



ENGLISH YOUNG LIBERALS

Executive Meeting – January 2024 – Reports

English Young Liberals Chair

TL;DR

- Changes to the Exec, including Noah Allerton stepping back as VCEC and Thom Campion taking up the role of North East YL Regional Chair.
- English Council Rep co-option to be completed soon, and VCEC co-option to begin shortly.
- Passing of EYL's first interim policy -
[Recommitting to the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism](#)
- Admin things completed, including finalising Exec and Committee Regs.
- EYL General Meeting to be held at YL Winter Conference in Sheffield.

Firstly, a huge thank you is owed to Noah Allerton. Noah was previously EYL Campaigns Rep on the 2023 Exec, and in the last few months had taken up the new role of Vice-Chair for Elections and Campaigns. Noah has stepped back due to time constraints in his personal life, and we wish him all the best and hope to see him back involved in EYL and YL very soon!

I would also like to welcome Cllr Thom Campion to the Exec, as he takes up the reins of North East YL Regional Chair. I know he'll do a brilliant job in the role, and his experience - particularly in campaigns - will be a most welcome addition to the Exec.

The co-option for English Council Rep is ongoing, and is due to be concluded soon. Thank you to everyone who has applied - it's been great to see the interest in the role! A co-option for Vice-Chair for Elections and Campaigns will open shortly, so please do feel free to get in touch if you are interested or have any questions about the role.

Congratulations also go to James Bliss, our Policy and Regional Engagement Officer, who authored and successfully got passed our first interim policy motion. The motion recommits the organisation to the IHRA definition of antisemitism as adopted by the Federal Party, and calls on the federal organisation and the Federal Party to continue to be vigilant to antisemitism within the party. You can read the full motion at the linked document above.

Over Christmas, my work has primarily been focussed on the admin side of things and getting the new exec ready and prepared for the new year and term. Included in this is the finalisation of the Exec and Committee Regulations, which I hope will pass at this meeting.

Additionally, I have confirmed with the federal Events Officer, Lucas North, that EYL will have the opportunity to hold our General Meeting at 5pm-6pm on Friday 9th February at YL Winter Conference in Sheffield. The vote to call the General Meeting will take place during this meeting, and you can find the document containing the proposed timetable for submission of items linked on the agenda.

Hope you've all had a very merry holiday, and I wish you all a very happy New Year!

Joe Norris

Vice-Chair for Elections and Campaigns

Position Vacant due to the resignation of Noah Allerton.

Vice-Chair for Membership Engagement

No update.

Rowan Fitton

Policy and Regional Engagement Officer

YL Policy Committee has had our first of two January meetings to discuss the agenda for Winter Conference, drafting advice has closed but the final submission deadline has not yet passed so is too early for me to go into any detail. We will be meeting this coming week and will hopefully get the selected motions out as soon as possible afterwards.

I will be submitting a motion on antisemitism inline with our interim policy on behalf of EYL. On this I have also contacted Mark Pack to discuss with him antisemitism in the party and have received an excellent response from him giving reassurances on steps

the party is taking, that the complaints process is taking it seriously and as a result of this Janey is in discussions to set up both antisemitism training and how-to-write-a-complaint training for federal and state executives.

There is still time left to buy tickets for Conference. It is taking place 9-11th February in Sheffield.

We have chosen two policies to submit to York Spring Federal Conference, the deadline for which is quickly approaching. Early bird rate for York is also about to end to would encourage everyone to buy your tickets! We will hopefully be doing the same whipping operation as we have done in the past.

I know that FCC and the Conference Office have been in touch with Regional Party Chairs encouraging them to hold regional party socials at York, it would be useful for YL Regional Chairs to loop in with their Regional Party to advertise any that are taking place and also get involved with helping organise them if Regional Chairs are going to Conference!!

There has been nothing on the joint English policy Committee recently but I'm sure we will meet in the run up to York.

As always if anyone has any questions for me feel free to contact me at James.Bliss.LD@gmail.com.

James Bliss

Events Committee Representative

No update.

Huw James

Devon and Cornwall YL Regional Chair

Summary: The last month, I've been focussed on organising an Action Day to coincide with Richard Foord's campaign launch in January.

EYL Exec: Attended the December pre-meet and reported on the joint D&C/WC Regional Conference.

Main Party Regional Exec: Attended a Regional Exec meeting in late 2023 which looked at funding for a regional staff post, where regrettably region voted to eliminate the existing DDO post at regional level – providing training and support on campaigning and diversity to all local parties – in favour of a campaign organiser focussing on target seats. I spoke against the change, but the vote was overwhelmingly for it.

YL Regional Exec: No movement. I have been in touch with the Plymouth party regarding the dormant Plymouth Uni branch, as part of the federal branch review, and will shortly be in touch with the Exeter Uni branch in context of RF's campaign launch and to invite the Chair to regional exec. I'm hoping the Action Day might dig up some active local YL-ers that may be interested in joining regional exec.

Regional Conferences: No action to take; conference has only just happened!

Action Days: Action Day organised for Saturday 13th January to support Richard Foord's Campaign Launch.

By the way, there's still time to sign up! -

<https://digitallibdems.typeform.com/to/D0Lno0m0>

JN has kindly assisted with getting the Typeform and FB events sorted, while Harvey Jones of federal exec has emailed all DCYL members.

Membership Engagement: Again, I'm hoping the Action Day advertised via FB, email and shortly via the Exeter Uni branch will drum up some engagement. I expect to be undertaking more explicit work on this after the Action Day.

Branches: See above.

Socials: Nothing to report.

Todd Olive

East Midlands YL Regional Chair

YL Regional Exec

I currently have a Membership Development Officer, although we don't have anything planned in this area currently. I am also planning to co-opt a Campaigns Officer soon.

Action Days

The Hinckley Local Party planned an action day at the end of July and EMYL organised one with it. Unfortunately I could not attend and no other YL members turned up. After talking with Joe Norris I plan to focus most of my attention on establishing and maintaining YL branches and Societies.

Membership Engagement

A Young Liberal in Lincoln has contacted me about finding exec members to start a Society at the University of Lincoln. Unfortunately I have not been able to send out an email yet but I plan to soon.

Socials

My exec and I have discussed organising an Online Social using gather. I will keep you updated on this.

Josh Nightingale

East of England YL Regional Chair

Firstly, I would like to thank my Predecessor, William Tennison, for being a great help over the last few months. He's ensured that I have received a proper handover, and he has always been available for advice.

Much of my work over the last few months has been related to familiarising myself with the Job of Regional Chair, the state of play in my Region and the Goals/Tasks ahead of the Region in the coming year. With a successful regional conference as my point of entry, I have set out to gain an understanding of the region's branches, membership distribution and key players.

I have been busy ensuring that YL has ties to several local parties, and I have been exploring methods to grow our presence and provide opportunities to our Young

members in the region. One way this has been accomplished is through dialogue with Local Party exec members.

Regretfully I have not been able to hold a meeting with last year's executive, although we have attempted to several times - we were unable to find an agreeable time to hold a meeting.

Another problem I have encountered has been with the Regional Executive's structure. As it stands, the incumbent YL Regional Chair is not automatically given a seat on the Executive, but rather, we nominate 2 Representatives on a bi-annual basis. I am looking to resolve this issue.

My two main goals going forward towards the spring are to recruit this year's executive and establish a better communication structure with Young members across the regions by creating a Whatsapp community.

I have also been working towards my long-term goals for the region in assessing the viability of the Norwich Branch and the viability of reviving the University of Essex Branch.

Tom Jordan

London YL Regional Chair

1. EYL Exec

- I attended the first meeting of the 2024 EYL exec and updated the exec on the London AGM, which was postponed due to technical issues.

2. Main Party Regional Exec

- I have now been added to the regional exec and presented myself in the WhatsApp group chat. I have also been provided with the most recent minutes and other relevant information and details to help me settle and be up to date.
- As entering mid-term (London regional terms being 2-year, while EYL's are 1-year) all the subcommittees are already formed, but I hope to be able to feed across all areas and will request I be considered to join subcommittees, in particular conference one.
- I will be meeting London regional exec for the first time at the online meeting next Tuesday (9th Jan).
- I have agreed to have monthly meetings with Craig O'Donnell, London staffer who oversees diversity which includes youth. Our first meeting was today (5th Jan) at the north London satellite office where he gave me a run-through of how

he can help, handed me some helpful contacts, and aided with action day planning.

3. YL Regional Exec

- Started the process of inviting branch and society chairs to the executive
- Started the process to recruit members into the regional exec, including the Campaigns Officer and Membership Engagement Officer. The application form is open until the end of the 14th of January:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1duwM1TMd5MDkQ3VCnPymLmPrYr-pAktckJjOTPBvr_edxA/viewform

4. Regional Conference

- Following the technical issues with the online AGM, the continuation of the online conference will happen this Saturday 6th which I will be unable to attend due to family matters.
- Plans for an in-person regional conference have stalled. Once internal issues are resolved I will be asking to be involved in the conference planning and venue-permitting, secure a stall for YL.

5. Action Days

- I have provisionally planned a monthly action day up to November, with the exception of May (to focus on nearest target area, then rest), August (quiet and YL Summer Conference) and September (freshers and conference season).
- The first action day will be on the 27th of January in the target seat of Carshalton and Wallington, campaigning for Bobby Dean, a former but still great supporter of YL and housing. Eventcube with details to be released soon.
- The next two action days (Feb and March) will be focused on general election target seats, details TBC, but should an election not be called in time for May, the April and possibly June action days will focus on other growing areas with young candidates.
- As a general election could be called at any time, all action days will be continuously provisional until closer to the date in case a snap election affects dates and or location of action days.

6. Membership Engagement

- I have replied to new members that have emailed with interest in being involved and have encouraged them to join the LYL committee for volunteering, and the Facebook YL Forum to stay updated.
- I have requested regional to provide me with a connect (phonebank) list with London YLers so I have access to a list of members.

7. Branches

- I have been added to the London University Lib Dems chat, where I presented myself to members and invited branch chairs to join the London YL committee,

as well as encouraged other members to apply for other regional positions in the committee.

8. Socials

- I have emailed to request a visit to parliament for YL members.
- I have provisionally pencilled a February date for a possible social (open to all members) in collaboration with university societies, pending discussions to set down details

Josh Lucas Mitte

North East YL Regional Chair

My exec report this month is more brief than I hope future reports will be due to being co-opted in mid December and not receiving a handover from the previous chair.

It's a big year for the North East of England with local elections in 6 authorities (including all ups in one), 3 PCC elections and 2 combined authority mayor elections, as well as the inevitable general election too. We have a great opportunity to push forward as a party and NEYL has a key role to play in this.

I will shortly be opening up applications for cooption to the NEYL exec, I'm just waiting for a technical issue to be resolved. I hope we will have a strong and diverse executive that will allow our region to thrive.

As it stands, I will be attending the North East Lib Dem regional executive on Monday January 8th, but as I'm also invited through my work position, in future I hope to be able to allow an NEYL exec member to go in my place so as to share the experience with others.

We currently have a YL action day taking place this weekend in Sunderland and I hope to have a list of YL candidates soon so as to plan out upcoming action days for the weeks and months ahead.

I am in the process of arranging a policy discussion zoom with NEYL members to discuss what their policies and issues they want to see us campaigning on in the region.

I have just received an email from one of the BDO's and will be working with them to ascertain the state of branches in the region. I hope to have an accurate list available soon, as well as the beginnings of a document outlining how we can improve the number of branches we have.

I hope this gives an idea of what I've been up to and what I hope to be able to achieve going forward.

If any members from across England have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Thom Champion

North West YL Regional Chair

Since the last meeting and now we are in the new term, I have supported an Action Day in Salford Quays which I sadly could not attend for health reasons. Although I am intending to support the Federal YL Action Day before polling day.

Other than that, there is little to report. I have just received a spreadsheet to contribute to the Branch Review which I shall complete and may hopefully be able to build a regional executive from the Branches. Now that Barnaby Rule has been working on building a presence at Uni of Manchester again, I intend to use my being at Uni of Liverpool everyday in my new job to a similar end, for which I am currently working with Cllr Rebecca Turner and others in the Local Party.

Next month. I have regional Conference in Liverpool where I intend to have a presence. Although, I believe the youth item on the agenda will be taken by Rebecca rather than myself, but I will happily support her.

Tom Sutton

South Central YL Regional Chair

As we move into the new year, we are preparing for a year of campaigning. In December of last year Arthur Wu organised an action day in Thatcham, and we currently have two action days planned for January; both Winchester and Southampton local parties have organised action days on Saturday 20th and 21st, and I have worked with the local parties to promote these for YLers as well; I have subsequently been contacted by the co-elections officers and are now promoting the Winchester Action Day as a Federal Action Day. Both action days are on the South West Mainline.

Going forward I am hoping to be able to support further local action days as regional YL days, and have made clear to regional members that we can assist if they wish to get support in their area. I have had some very preliminary discussions regarding action days in Oxfordshire.

Next plans include working on the regional YL exec, reestablishing contact with local branch chairs, as well as coopting a campaigns and a membership engagement officer, as well as any other relevant co-optees. To this end I will be looking at including a section on regional cooption and action days in the region.

Nathan Eve

South East YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Tom Nevill

West Midlands YL Regional Chair

- Attended regional conference, not sure if this was before the last report
- co opted a full regional exec
- Campaigned in the rugby by election in a development+ constituency in which we gained one councillor, and came within 40 votes of winning both seats!
- Attended main party regional exec and I think inadvertently got myself co opted onto English council?
- Attended a YL visit to Birmingham city council and had a constructive conversation with the lib dem groups political assistant
- Continued in my role as president of Warwick lib dems growing the society - we have been named as one of the three most active YL branches in the country by the federal Branch Development Officers and next term we are hopefully going to be circling for to my knowledge the first time in our history
- Began to prepare for how west mids YL will approach the general election

Tim Macy

Western Counties YL Regional Chair

Nothing to report.

Zeb Mackintosh

Yorkshire and the Humber YL Regional Chair

No report received.

George Sykes