

Overview of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill: why it is still a key priority

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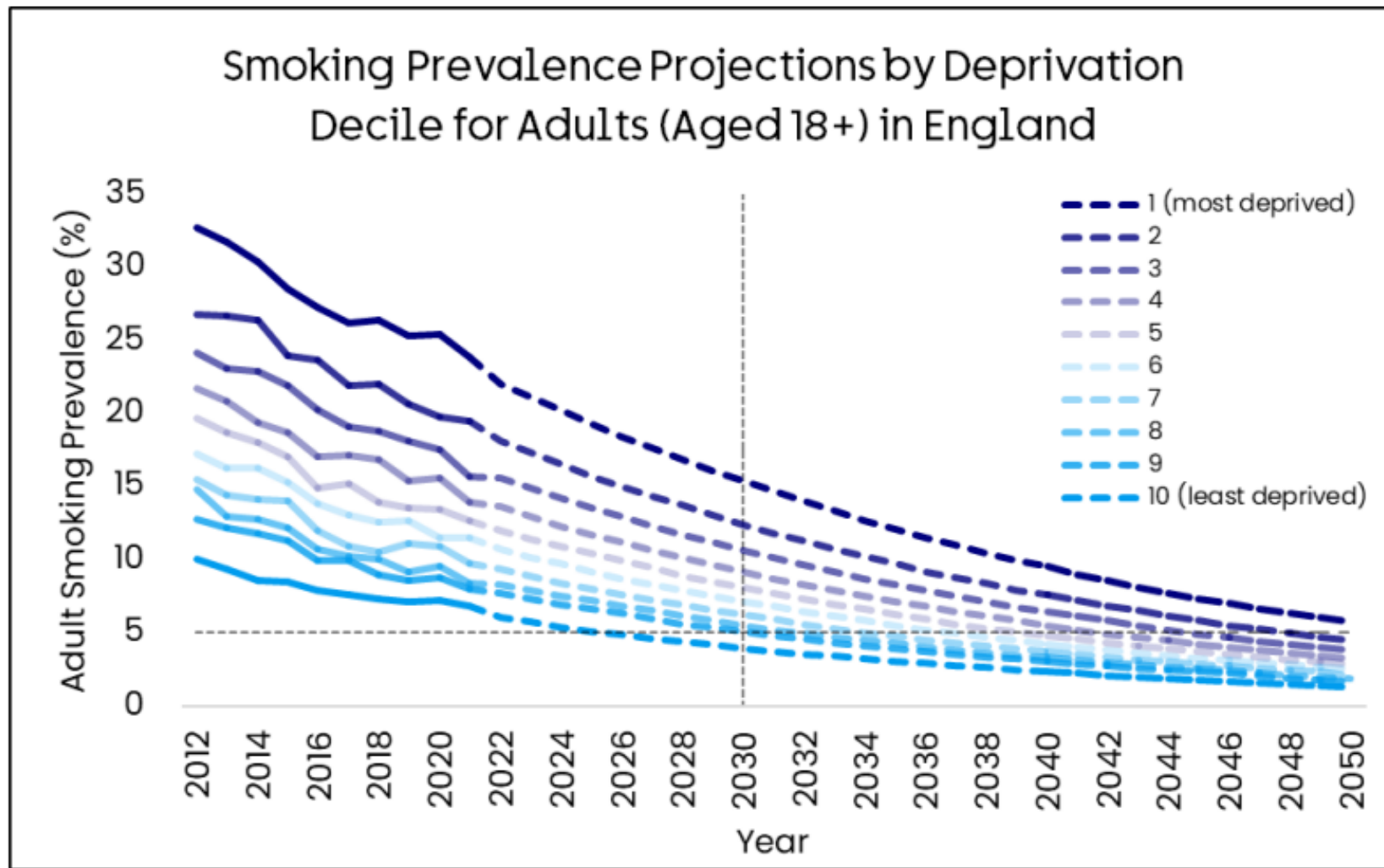
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ASH receives funding from:



ash.
action on smoking and health

Progress to reduce smoking is too slow



- Least deprived hit 5% ~2025.
- Most deprived hit 5% **25** **years later**

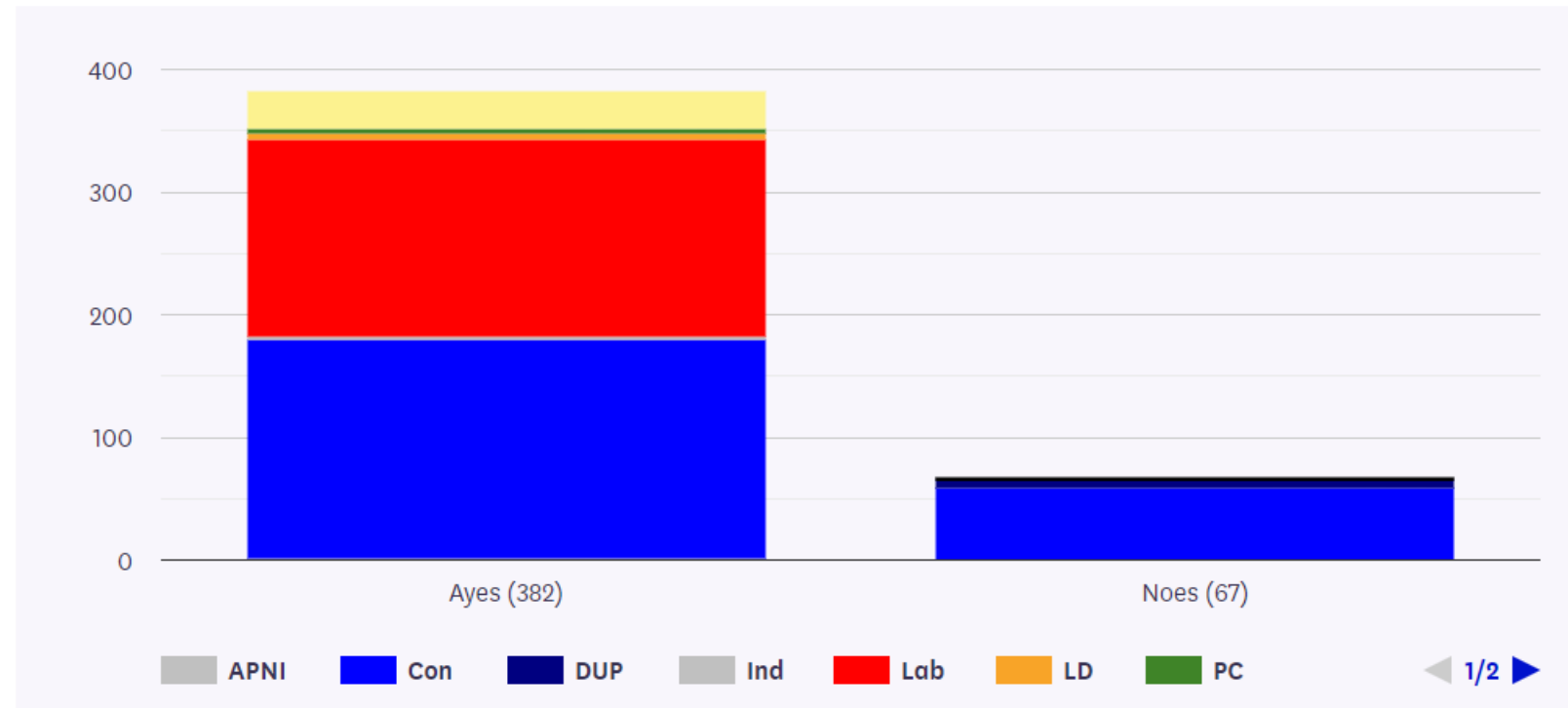
Legislative proposals pre-election

- Tobacco and Vapes Bill:
 - Generational ban on sale of tobacco for those born after 2009
 - Additional vaping powers (defined in regulations)
 - Further enforcement powers
- Disposable vapes ban:
 - DEFRA regulations.
 - Due to come in April 2025
- E-liquid tax
 - HMRC
 - Keep price difference with tobacco
 - Due to come in October 2026

Tobacco and Vapes Bill

- Strong cross party support at second reading
- Completed committee stage
- Fell due to the election

Votes by party





FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK



British Heart
Foundation

Strong support from the health sector



Royal College
of Physicians



Royal College
of Surgeons
of England



Royal College of
Obstetricians &
Gynaecologists



Why it matters

- Smoking is uniquely lethal, killing [two thirds](#) of lifelong smokers, and therefore requires a unique regulatory approach.
- Smoking is the leading cause of premature death and disability, responsible for [half the difference](#) in healthy life expectancy between rich and poor.
- Most adult smokers started smoking as children and every day around [350 young adults](#) aged 18-25 start smoking regularly, risking being trapped into a lifetime of addiction and premature death.
- [Two out of three](#) people who try one cigarette become daily smokers, and [three-quarters of smokers](#) would never have started if they had the choice again.

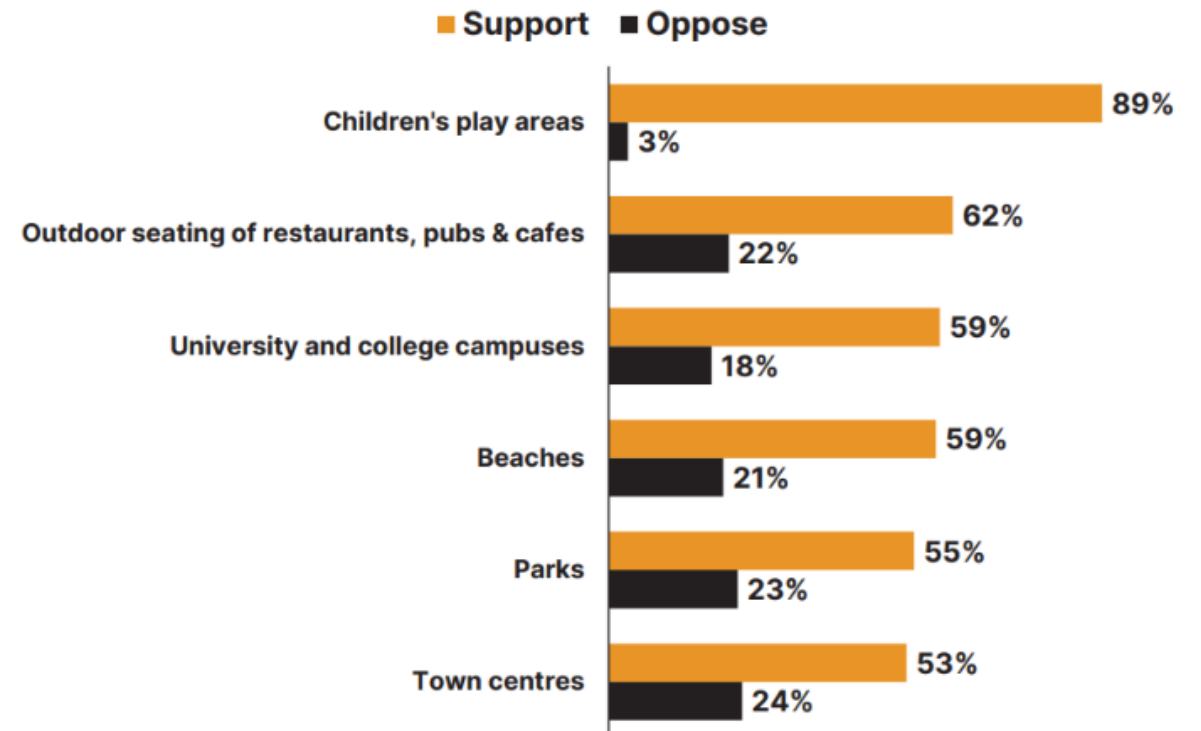
What else?

- Smokefree generation still likely to be center-piece
- Modified vaping regulations to reflect amendments at committee e.g. powers to regulate design of products not just brands, prohibit vending machines etc
- Possible new measures
 - Licensing of tobacco and vaping retailers
 - Extension of smokefree legislation

Smokefree extension

- Leak: powers in the Bill to extend to outdoor places
- Detail will come via consultation but possible places:
 - Hospitality
 - Hospitals
 - Childrens play areas
- Extensions publicly popular in many places
- Impact on hospitality? Indoor ban had impact limited (despite industry claims)
- Impact of outdoor SHS? Lower levels of exposure but still toxic – particular for those with existing conditions, children etc

Figure 6. Public support for, and opposition to, banning smoking in specific outdoor areas, 2022 (YouGov)



Roadmap to a smokefree country

- Labour pledge in Health Mission
- Now is the time to maximise opportunity of legislation with an ambitious national strategy
- Set a vision for rapid reductions in current smoking
- Short term spending review must protect pledged investment.
- Medium term further investment for rapid declines.



Spending pledged by last government

Additional funding - what	Value
New funding for LA stop smoking support	£70 million from 24/25 committed for 5 years
Swap to stop scheme	£45 million over two years
New enforcement funding	£30 million from 24/25 for 5 years
National mass marketing campaigns	£15 million from 24/25 for 5 years
National financial incentive scheme for pregnant women	£10 million over two years

Investment in NHSE:

- Maternity
- Acute
- Mental health

Gaps from projected budgets plus community mental health investment

What is needed

- **Return the Bill** quickly:
 - Vaping regulations still need consultation and development
 - Smokefree generation changes need effective communication and enforcement strategy
- **Protection of planned investment** to reduce numbers who currently smoke
- A **Roadmap to a Smokefree Country** with an ambitious plan to reduce smoking rapidly in this parliament

