A Journey of a Vaping Political Party from Conception to GFN

L.Bryan, A.Cotthi, B.Evans P.Gill, J.Harding, R.Jenkins, R.Mann

Tobacco Products Directive is passed by European Commission and includes restrictions on vaping products and promotion. Main idea of the political party was to bypass aspects of TPD2 which include promotion of vaping as THR avenue.

Vapers In Power became an officially registered party in the UK on 04/07/2014. Becoming the worlds first political party specific to vaping.

Began weekly Calls to Action and posted them across 5 vaping forums, on Twitter and in 60+ vaping Facebook groups.

CALL TO ACTION

Through crowdfunding VIP managed to field 2 candidates in the UK General Election on May 7th. Combined results 152. Much media coverage was generated.

‘Vapers in Power’ political party to field two general election candidates in protest against EU e-cigarette laws

Later in May 2015 we attended protests against TPD2 as a part of a European event.

Attended Dept of Health, UK as part of petition handover group. A free speech session followed at Speakers Corner in Hyde Park London

Attended E-cig Summit 2015. We found it very eye-opening as our first public health conference.

December 2015 saw the launch of WriteToVape a dedicated email writing website to contact politicians at all levels of representation across the country. Over 1200 emails sent to date.

Organised a letter writing campaign to support Lord Callanan’s fatal motion to remove the UK’s TPD2. All 803 members of the UK’s House of Lords were contacted. Also helped to promote the associated petition.

Conception

December 2013

Feb 2014

June 2014

July 2014

Feb 2015

Apr 2015

May 2015

Aug 2015

Sept 2015

Nov 2015

Dec 2015

Mar 2016

Apr 2016

May 2016

June 2016

VIP was born out of a discussion started on the UKVapers forum on 18/12/13 which suggested putting a candidate up for election against Linda McAvan, the TPD2 rapporteur.

June saw the announcement of Public Health Wales Bill. Current members attended Welsh Assembly consultation meetings and held protests against restrictions on vaping.

Marked Liam Bryan’s first hustings appearance as the Vapers in Power Parliamentary candidate for Kingswood. Billy Marsden stood for Barnsley East.

We designed & distributed “Nothing” leaflets and posters to vapers and vape shops. This outlined the upcoming restrictions & gave information about advocacy campaigns.

Took part in Advocacy presentations at VapeJam UK 2015

We attended VapeFest UK as the first officially permitted advocacy group where we held talks on advocacy.

We also launched our membership scheme. We now have over 140 members.

Restrictions on vaping in Wales fell by a casting vote. PH Bill Wales was dropped on 16th March 2016.

Parties, campaigners and traders react to failed e-cig ban

The Public Health Bill, which included proposals to ban the use of e-cigarettes in some public places, has failed. It comes after Health Minister said it was withdrawing its support of the Bill.

In April ‘16 we organised an advocacy stand at VapeJam UK 2 where we gave presentations in collaboration with NNA.

Two VIP candidates stood in the Welsh Assembly Election 2016. Lee Woollis for Cardiff West (96 votes) & Berrnice Evans for the South Wales Central region (470 votes). We crowdfunded the deposits and also raised enough money to print 195,000 leaflets to go through the doors of households in the area.