



# YOUNG LIBERALS CONFERENCE SHEFFIELD



# SCRUTINY

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# Janey Little

she/her

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## Federal Chair

Representative to Federal Board  
Representative to Federal People  
and Development Committee

## Executive Duties

1. Organise and chair executive meetings;
2. Ensure the Young Liberals works towards its Objectives as set out in the Constitution;
3. Take the initiative to ensure the Executive's objectives are achieved, including supporting other executive members;
4. Liaise with LDHQ to ensure that staff funded by Young Liberals are line managed in accordance with the requirements of the Organisation; and
5. Be the principal public and internal party representative of Young Liberals.

## Executive Report

### Welcome Back!

So much has happened since the last Young Liberals conference!

I don't need to spell out that Bournemouth was a huge success: passing the period poverty motion with Lambeth, securing voting seats on Federal Conference Committee (FCC) and Federal Policy Committee (FPC), and winning the fight to keep the party's commitment to national housing targets all in one conference was phenomenal. It was an exemplary moment illustrating what we can achieve when we all come together and work hard.

There are a huge number of thank-yous to give out following Bournemouth but here are some honorary mentions: thank you to the previous executive for keeping things moving and keeping me in check during Bournemouth, thank you to Liberal Reform and Lib Dems for Housing for working with us on housing targets, thank you to Stephen Robinson for fighting the fight with us and giving an extraordinary summation speech, thank you to those of you who worked on my Lib Dem Voice article or your own in the run up to Bournemouth, thank you to those of you who



# Janey Little

handed out the leaflets we printed last-minute, thank you to those of you who signed the amendment and got your local parties on board, thank you to those of you who voted online and recruited online attendees, and of course thank you to everyone who spoke on or supported our constitutional amendment (which we mustn't forget about!)

The legacy of Bournemouth means that we have incredible opportunity between now and the general election. The level of respect we hold in the party has grown, people take our priorities seriously, and the party can't get away with ignoring us. Right now is a time for us to make the most of this opportunity and secure our place as a strong force in the party.

## The Executive & Elections Committee

The Executive started the term off strong with handover at LDHQ. Many thanks to Chloe (HVP) for helping me to plan the day, and to both Chloe and Huw (HVP) for their assistance in running handover. More recently, Will (Membership Development Officer) led a fantastic executive awayday on 27th January, where we did several teambuilding activities and discussed our priorities over the next year. We are working together well as a team and we share a vision for the direction of the organisation over the next year.

Huw has also been a tremendous help in guiding myself and the wider executive on how to better approach stakeholder management. He put together a stakeholder map template for the executive as well as a meetings log, which has helped us to better manage our relationships within the party and externally. I particularly find the meetings log a useful tool in seeing what other executive members are getting up to and what forms of collaboration and dialogue are ongoing.

The new cohort of HVPs have all been incredibly helpful and have contributed their skills and expertise in differing ways. I chat to most of the HVPs on a fairly regular basis.

A new part of the Chair's role is chairing the new Elections Committee. Elections Committee was formulated after I trialled a General Election Working Group last year, and the committee has been a useful forum through which we can coordinate campaigning activities. Rebecca (NPO) very kindly created a shared internal calendar, which is used federally and by state and regional chairs to pencil in action days and events so that we can all see what's happening when and avoid accidental unwanted clashes. This is a super useful resource and it helps me to avoid scatter brain moments. We are so far coordinating effectively between Elections Committee and the state and regional chairs, but I hope to work with people over the coming weeks to further improve and make sure that anyone in need of support receives it.

The other aspect of Elections Committee is Young & Winning. Miguel and Nicholas (Elections Officers) did most of the legwork for the first round, then I chaired the decisions meeting. For the second round, we have agreed that Miguel and Nicholas will take the lead. Do put an application!

I have enjoyed attending a variety of Young Liberals action days, and I would encourage people to come along to one if you haven't before! Here are the action days I've attended so far:

- Chelmsford, 2nd December



# Janey Little

- Newbury, 9th December
- Winchester, 20th January
- Southampton, 21st January
- Esher & Walton, 3rd February

## Federal Board & Federal People and Development Committee (FPDC)

I attended both Federal Board meetings that have taken place so far in this executive term (20th November, 13th January). The Federal Board awayday in January was a particularly exciting day where we discussed the party's strategic priorities and reflected as a group on progress. In addition, as part of my safeguarding work on FPDC, Claire Hudson (FPDC Chair) and I brought a proposal to Federal Board around looking into the possibility of getting DBS checks done for federal staff who work with members, and the proposal was agreed by the Board. Federal Board is a relatively tight-knit group and we have a valued voice on the Board.

A particular focus on mine so far this term has been my work on FPDC, where I take the YL seat. Currently, I am a member of the diversity sub-group, the dual membership working group, and I am the chair of the safeguarding working group. The DBS proposal was the first major win for us through FPDC so far this year, but with the large number of opportunities and support we have on FPDC, the committee is a place where we can make a real impact and pursue our objectives and priorities on the federal level.

## Party Relationships

We are in a particularly interesting place within the wider party at the moment, having gained a lot of respect following our work during and in the run up to Bournemouth conference. My priority is to ensure that we capitalise on this as much as possible and work to further improve our place within the party.

I would particularly like to thank Lucas (Events Officer) and Ulysse (Policy Officer) for their work as the YL Federal Conference Committee (FCC) and Federal Policy Committee (FPC) reps respectively. The YL FCC seat is brand new following Bournemouth, and we now finally have voting rights on FPC, and both Lucas and Ulysse have worked hard to demonstrate that we deserve these seats.

Some forms of engagement of note that I've had with the wider party not already mentioned include:

- **Wendy Chamberlain, 10th November:** Wendy and I met to discuss how YL and the Parliamentary Party can work together better
- **South Central Conference, 25th November:** I attended South Central conference and did a speech on why engaging with young people is important. I received a lot of positive feedback from members across the region and people felt they learned from it
- **Candy Piercy, 3rd January:** Candy and I discussed potential ideas and opportunities relating to training for Young Liberals members
- **YL/ALDC/LGA, 10th January:** I met with Tim Pickstone (ALDC Chief Executive),

# Janey Little

Chris White (Principal Councillors' Representative to Federal Board), Joe Harris (LGA Liberal Democrat Group Leader), and Terry Stacey (Head of the Liberal Democrat Office at the LGA), to talk about potential opportunities for collaboration

- **Nichole Turner & Emily Baker, 16th January:** Emily (Accessibility, Diversity, and Standards Officer) and I met with Nichole Turner, the Federal Diversity and Inclusion Manager, to talk about our diversity and inclusion priorities and how we can work together
- **Mark Park (Federal Party President)** and I keep in touch regularly and have zoom calls to catch-up every month or two.

## External Opportunities

Some external opportunities we've had recently have included:

**Westminster Foundation for Democracy, 1st November:** Along with Sean and Kai (International Officers), I met with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy to learn about each other's work

**Generation Rent, 16th November:** I attended the Generation Rent manifesto launch event in the House of Lords, where they talked about voter registration and voting patterns among private renters

I thank Ulysse for attending the NUS manifesto launch event in the House of Commons on 30th January – I had originally intended to go but ended up unable to fit it in my diary, so do ask Ulysse if you have any questions about the event.

## Media & Articles

- I was interviewed by POLITICO and as a result I was quoted in "Does Britain still care about Brexit? Even the (Brexit-hating) Lib Dems aren't sure" (26th Jan): <https://www.politico.eu/article/britain-brexit-lib-dems-uk-eu-ed-davey-elections/>
- At the time of writing, I have submitted an article to Lib Dem Voice titled "What's next for the Young Liberals?"

## Thank You!

I'd like to end my report by thanking everyone for working so incredibly hard recently and for coming to conference! Every single one of you contributes towards our success. Get campaigning!

# Katharine Macy

they/them

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## Secretary

## Executive Duties

1. Ensure that accurate minutes of executive meetings are taken, circulated to the executive for comment, and uploaded to the website, and set common standards for minutes within the wider Young Liberals;
2. Coordinate communications between executive members, committees and the wider Young Liberals, ensure decisions are made at the appropriate level and ensure that Action Points are implemented and followed up on;
3. In cooperation with the Chair, support Committees and their Chairs in carrying out their duties, scheduling meetings, maintaining attendance and ensure that committee minutes are uploaded onto the website;
4. Ensure that the constitution and all other documents that govern the Young Liberals are kept up to date after any changes are made to them;
5. Manage the administration and moderation of the Young Liberals Forum Facebook group and any similar groups or platforms.

## Executive Report

### TLDR:

- Committees are being tracked along with attendance rate of individual members
- Committee page is on the website which also provides access to committee minutes
- Minutes have been done and I am working with the executive to provide reminders of report deadlines
- Executive attendance and report submission has been acceptable
- Forum is running smoother with guidelines being written, these have been sent to the exec for comments





# Katharine Macy

## Forum

I have begun to get together a working group of people who are willing to have lighthouse access to go through Forum and ensure that everyone in there is a current member. (Made more difficult by our lack of membership data)

This will involve using a form to ask if people have a Facebook name different to their name registered with the party. There are a large number of reasons they could be the case.

I would like to aim to complete this before the GE is called, however, with that date both being unknown and us relying on volunteer hours, I am sceptical.

Approval rate has increased significantly - I know of very few incidents where individuals have waited for longer than a few hours, and the only exceptions have been where discussion around the post has occurred.

I have been working on guidelines to support both the moderation and set out clear rules beyond the current working ones. No one is able to track down the original.

## General Support

In the most recent meeting, we had a goal setting discussion after some team building. I noted a lot of work was around comms, and suggested I and others who have a grasp on the beautiful tool that is fleet could support Harvey as comms officer in the website refresh & other bits of work.

I'm currently planning on getting a meeting with Harvey in so we can discuss a)ways I can support such as setting up a website working group and b)boundaries to ensure toes aren't stepped on.

Currently a lot of those goal setting minutes do not have specific people they are actioned to, so I intend to go through with Janey and consistent consulting of the executive to create a set of SMART goals and assign them to individuals. I requested the executive to consider their availability over the next few months, so hopefully we can get together a good set of achievable goals for the run up to the GE.

# Harvey Jones

he/him

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## Communications

### Executive Duties

1. Manage communication channels with membership, including establishing new channels of communication where required;
2. Maintain the Young Liberals website, ensuring it is up-to-date, visually cohesive, and contains news, events, and information relevant to our members;
3. Manage the sending of emails to Young Liberals members, ensuring emails are well-drafted and relatively spaced out;
4. Manage the Young Liberals presence on social media, including regular posts on Twitter and Facebook;
5. Promote the Young Liberals and the objectives of the Young Liberals in the media.

### Executive Report

I would like to thank Caitlin Richardson for her work last term as my Co-Comms Officer!

Since taking office in October, I have tried to make sure that my committee works well, ensuring that I am working closely with the three elected members. Thanks to Nathan Hunt, Ewan Redpath and Liv Walker for their work so far this term.

Comms committee includes a rep from each state - currently Rowan Fitton (England), Leo Dempster (Scotland) and Ianto Evans (Wales). I have tried to ensure rapid responses to comms requests from the states where possible.

### Winning Elections

- Continued to work with EYL to publicise action days for local election



# Harvey Jones

candidates across England.

- Continued working with Elections Committee to prepare communications for a General Election - this will take a step up in the next few months.

## **Campaigning Consistently**

- Re-launching Canva Pro, along with campaigns of the month launching this week with Children/Young People's Mental Health support.
- Planning to respond to major events including the Budget and other issues with campaigning materials around YL policies.

## **Supporting our Members**

- Working with international officers to share more information about our delegations to events.
- Consistent newsletters to members, including support for state executives with co-options and events.
- Launching a website working group to improve content, accessibility and design of the website.
- Working with Comms Committee to launch press and social media training for young candidates and PPCs.
- Working with Janey Little to find social media training.

## **Growing our Presence**

- Working with Events Officer and Committee to encourage more attendees at conference.
- Planning to work with Lib Dem Voice and Lib Dem Pod to ensure we share our achievements.
- Open and click rates remain static, but click rates are higher for conference content.
- Membership of Forum has dropped slightly but we have gained followers on X and Instagram.

## **Shaping our Party**

- Working with Events to improve advertising for access fund for Federal Conference.
- Awaiting co-option of a new Fundraising Officer to rebuild Friends of Young Liberals.

## **Going Forward**

- Plans for February include improved campaigning on social media, and better recording of data and analytics. As we also recently voted to end our Typeform subscription, I will be setting up Google Forms for Comms

# Harvey Jones

Requests and Blog submissions asap.

- Plans for March include campaigning on the budget, improved content for local elections and campaigning opportunities.
- Plans for later in the term include implementing an Election Comms Plan for both local and general elections, improving the use of the blog, and increasing video content.





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# Nicholas Orford-Williams

he/him

# Miguel Smith

he/him

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## Elections

Job share

## Executive Duties

1. Coordinate Young Liberals action days in target seats, including setting a timetable for action days, communication with local parties, and keeping members' attendance and morale high;
2. Run and coordinate the Young and Winning Scheme alongside the Elections Committee;
3. Support young members who are standing for election; and
4. Support the work of the Elections Committee in carrying out its duties.

## Executive Report

Over the past couple of months since the formation of the new Executive, the Elections Officer portfolio has offered a colourful array of interesting opportunities.

During budget negotiations we fought to secure more money for young candidates through Young and Winning. Although we did not get as much as we wanted this time, we have secured an additional 25% compared to last year's budget.

In Round one of Young and Winning, we have awarded grants to four different candidates from Sheffield, Peterborough and Sunderland. And we're happy to

# Nicholas & Miguel

report that Round two of the scheme has seen a further increase in applications. Acting on feedback we received about a perception of a lack of transparency within Young and Winning, we have created Young and Winning regulations to codify the process going forward and have shared documents with Forum, detailing where money is being spent.

We have kept to our manifesto pledge to hold strategic action days, in places like Chelmsford, Salford, Winchester, Esher and Walton and Sheffield. We will continue to hold action days throughout the year especially in places with Young Candidates and Advanced Seats with local elections this May.

# Will Tennison

he/him

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## Membership Development

### Executive Duties

1. Identify and support the training needs of members, by running or coordinating training events at Young Liberals conferences and Liberal Democrat conferences;
2. Help to maintain accurate records of Young Liberals membership, including liaising with Membership at LDHQ;
3. Organise New Members Days to welcome new members and give an introduction to the Young Liberals;
4. Maintain strong relationships with Liberal Democrat Headquarters (LDHQ), the Association of Liberal Democrat Campaigners and Councillors (ALDC), and other organisations in providing training for members.

### Executive Report

- Worked on a membership skill survey
- Joined committees
- Completed forum mod duties
- Started work on a Executive Handbook for new exec members
- Contact ALDC and understand terms of our group membership
- Planned exec away day
- Gained understanding for ALDC group membership
- Communicated to members about ALDC changes
- Gained Lighthouse access
- Planned training topics for Federal Conference
- Planned training topics for YL Conference
- Designed training for YL Conference



**Fergus Kirman**  
he/him

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**Joshan Parmar**  
he/him



## Branch Development

Job share

## Executive Duties

1. Help to develop and support local Young Liberals branches and university societies by providing advice, training, information, or grants;
2. Lead the planning and organisation of the annual Freshers campaigns, alongside the Communications and Campaigns Committee, with input from the Executive; sending Freshers packs containing campaign material and additional information to universities, colleges, branches and local parties that request them;
3. Work alongside the State Organisations and Regional Chairs to maintain strong relations with State, Regional and Local Parties in order to help set up, organise and maintain branches and societies; and
4. Administer and maintain the Young Liberals Branch Accreditation Scheme.

## Executive Report

### Goals for the year

1. Create an accurate record of branches and their activity levels, including renewal of the affiliated branches list.
2. Conduct, if necessary, a more in depth “branch review” of those branches identified as active

# Fergus and Joshan

3. Produce a new Branch Development Guide
4. Work with State Chairs to create a list of target areas for new branches
5. Work closely with each new branch in particular to ensure they are active and supported
6. Produce strong freshers campaigns to keep the branches going into the next calendar year

## Meetings Held

- **Meeting with Josh Ruddy** (WYL Co-Chair) about Welsh Branches and how Federal YL can help support them
- **Meeting with Joe Norris** (EYL Chair) about English Branches and plans for regions
- **Manchester Young Liberals** – We held a meeting with the incoming president/ secretary of the newly reformed Manchester University Young Liberals. They currently have 6 members and 2 more interested students. We discussed what support is available to them, and what key next steps are in starting the branch.
- **Epsom and Ewell Liberal Democrats** – This local party is keen to try and increase youth involvement in their area. While they do not currently have a Youth and Student officer, or any branch in their area, they have UCA Epsom and NESCoT within their constituency. We discussed methods to increase youth involvement in their area, and how YL can help them in this.

## Branch Accreditation Form

We have updated and transferred the Branch Accreditation Form to Google Drive. As part of this, we have added a number of useful questions to gain an insight into the activity of these branches. This can be found at the below link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXSMsbx59FeY9kFBNZhUkLrOQ6-CiLkaJXXhCkzMKphrC5TA/viewform>

We welcome feedback on this.

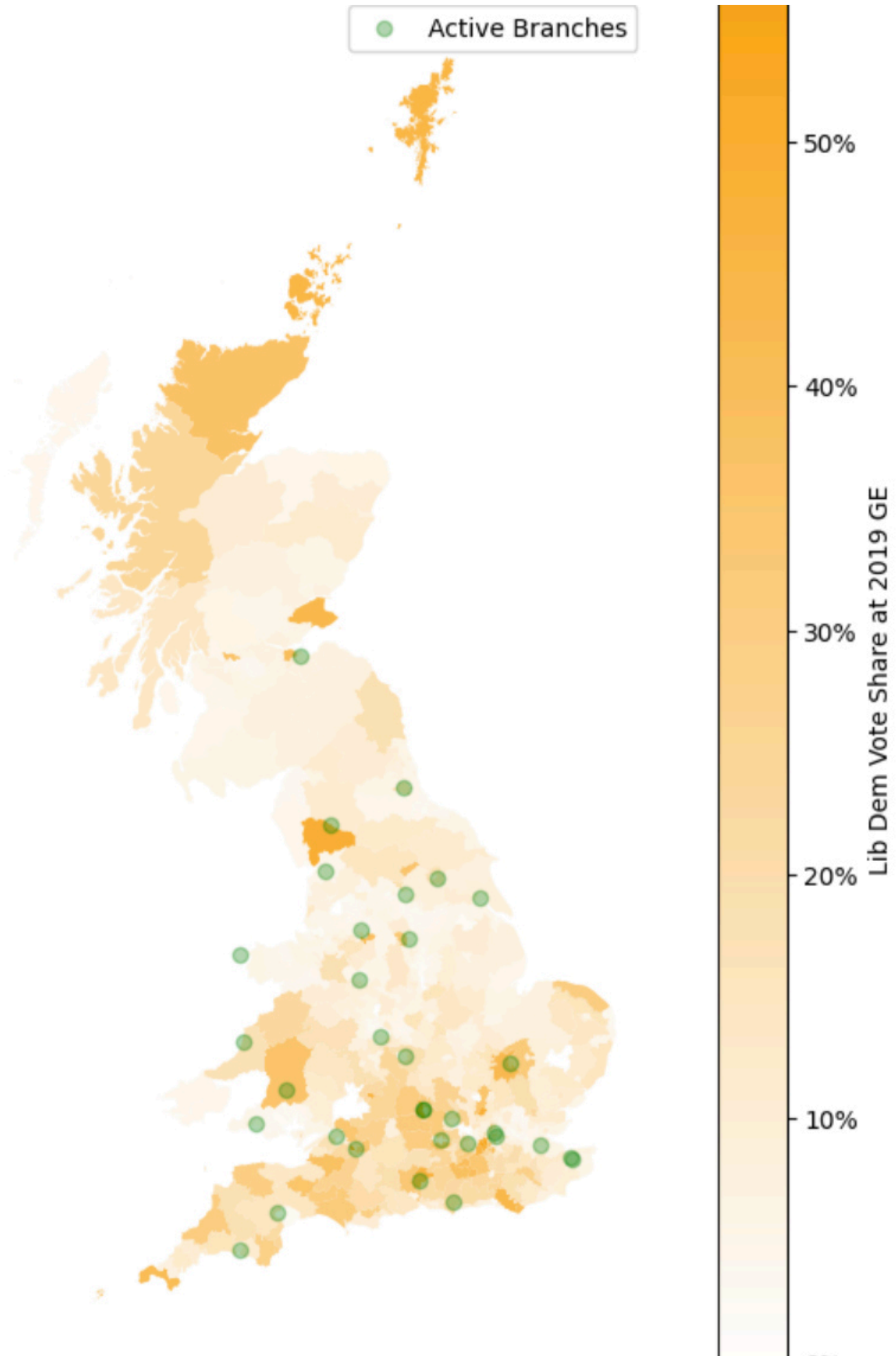
## Branch Accreditation Project

Over the last two months, we have completed our detailed review of all the branches. [Spreadsheet redacted for the public report due to private data, available to executive members].

A detailed report of our findings is included below: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XB\\_yQCX9zP7buLGH-gPx6A0STxib5ViD2h7kgq-6lvi/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XB_yQCX9zP7buLGH-gPx6A0STxib5ViD2h7kgq-6lvi/edit?usp=sharing)

In summary, out of the 94 branches that have “existed” at any point in 2018–2023, 33 of these (of which 4 are not yet accredited) meet a reasonable definition of activity.

# Fergus and Joshan



**Lucas North**  
they/them

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## Events

**Representative to Federal Conference Committee**

## Executive Duties

1. Organise Young Liberals conferences including, in consultation with the executive, selecting an appropriate venue;
2. Ensure conferences operate smoothly with calling notices and agendas circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and Standing Orders;
3. Ensure appropriate event insurance is in place for Young Liberals events, either under the Liberal Democrats' insurance policy or independently;
4. Coordinate Young Liberals presence at Liberal Democrat Conferences, including a stall at the Exhibition, fringe events, training events, and socials;
5. Ensure that Young Liberals events are accessible and inclusive, supporting those of all backgrounds including non-drinkers as well as protected characteristics under the Equality Act, consulting with the Accessibility, Diversity and Standards Officer as required and;
6. Coordinate and support the Conference Committee in carrying out its duties.

## Executive Report

The full report of the Events Officer can be accessed [here](#). This abridged version is provided for continuity purposes.

### Welcome to Sheffield

I'm so excited to welcome you all to Young Liberals Winter Conference, and to the wonderful city of Sheffield. At the time of writing, Conference hasn't yet started, so hopefully by the time we get to scrutiny you've enjoyed your time so far and nothing's gone terribly wrong.

I've tried to structure this report in a way which highlights the most important



# Lucas North

information as easily as possible, but if you have any more detailed questions, please email [events@youngliberals.uk](mailto:events@youngliberals.uk)

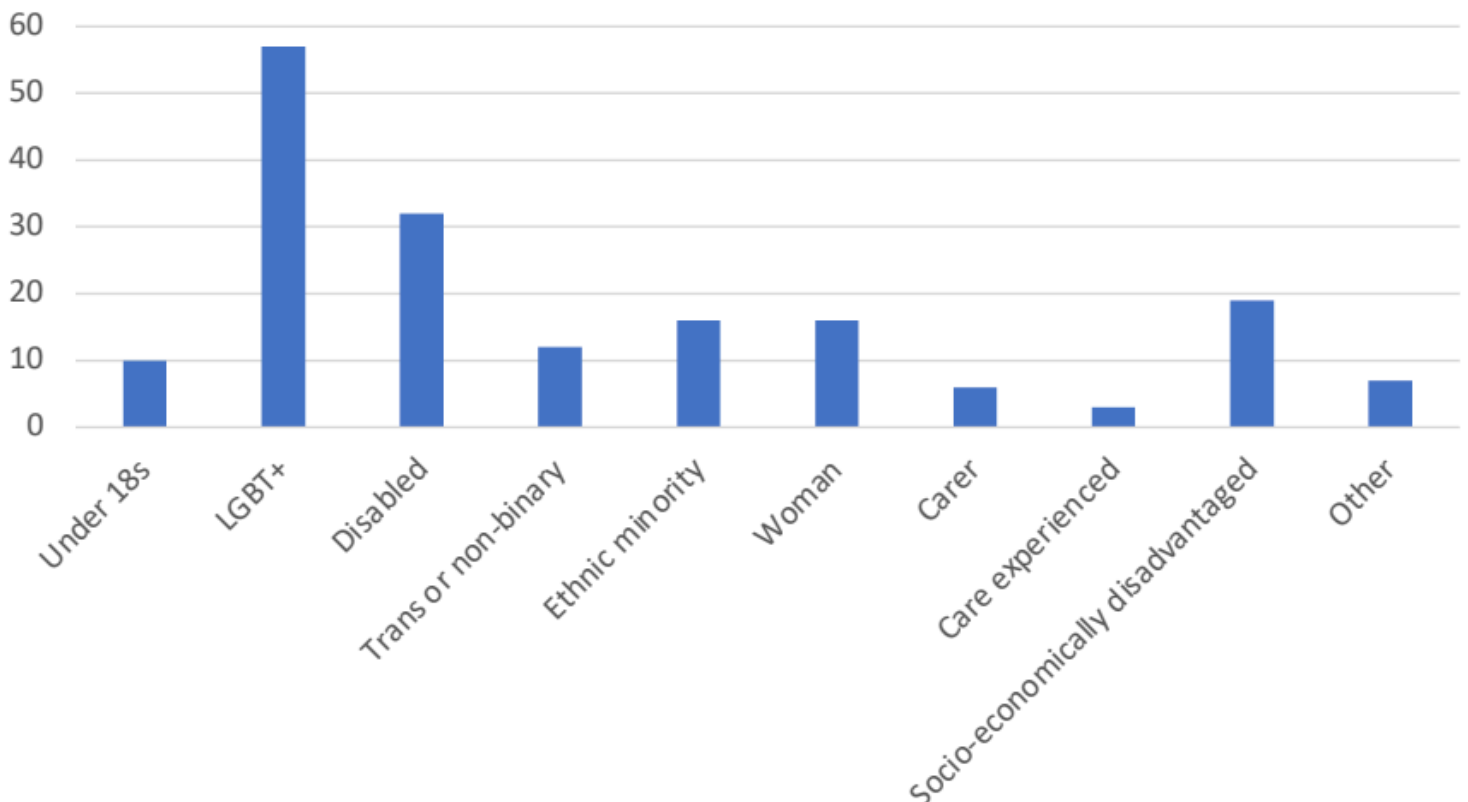
## In numbers

- This conference has our highest number of first timers in recent years
- We've done well on most underrepresented groups, except for people identifying as women
- We've invested in our technology and AV to deliver the best hybrid experience possible



More than **£1,000**  
in access fund awards

■ First Timer ■ Returner



# Lucas North

## Technology

- This Conference, we're using a dedicated multi-camera setup, with two 4K cameras positioned to give a number of shot options. By cropping the scene, we've created 6 camera angles we can cut to at any time, with the option to reframe the stage area as needed during the event.
- We're also using Zoom Rooms to better capture video and sound from online attendees, so that people in person and online can take part in the best quality possible.
- We've put time into completely rebuilding our stream setup, so that we can cut between scenes and pre-recorded content as seamlessly as possible.
- Lastly, we've prepared a number of pre-record clips to help entertain and welcome attendees, and to cover up those awkward gaps.
- I hope you'll see the payoff for our work in this area, and we're always looking for ideas to do better in the future.

## FCC

- As YL's inaugural rep to Federal Conference Committee, I've attended two FCC meetings so far, including the agenda selection meeting for York 2024.
- In this role, I'm hoping to push YL interests at Federal Conference, as well as feeding back to the Executive about the plans for federal events.

## Looking Forward

- In the next few months, we have York conference, where I'm hoping YL will have a strong presence.
- I'm also continuing to explore options for YL Summer Conference and hope to announce the venue in the near future.

## Acknowledgments

**Harvey Jones | Communications Officer** - For support with promotion of Conference, the fantastic artworked agenda, and keeping me grounded when my ideas get too dramatic.

**Events Committee** - For their support in planning and delivering Winter Conference.

**Taylor Swift | Person of the Year** - For being a constant source of inspiration, heartbreak, and brilliance.

**Alison Rouse | Chair, Lib Dems in England** - For always picking up the phone when I just need to rant, and for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself.

**You, the attendees** - Thank you to the most generous thoughtful loving fans on the planet. This is all because of you and for you.

# Ulysse Abbate

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## Policy

Representative to Federal Policy Committee

## Executive Duties

1. Attend meetings of the Federal Policy Committee as the representative of the Young Liberals;
2. Coordinate and support the Policy Committee in carrying out its duties specified in the Constitution, including submitting policy motions to Liberal Democrat conferences;
3. Maintain the Policy Book, a central record of policies adopted by the Young Liberals according to provisions in the Constitution;
4. Answer Executive or members' queries relating to Young Liberals policy, for example ensuring that Young Liberals campaigns are in accordance with policy;
5. Support members with submitting policy motions to Young Liberals for Liberal Democrat conference(s), including help with drafting and advice on content; and
6. Plan and deliver training sessions to support our members to develop and make policy

## Executive Report

This report will give an overview of the first half of my term. It will give a bird's eye view and won't focus on specific details: for the odd details, I recommend looking at my monthly executive reports.

If you take one thing away from this report, let it be the thanks I'm about to give:

1. Firstly, and most importantly, a huge thank you to the membership! You've all been a huge help to a new exec member like me, being adaptable, pushing back and forgiving when I do something wrong, and being very active in overall policy making! It often goes unsaid, so I'll say it explicitly here: thank you!

# Ulysee Abbate

2. Secondly, a huge thank you to the members of the Policy Committee who I have the privilege of chairing. You've all been hugely helpful in setting up conference policies, federal policy submissions and all the other many things asked of the Policy Committee. As above, thank you!
3. Finally, a huge thank you to the executive! As a new exec member it can often be daunting and all the exec have been great in supporting me (and each other!) in my new role. Once again, thank you!

And to quickly list a few of the key projects worked on across the previous months, which you can ask me about!

1. Taking up my new role as voting member of FPC has been great for building relationships with senior Lib Dem's, and supporting the creation of the manifesto. At the point of writing this, there are no points of concern in the manifesto.
2. In my responsibilities looking after the YL policy making, I'll save most remarks for after conference, but in the meantime, we've received lots of good policy, and already had good debates within policy committee so hopefully that translates into good debates at conference!
3. Federal policy submissions went 'cloudy with a silver lining'. We submitted two policies to federal conference, one on black British rights and another on reforming Sunday trading laws, both of which were rejected. I take full responsibility for those not having been selected. Summarising the feedback I received: lack of new policy (black British rights) and insufficient time to debate (Sunday trading laws). I'm happy to talk about process more. At the time of writing, policies have not been published so I can't speak on amendments. The silver lining here is that we had a great opportunity to work with AOs and SAOs including LDCRE and LibSTEMM/ALDES, which hopefully will feed into YL's policy and beyond-policy work.

Please do stop me for a chat if you have any questions, or, of course, you can bring questions to me at exec scrutiny!



# CAN YOU HELP US WIN IN WINCHESTER?

TORY MP'S MASTER PLAN  
FOR FIXING OUR CRAPPY  
OVERFLOWING SEWERS..



# WE'LL LET YOU FLUSH (EVEN IF IT'S RAINING)

[WINLD.ORG.UK/ACTION-DAY](http://WINLD.ORG.UK/ACTION-DAY)

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# Sean Bennett

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# Kai Pischke

he/him



## International

Job share  
 Representative to Federal  
 International Relations  
 Committee (Kai)

## Executive Duties

1. Manage relations with the Young Liberals' international affiliates and the youth wings of liberal political parties across the world;
2. Manage relations with groups within the Liberal Democrats with an international agenda;
3. Advise the Executive or members on international issues where relevant;
4. Coordinate international trips for members, including to events run by international affiliates; and
5. Coordinate and support the International Congress Delegates Committee in carrying out its duties.

## Executive Report

The full International Officers report can be found [here](#).

### TLDR:

- IFLRY conference has been delayed (probably until April or May).
- LYMEC conference was a big success and we passed our policy on cooperation between the UK and Ireland.

# Sean and Kai

- We are working on the campaign to elect Sean to LYMEC bureau.
- We have started a new Erasmus+ campaign which will ramp up going into the general election.
- We have also started having more frequent committee meetings and bilateral meetings with sister parties, and this had fed into our policy submissions.

## Introduction:

The overall outlook for international is very good. Our term so far as co-officers has worked incredibly well, and we have been very lucky to have an excellent committee and excellent delegates to work with. We are excited to share with you some of the things we have been working with, and we are more than happy to answer any questions during conference.

The Young Liberals are a unique party in so many ways. But one of the most striking differences we have with other youth parties in this country is our unequivocally internationalist outlook. We are always keen to involve more people in the work we do; from contributing to campaigns or policies, through to representing us at international events. We know that sometimes there are financial challenges in getting involved in international work. We are extremely conscious of this, and we are working on raising more funding to help subsidise travel costs. We would also like to encourage people to apply for programmes run by IFLRY and LYMEC which are often fully-funded! If you are interested in getting involved in any way, please reach out and contact us: [kai.pischke@youngliberals.uk](mailto:kai.pischke@youngliberals.uk) and [sean.bennett@youngliberals.uk](mailto:sean.bennett@youngliberals.uk).

## IFLRY

IFLRY was scheduled to take place in Beirut, Lebanon in November last year. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled due to security concerns in the region. Nevertheless, I am pleased that we had made excellent preparations for the congress: putting together a strong delegation and preparing to co-submit the fast fashion motion written by Elle and Elsie with one of our sister parties. While it is unfortunate that the congress did not go ahead, I would like to sincerely thank the delegation for their hard work, and I am confident that a lot of the work can be used for the next conference.

On that note, IFLRY has been rather slow to announce the date of the next conference. This is expected very soon. It is likely that the next conference will be held in either Finland or Côte d'Ivoire (or possibly on a boat) sometime in April or May. For more concrete information, you can ask the president of IFLRY directly as we are lucky enough to have the pleasure of his company in Sheffield!

While there has been a slight decrease in activity from IFLRY recently, this has allowed more time to work on other projects. It is likely that another round of seminars and events are due to be announced sometime soon. I would like to remind everyone that these are often fully funded (including travel costs) and so there is really no reason not to apply.

Another important point to note on IFLRY is the Macky Sall situation. The context for this is rather long, but essentially Macky Sall is the president of Senegal and has given sizeable financial contributions to IFLRY and Liberal International.



# Sean and Kai

However, he has recently come under a lot of criticism for delaying the election and for a heavy handed treatment of political opponents. IFLRY have been dealing with this better than Liberal International, but this is a developing situation and we will have to wait to see what happens.

## LYMEC

Since our last conference, our work with LYMEC has continued fruitfully, with YL's reputation growing in the organisation due to excellent policy work, willingness to cooperate and compromise, and active engagement with LYMEC and its events.

During the most recent LYMEC Congress in Riga, a key topic was, of course, the conflict between Israel and Hamas. This was a divisive and sensitive issue which threatened to derail the Congress and result in severe disagreements and bad blood.

However, through the work of multiple member parties, YL included, a policy was ironed out over weeks of work and hours of debate that was passed without incident or opposition at the Congress. This display of cooperation, between many parties who fundamentally disagree on this matter and many others, was celebrated and has shown what we can achieve. This has bolstered not just YL's position in the organisation, but it has also thawed many of the more adversarial relationships that we and others have had in the past.

This success also came alongside the passing of a comprehensive motion on the cooperation and coexistence of Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland, which was drafted by the member parties from all three of those nations. This, again, marked a significant and welcome step forward in YL's relationships with our sister parties, most markedly with our sister party in the Republic of Ireland.

LYMEC has now turned much of its attention to the upcoming European Elections, which will likely form the basis of much of the discussion at the next congress in Brussels. We have resolved, as indeed have the Liberal Democrats, to abstain from interfering in matters which are exclusively election focused, but we will continue to take active roles in discussions on all other matters.

LYMEC will also be electing a new Bureau at that same congress, which will play a key part in setting the course of the organisation for the next two years. I (Sean) will be contesting those elections, seeking a place on the Bureau. If successful, it will be the first time in many years that a UK member has taken up such a position, which will hopefully prove fruitful for UK-EU relations within European youth liberal politics.

The delegation for the Brussels Congress will be submitting a motion to the event on the matter of medical neutrality in active war zones and other humanitarian crises. This stands to be an excellent and vital policy, recognising the worrying frequency with which medical neutrality and the safety of humanitarian aiders is compromised, in stark contrast to international law.

## International Committee

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you for re-electing us as co-international officers. It is an honour to serve in this role, and we are extremely

# Sean and Kai

grateful for all the support we receive from within the Young Liberals and the wider party for the work that we do.

We are also very pleased to have added a brilliant new member to the committee. Kate has replaced Elle on committee and has been a stellar addition to the team so far. The committee has significantly increased its activity in recent months, holding more frequent and more structured meetings.

Within the committee, we have worked on a few key initiatives. One of our current priorities has been to create a campaign around Erasmus+. We think this will be particularly useful going into the general election, and we are looking to promote the profile of YL by producing campaign materials useful for targeting young voters.

As a committee, we submitted 3 motions and 1 constitutional amendment to this conference (of which 1 motion and the constitutional amendment were selected). We are also continuing to consistently submit policy to LYMEC and IFLRY.

To improve our communications, we have recently created a new international instagram account with the aim of engaging internationally-minded people within YL and the international officers and committees of our sister parties abroad. A key aim of the account in the short term will be in promoting Sean's election as VP of LYMEC.

## Relations with our Sister Parties

By far the most important aspect of our international work is the relationships between YL and our counterparts abroad. This work allows us to share experiences and best practices and to learn from each other's success and failures. We are particularly delighted to be joined in Sheffield by five representatives from our sister parties and affiliated international organisations.

We have prioritised building this relationship through bilateral communications and visits with sister parties outside of congress. One thing which would be nice to improve on, would be to try and expand the range of parties we work closely with in this way to include more non-european countries. We have made a good start in this regard by having online meetings with the executives of Young Yesh Atid party in Israel and CALD youth (the Asian liberal youth grouping). The motion we are bringing to YL conference is a direct result of the work we have been doing with CALD and I would particularly like to thank Arthur for his effort in making these connections and drafting the motion.

## Federal International Relations Committee

The Young Liberals are entitled to a seat on the Lib Dem Federal International Relations Committee (FIRC). This seat is currently held by Kai, while Sean also holds a seat on the committee as English Party representative. Having two YL voices on the committee has been a big advantage. FIRC is useful to us in that it gives YL access to important connections within the international wing of the party, and FIRC has been a strong ally of YL in general. The committee makes use of multiple working groups, and we think this can be an excellent way for other YL members to engage with the federal party's international work.

Our main objectives on the committee have been in promoting the profile of



# Sean and Kai

issues important to young people such as Erasmus+. The significant updates from FIRC are that Sal is running for ALDE vice president (the non-youth equivalent of LYMEC), and we are keen to try and help promote her campaign.

It seems likely that international activities within the party will slow down somewhat as we head into a general election. As such, now is an important time in laying the groundwork for our international activities in the next parliament.

**Emily Baker**  
she/her

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## Accessibility, Diversity & Standards

### Executive Duties

1. Act as a central point of contact for our members with welfare issues or disputes;
2. Handle any welfare complaints and organise disciplinary investigations involving our members;
3. Support the Executive with welfare and accessibility issues, for example help ensure accessibility of venues for events, provision of plain text versions of campaign graphics;
4. Maintain a relationship with the party's Pastoral Care Officer;
5. Promote diversity and equality of access within the Young Liberals, including by ensuring a welcoming environment and managing safeguarding of under18s;
6. Provide a degree of pastoral support for Young Liberals members at Young Liberals events;
7. Ensure that Young Liberals events are supported by registered first-aiders where required.

### Executive Report

Hi! As a preface it has been an unexpectedly extremely busy period for me following the YL elections so I still have a lot I want to do with the ADS role. For now, it has mostly been housekeeping and keeping up to speed with our AO's. This report is split into what I have done so far as ADS/what is planned and what I intend to do next just for simplicity.

#### What's been done

- Established contact with LDW in aims to improve gender diversity in YL

# Emily Baker

- Held two diversity committee meetings (one led by Chang as REDL)
- Began to develop our YL diversity calendar
- Held 1:1's with the Diversity Committee members to discuss what they intend to do with their term
- Aided in the checks of our conference for accessibility
- Met with Charley Hasted (LGBT+ LD Chair) to discuss how we can work together.
- Met with Nicole with Janey to discuss how YL is doing on the diversity front, made plans for how we are going to tackle issues such as lack of gender diversity in the future
- Plans for International Women's Day are in place with federal LD

## What's next

- Continue the work on improving gender diversity, especially in consideration of the conference sign up statistics
- Continue to work closely with our fellow AO's to improve diversity in the Lib Dems
- Start to develop diverse policy for next conference and discuss how we can ensure policy submissions as a whole are more diverse

# Chang Liu

he/him

Submit a [question](#) or [motion](#):  
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## Racial Equity, Diversity & Liberation

### Executive Duties

1. Work with the Accessibility, Diversity and Standards Officer to create a Young Liberals Strategic Response to the Alderdice Review, and implement this across Young Liberals.
2. Attend all Young Liberals meetings and speak on matters relating to their role such as the implementation of the Alderdice strategy, and the plans and actions of other members of the Executive when it concerns or could affect minority ethnic individuals and communities.
3. Liaise with relevant SAOs and AOs, especially LDCRE, to ensure Young Liberals is promoting an experience which is positive and inclusive for minority ethnic members of Young Liberals.

### Executive Report

When I was first elected as REDL officer, my predecessor gave me invaluable advice about the role: “most changes take time” – and this is precisely how I have found the role so far. I have tried to start something meaningful as the REDL officer, whilst also supporting other officers working on diversity equality and inclusion. Below is a brief summary of what I have been up to so far.

#### Relationship building:

1. Reached out to Chinese LibDems
2. Reached out to the LDCRE chair, and will be setting up meetings for collaborations

#### Policy work:

1. Deputised to chair the second diversity committee meeting. Main actions points supporting reps to work on important issues like: accessibility for U18s



# Chang Liu

members, LGBT+ history month comms.

2. Gave advice to the policy officer on a policy motion submitted for federal conference

## **Members' experience audit:**

1. Wrote up a plan to survey members and branches on the positive and negative experiences they have in YL and explore what are the barriers preventing them from getting involved more in YL

2. Will be working on the wording of the survey with input from other officers

3. Devising a plan for disseminating the survey and ensuring enough feedback to make this exercise meaningful

4. Sought consensus from the executive committee to make sure interim reports will be used to implement any recommendations that arise from it to maintain confidence that these surveys will lead to meaningful changes.

**Attached below are the project plan**

## **Improving Members Experience**

BaME is used here as a quoted term from the Alderdice report 2018.

## **Background:**

The Alderdice report in 2018 made key recommendations on how the Liberal Democrats can reduce barriers for individuals coming from BaME background to get involved. Key recommendations include changing culture and practice within the party to increase accessibility for potential BaME members.

The Racial Equity Liberation and Diversity (REDL) officer in the Young Liberals (YL) is tasked with the Accessibility Diversity and Standards (ADS) officer to create a strategic response to the Alderdice report and implement it across the Young Liberals.

There is a good number of ethnic minorities members actively involved in Young Liberals, evident by the 18% of attendee signed up to winter conference 2024 being from an ethnic minority background.

However, the experience of our members has not been widely audited in recent years to advise on how YL culture has changed and what more we need to do. With a general election on the horizon, it's even more important that we quickly learn about the tweaks and modifications we can make to how we interact with our members to ensure we retain, engage, and empower our members.

## **Aim:**

1. To learn about members' experience (especially ethnic minority) within YL on barriers to participation.

2. To learn about what branches find difficult to retain and attract members from marginalised backgrounds, and what best practice branches have to offer.

# Chang Liu

## **Method:**

An all members experience survey to be conducted to explore what are the positive and negative experiences members have in YL, and what are the barriers preventing/ prevented them to get involved more. Survey to be advertised by newsletter, YL twitter, Facebook forum, and circulated to state YL, regional YL chairs, and individual branches for further dissemination.

Branch chairs/presidents will be sent a specific survey about the experience of their branches to explore if and why they find it difficult to retain members from a diverse background, and what best practice and pitfalls they wish to share with other branches.

Individual members identified in branches doing well on retaining members from marginalised backgrounds are invited to interview to explore what are the positive experiences that made them stay engaged in the branch. Further interviews were conducted with members that expressed interest in the survey to explore further about their experience. Key positive and negative experiences will be recorded and used in the analysis.

All potential safeguarding concerns or complaints will be referred to the appropriate procedures.

Survey responses will be collected and stored securely, necessary anonymisation will be used for quantitative analysis with advice on best practice for data handling from the compliance department.

## **Expected outcomes:**

1. A report with analysed responses will identify quick wins and long term changes with a strategy for implementation to be recommended to federal YL and all relevant YL bodies.
2. Interim reports will be made available when part of the exercise has accumulated enough data to provide useful feedback for implementation.
3. Support guide will be made available to YL branches before the next academic year to help them retain and engage members from marginalised backgrounds.

## **Further suggestions:**

This exercise should be repeated in 2 years to understand the effectiveness of implementation and further areas for improvements.

Final report draft will be circulated to interested parties for advice and comment (including but not limited to YL executive, LDCRE, LGBT+ Liberal Democrats) before publication.

# Rebecca Jones

she/her

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## Non-Portfolio

### Executive Duties

1. Support the Executive with various ad hoc pieces of work, for example temporarily covering for other executive members and leading on specific projects; and
2. Carry out the roles of any executive members who resign their roles or are subject to votes of No Confidence for the duration of the vacancy, if practical.

### Executive Report

It's been an interesting few months so far as NPO. I've attempted to begin working with other exec members on data organisation and have made sure to help Janey and others when requested on data matters. So far I have not been able to get as much done as I would've liked and have made sure to talk to the Chair about finding additional work for me to assist with to ensure I am used to my full potential. I have however made sure exec members know I am available.

A couple highlights is the spreadsheet I made to help keep track of action days and other YL based events to attempt to prevent clashes as well as working with other spreadsheets to improve and offer advice.

As always I remain open for work and am always happy to assist in projects. Even non exec members are more than welcome to contact me if they need help or would like a spreadsheet made.

# THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION IN WINCHESTER WAS SO CLOSE!

CON LIB  
DEM

48%

47%

LAB

5%



Only Lib Dem  
Danny  
Chambers  
can beat the  
Conservatives  
at the next  
General  
Election.

**LABOUR CAN'T WIN HERE**



**Joe Norris**  
he/him

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**English Chair**

## Executive Duties

1. Responsible for setting the overall direction of the organisation in line with policy determined at General Meetings;
2. The primary spokesperson for the English Young Liberals;
3. The primary representative of members of the English Young Liberals to the Party and to external organisations;
4. The primary representative of members of the English Young Liberals to the English Council, the English Council Executive, and other relevant bodies.
5. Responsible for co-ordinating, overseeing, and ensuring that the roles and activities of the rest of the Executive are appropriately carried out;
6. Responsible for chairing General Meetings, and meetings of the Executive;
7. The representative from the English State Organisation to the Executive of Young Liberals, per the Young Liberals Constitution.

## Executive Report

### Summary of the year to date

I am extremely pleased and proud of the work of the EYL Executive this term. With an incredibly talented and dedicated team, I believe that we are stronger than ever, and are increasingly ready to tackle the looming General Election head-on.

I have continued to dutifully write reports for and attend meetings of the Young Liberals Executive and the English Council Executive (ECE). Relationships on these bodies continue to be healthy and productive, and I am proud of the reputation for competency and respect that EYL has garnered on these committees.

For a full briefing on what EYL has been up to as an organisation, and what I have been doing as its Chair, you can read the reports that are linked in the minutes of

# Joe Norris

Executive meetings, available at the links below. However, a summary of the key aspects are as follows:

- Subject to the completion of the co-option for Vice-Chair for Elections and Campaigns that is due to conclude this week, the **EYL Executive shall be at full strength**, with all English Council Reps in place.
- I have worked closely with Janey as chair of the Elections Committee to develop YL's General Election strategy and to ensure that regional chairs understand their role as part of it. **Campaigning in key target seats** will be a focus for the year, with making sure that resources are used effectively a top priority.
- At the end of the last term, I reflected with the Executive on the successes of the organisation and where we want to improve, as well as **receiving feedback** on how I have chaired and administered the Executive. This provided some good insight that I have been able to realise in my duties as Chair already.
- The **Winter General Meeting** is due to take place at **5pm on Friday 9th February**, which I am most looking forward to. The GM will consist of Executive Scrutiny, three Constitutional Amendments, and a General Election briefing.
- Our Policy and Regional Engagement Officer, James Bliss, drafted an excellent motion **recommitting the organisation to the IHRA definition of antisemitism**, which was passed as EYL Interim Policy, and has been submitted to this conference by the EYL Executive. You can find the text of the motion in the conference agenda and app.
- The EYL Executive is in the process of drafting a **funded project proposal** for submission to the Party in England. This is an exciting opportunity for us to make a real difference, and to further prove ourselves as an asset to the Party in England.
- **New Executive Regulations** were agreed upon and granted assent by the Executive, which you can read here: [EYL Executive Regulations \(Jan 2024\)](#)
- A **Goals Grid** was developed for regional chairs, which informed the creation of the new Executive regulations, and allows us to **track and review the progress** of regional chairs over the year. [Goals Grid - Regional Chairs](#)

## Links to relevant information:

[Executive Minutes and Reports](#)

[Information on Regional Executives](#)

[General Meeting Documents](#)

# Leo Dempster

he/him

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[youngliberals.uk/w24-scrutiny](https://youngliberals.uk/w24-scrutiny)



## Scottish Chair

### Executive Duties

1. Except as otherwise set out in this Constitution, be the primary spokesperson of SYL, and be SYL's primary point of contact with the Party.
2. Entitled to be the SYL representative on the executive committees of the Party and the YL.
3. Work with the Treasurer to draft and present the annual budget to the Executive for approval.

### Executive Report

There is not a great deal to report from Scotland as over the winter months Scottish exec slows down although a number of incredibly promising and successful meetings have been held with the Scottish exec

- We hope soon to be able to hold cooptions for roles on the executive committee
- By all accounts SLD spring conference should have a decent SYL turnout
- The SYL AGM will be held at the beginning of may this year, planning is going ahead and it is likely to be held in either Glasgow or Edinburgh although we are still evaluating options in both cities

# Leena Farhat

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# Josh Ruddy



## Welsh Chairs

## Cadeirydd Cymreig

Job share

## Executive Duties

1. Responsible for setting the overall direction of the organisation in line with policy determined at meetings of the general membership,
2. The voice and spokesperson of Rhl Cymru and the primary representative of youth and student Liberal Democrats in Wales, both to the Party and to external organisations,
3. Responsible for coordinating, overseeing and ensuring that the roles & activities of the rest of the Executive are carried out,
4. Responsible for chairing meetings of the Executive and the Annual General Meeting,
5. The Welsh Young Liberals Representative to the Welsh Liberal Democrats Board, in accordance with the Welsh Liberal Democrat Constitution 2020 (G.1.2.vi),
6. Responsible for drafting the annual budget, alongside the Vice Chair with input from the other members of the executive, to the AGM of Rhl Cymru for approval as well as exercising appropriate financial control,
7. The primary account-holder of any Rhl Cymru bank accounts and ensure that there are at least one other co-signatory to the account who should also be a member of the Executive,
8. Responsible for Rhl Cymru remaining compliant with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums (2000) Act (PPERA).

# Leena and Josh

This is the beginning of our first full term as Co-Chairs, we and the WYL Exec have achieved so much and are aiming to make the Young Liberals a real driving force for change in the Welsh Liberal Democrats and across Wales in elections. We are going to be giving a detailed report in order to give our members full transparency and ensure that the rest of the organisation knows what we are up to.

Mae'r adroddiad hon ar gael yn Gymraeg. Sgrolwch i Lawr!

## YL in Wales

- In Wales YL has made great strides with the Welsh Young Liberals making a real return to the Welsh Board with 4 voting members being current or former chairs of the organisation. This has allowed us as an organisation to really elevate our members into greater roles within the party and really elevate young people's issues when it comes to policy and election strategy.
- The Young Liberals have not always been a popular force in areas of Wales. However with the help of the federal chair Janey Little and our diverse geographically located exec we have been able to spread our influence throughout our proud nation and really show that young people have a vital role to play within the party as a whole.
- We have continued to amend and submit policy to ensure that young people's issues are being addressed. We were the first organisation to officially debate a vaping policy and we are proud that we will soon have disposable vapes banned.
- We also have motions goin to the Welsh spring conference to get us representatives on all Welsh committees. This will be the first time this has ever happened!

## WYL Winning Elections

- WYL has been instrumental in winning elections in Ceredigion and Powys where we got a young liberal elected in Talybont-on-Usk and we held all seats in our major council areas since the start of our term. This has been instrumental in ensuring we can build up the capacity to campaign for the general election and win Brecon Radnor and Cwmtawe!
- Action days from the Welsh Young Liberals are now as valuable as gold as we have many requests from councillors and local parties to help their efforts in the upcoming election fight. We have proven our worth on the ground and we have an action day a month plan to get Young Liberals out and in the minds of the Welsh Party especially looking forward to the Senedd elections when we want to increase the amount of Young People going for competitive seats.
- 12.5% of general election seat are being contested by Young Liberals at the general election. This is double what we had in 2019 and we are looking to expand our list of approved candidates as we need three times as many candidates plus 9 in the Senedd election.

## Wales In YL

Within YL WYL has been trying to increase awareness of Wales by pushing for a



# Leena and Josh

conference in an affordable Welsh Location (Wreccsam) and ensuring that our cooperation with Federal which was lacking from both sides last year.

We have also been looking to restart our policy program for Federal YL conferences as in recent conferences we have unfortunately been unable to produce because of focusing on Welsh Policy

## Internal Report

- Internally we have held a by-election to recognise our Welsh Officer post as legitimate and to set precedent that we elect a vital role within our organisation.
- We held another round of cooptions after this to increase efficiency and to shuffle around some members. We do not however plan on holding another cooptions unless directed at our general meeting at Welsh Spring Conference
- Our Branches are still very successful and looking forward we are going to develop the long term sustainability of our branches by trying to recruit more people for when our current chairs leave university. This may be through changing the branches from University societies into fully fledged Local Party Branches. However, logistics have yet to be discussed on how we will achieve this

## Banking arrangements

We have been working to sort out our banking arrangements to officially move into the Welsh Liberal Democrats accounting unit so as to future proof our finances and work. We won funding from the WLD Membership Development committee and are focusing on strengthening our branches.

## Policy work:

- WYL successfully passed a motion “Empowering the Next Generation of Farmers and Foresters in Wales: Fostering a Sustainable Future for Wales” which passed and is being put into the WLD Farming, rural and forests working paper. A special thank you to Josh Ruddy and Rhys Llewelyn Williams for proposing and summing the motion as well as Leena Sarah Farhat who is chairing the WLD Farming, rural and forests working group.
- WYL is submitting a topical motion to WLD conference in Cardiff

## Campaigning:

- We have had successful freshers fairs across Wales and have active societies in Aberystwyth, Bangor and Swansea.
- We designed and distributed our own packs which went down a treat with our societies and with the universities! We had bilingual packs, stickers, pens and sweets!
- We participated in refreshers fairs at Aberystwyth and Swansea
- We have had great WYL presence on the doorstep, especially in Brecon Radnor

# Leena and Josh

and Cwmtawe, Ceredigion and in North Wales

To conclude WYL has been busy and successful we have identified where we need to improve and are actively working on getting work done while not compromising our day to day operations. As usual our thanks go to the whole Welsh Board with special thanks to

- Tim Sly the chair of the Welsh Board and HVP WYL
- Mark Williams PPC Ceredigion
- Elizabeth Evans HP WYL
- Sam Bennett HVP WYL
- Chris Passmore MDO WLD

Bilingual version available [here](#).

Designed by Harvey Jones  
Plagiarised by William Tench.