetes UK yw’r elusen i bobl â diabetes. Maent yn ariannu ymchwil feddygol, yn rhoi gwybodaeth, yn cefnogi pobl â diabetes, ac yn ymgyrchu ar eu rhan.
- Mae Cymorth Canser Macmillan yn gwella bywydau pobl sy’n byda gyda chanser. Maent yn darparu cefnogaeth ymarferol, feddygol, emosiynol ac ariannol, ac yn pwysu dros well gofal canser.
- Mae Sefydliad Prydeinig y Galon (BHF) yn arwain y frwydr yn ebyrn clefydau’r gallon a chylchrediad y gwaed – sy’n lladd mwy o bobl y Deyrnas Unedig na’r un clefyd arall.