



ENGLISH YOUNG LIBERALS

Annual General Meeting 2023

Executive Reports

Table of Contents

English Young Liberals Co-Chairs

Vice Chair (Regional Development)

East of England Regional Chair

East Midlands Regional Chair

London Regional Chair

North East Regional Chair

North West Regional Chair

South Central Regional Chair

West Midlands Regional Chair

Western Counties Regional Chair

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Chair

EYL Representative to Campaigns Committee

EYL Representative to Communications Committee

EYL Representative to Events Committee

EYL Representative to Policy Committee

English Young Liberals Co-Chairs

TL;DR

- EYL has held action days in all 11 regions of England in support of candidates in May's Local Elections.
- We've worked closely with the Party in England, attending all EC/ECE meetings.
- After consultation, we have worked to develop a new constitution which focuses on members' key priorities for EYL.
- We have organised the annual general meeting to be held on Saturday 12th August 2023 at 9am.
- We are investing in improving EYL's presence at regional party conferences.

Introduction

We'd like to begin by thanking the EYL Executive for all their hard work since last conference. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and we look forward to all we will be able to achieve in the final five months of our terms.

Thank you as well to Josh Ruddy for his work as Devon and Cornwall regional chair.

Miscellaneous

We have attended all meetings of the federal YL Executive (Joe has sent apologies once) and YL Finance and Resources Committee.

All reports to the federal YL Executive have been submitted on time.

In addition to what has been mentioned in this report, we have worked extensively with other members of the federal YL Executive supporting them in their portfolios or other executive projects (supporting Events Committee, scrutinising YL's accounts, taking part in the YL Budget Review, etc.).

Annual General Meeting

We're holding the EYL Annual General Meeting on the 12th August at 9am. We will be debating three motions: one to appoint new Honorary Vice-Presidents, one on the topic of membership engagement with regional branches and a constitutional amendment introducing a new constitution.

The AGM agenda can be found here: [☰ Summer General Meeting 23 Agenda](#)

Reports submitted by the EYL Executive can be found here: [☰ Summer 2023 Reports](#)

Thank you to Janey Little and Nathan Hunt for their help in chairing/aiding.

New Constitution and Consultation Process

The new constitution was developed as part of our manifesto commitment to make EYL and the regions' documents more accessible and easy to understand. We think the document being debated (and at the time of federal Scrutiny, hopefully passed) achieves this.

We'd like to thank everyone involved in the drafting process for all their help, special thanks here to Nathan Hunt, Lucas North, Kian Hearnshaw, Oliver Jones Lyons, James Bliss and Jack Worrall.

The process at YL Reading Conference where we held a consultation with members asking amongst other things what they wanted from EYL. The results of this consultation indicated that members didn't feel they knew how to engage with their regions or with EYL/ YL more generally. Further, it indicated that they wanted EYL to focus on two key areas: Campaigning and Membership Engagement, therefore this has been at the centre of all the reforms we proposed - including making two new Vice-Chair positions, new committees and making clear lines for communication between EYL officers and regional branch officers.

A working group was then formed to develop the new constitution and to examine how EYL works with (1) federal YL, (2) the Party in England, (3) Regional Parties and (4) its membership. Whilst the working group didn't go fully to plan, it did produce a number of recommendations that were incorporated into the new constitution.

Thank you to everyone who sat on this working group: Miguel Smith, Janey Little, James Bliss, Nathan Hunt, Kian Hearnshaw, Lucas North, James Vivian, Will Tennison and Katherine Macy. The working group terms of reference can be found here:

[Future of EYL Working Group](#) .

The draft constitution can be found here: [FoEYL Constitution Draft](#)

Explanation of the changes: [FoEYL-Constitution-Draft-Explanatory-Notes-2.pdf](#)

Action Days and Local Election Campaigning

We're really proud of the campaigning opportunities that we organised in support of Lib Dem candidates at the Local Elections. We organised action days in the following places:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● BaNES● Beckenham● Bournemouth● Cambridge● Chelmsford● Chichester● Ely | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hull● Lancaster● Nottingham● Nunthorpe● Peterborough● Redcar● Stratford upon Avon | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Stockport (Hazel Grove)● Surrey Heath● Ivybridge● Watton-at-Stone● Winchester● York |
|---|---|--|

Massive thank you to everyone who helped organise these (including people from all the local parties we worked with) and our wider campaigning strategy going into the local elections. Special thanks here to Noah Allerton and Miguel Smith.

Thanks as well to everyone who came along to our action days and helped get YLers and Lib Dems elected. Special thanks to University of Birmingham Lib Dems and University of Warwick Lib Dems for making the Stratford-upon-Avon action day the best attended one we held.

We noted the importance of university branches in the success of these action days. Going forward we think it's a really significant lesson that we and anyone else in YL who is organising action days should take on board.

You can see our Lib-Dem Voice article about the Local Elections [here](#).

General Election and By-Election Campaigning

We have campaigned in both Somerton and Frome and Mid Bedfordshire. We are working with Felix Andrew (federal Campaigns) to organise more action days moving forwards in support of Mid Bedfordshire.

We are also actively taking part in federal YL's General Election Planning Working Group, to try and improve the ways we work together with federal YL and the other state organisations.

English Council

English Council is the sovereign body of the Liberal Democrats in England (comparable to Conference). We attended both of the English Council meetings that have been held so far this year and submitted reports on time to both meetings.

Thank you to our EC reps: Lucas North, Jack Worrall, Miguel Smith, Lucy Tonge, Harvey Jones and Huw James. Also thank you to Felix Andrew for acting as a substitute.

Our report from March EC can be found here: [Report from EC 4th March 2023](#)

Our report after the June EC meeting shall be circulated to all members at the same time when we have full email access again.

Before each meeting we met with all the EC reps as well as with other YLers who sit on English Council (via their regions). We agreed common positions on each agenda item.

You can see those positions here: [EYL March EC Guide](#) [EYL June EC Guide](#)

21 Young Liberals currently sit on English Council. This is a significant proportion of the total EC membership (~150) and it's a fantastic opportunity for YLers to advance our priorities.

English Council Executive and Sub-committees

We have both attended all meetings of the English Council Executive and submitted reports on time to all meetings. The ECE is the body that runs the Liberal Democrats in England in between English Council meetings.

Joe has attended all meetings of the English Finance and Administrative Committee. This committee is in charge of the Party in England's budget, staffing and administration. It also sets the Agenda for English Council.

James has attended all meetings of the Regional Parties Committee, bar one (to which he sent apologies). The RPC is the disciplinary committee for the Party in England.

English Young Liberals Executive and Regional Branches

Since the last conference we have welcomed two new regional chairs: Josh Nightingale and Time Macy (in East and West Midlands respectively). Both have gotten stuck in and made a really positive impact!

Joshua Ruddy resigned as Devon and Cornwall Regional Chair in March and the position has been vacant since despite multiple attempts to co-opt a replacement.

The South East Regional Chair remains vacant also despite multiple attempts to co-opt a replacement.

Both regions are really important for future YL and LD successes, especially as we go into a GE year. If you are interested in getting involved with those regions (or being a regional chair) please get in touch with us (email: england@youngliberals.uk) and we can answer any questions you may have.

We are currently organising catch-up meetings with each regional chair to discuss how we can best support them and their regional executives for the rest of the year. There are a number of vacancies on regional executives across England. Being on a regional executive is a great way to get involved with YL. Please get in touch with your regional chair to find out more about this opportunity.

The current regional chairs are listed in table 1 below. If you would like to contact your regional chair and you don't know how, please get in touch with us (email: england@youngliberals.uk) and we will help.

Table 1: English Young Liberals Executive (including Regional Chairs)

Region	Regional Chair
Chair	Joe Norris and James Green
Vice-Chair (Regional Development)	Miguel Smith
Devon and Cornwall	<i>vacant</i>
East Midlands	Josh Nightingale
East of England	Will Tennison
London	Nicholas Orford-Williams
North East	Helder Costa
North West	Tom Sutton
South Central	Nathan Eve
South East	<i>vacant</i>
Western Counties	Toby Hawkins
West Midlands	Tim Macy
Yorkshire and the Humber	Jack Worrall and Patrick Gilbert

As well as the regional chairs, EYL's representatives to federal YL Committees attend EYL Executive meetings; these are listed in table 2 below. Noah Allerton, as the EYL Campaigns Representative, also attends the monthly LDHQ Campaigns Department Briefing for Regional Parties alongside James Green. James Bliss, as the EYL Policy Representative, also attends the Joint Policy Committee of the Regions.

Table 2: English Young Liberals Representatives

Committee	Representative
Campaigns	Noah Allerton
Communications	Will Tennison and Sean Bennett
Events	Huw James
Finance and Resources	Joe Norris and James Green (<i>as Chair</i>)
Policy	James Bliss

Minutes of English Young Liberals Executive Meetings (including executive reports) can be found on the website here: [EYL Executive Meeting Minutes](#).


In tables 3 and 4 below you can see the attendance of members of the EYL Executive to EYL Executive meetings and the report submissions of Executive members.

A barrier regions have faced this year is access to social media logins - Joe has made significant progress in regaining access to social media platforms. This is an ongoing project.

Regional Conferences

At our last meeting we approved an amendment to the EYL Budget so that we can improve our presence at Regional Party Conferences. We aim to professionalise our presence and make it so that we have a consistent and prominent impact at all regional conferences across the country - and to ensure resources can be reused in the future. This is a priority of ours going forward. We hope to see as many Young Liberals attending Regional Conferences as possible and we will be advertising them as and when we can.

See the spending proposal including the budget reallocation here:

 [Regional Conference Kits Spending Proposal.pdf](#)

Links with Local Parties

We have made a questionnaire for Local Parties so we can better understand how our members are interacting with their local parties. We have not yet completed the distribution of this questionnaire so will update on the results of it at a later point.

Branding, Website and Social Media

We have put a lot of work into improving EYL's branding and website. Whilst this process is by no means complete, we hope that they both are more consistent and professional than they previously have been.

We have been actively using YL Forum and Twitter. We have also reserved an Instagram/Threads account for future use.

Internal Elections

We're quickly getting around to the point of the year where we elect next year's EYL Executive.

We know it sounds cheesy but now is a really great time to get involved in EYL. We are increasingly well organised and we have an ambitious plan to continue to grow and have more successes.

If you are interested in getting involved with EYL or with your region please get in touch with us (email: england@youngliberals.uk). We are happy to answer any questions you may have and we would love to see as many of you run in the upcoming elections.

We are especially keen to see more women or non-binary and more ethnic minority members run in the next set of elections. If you know someone who you think would be a good candidate for any role in EYL (or the rest of YL for that matter) please encourage them to stand!

Priorities for the Rest of the Year

- Completing the Local Party Engagement Survey
- Co-Option of Regional Chairs for Devon and Cornwall and South East
- Implementing Plans for Regional Conferences
- Action Days in support of Mid Bedfordshire By-Election and other GE targets
- Social Activities/ Regional Engagement Opportunities
- Supporting Regional Chairs as the new university term begins
- Increasing the number and diversity of candidates in upcoming elections

We hope we've served you well this past nine months and we look forward to the rest of our term. We've got a lot left we hope to achieve before the end of the year and we're ready to get stuck in.

Thank you all!

Table 3: Attendance at English Young Liberals Executive Meetings

Role	Name	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	
Devon & Cornwall	Joshua Rutty	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Present	Present	Apologies	Cancelled due to locals	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	
East of England	Will Tennison	Apologies	Present	Present	Present	Apologies	Present		Present	Absent	Apologies	
East Midlands	Josh Nightingale	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Present		Apologies	Apologies	Present	
London	Nicholas Orford-Williams	Present	Present	Present	Apologies	Present	Present		Present	Apologies	Present	
North East	Helder Costa	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Present	Absent	Apologies		Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	
North West	Tom Sutton	Present	Present	Apologies	Present	Present	Present		Present	Apologies	Present	
South Central	Nathan Eve	Apologies	Absent	Present	Apologies	Present	Apologies		Present	Apologies	Present	
South East	Roben Franklin	Apologies	Apologies	Present	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant		Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	
West Midlands	Charlie Moore	Absent	Present	Apologies	Vacant	Vacant						
	Tim Macy						Present			Absent	Present	Apologies
Western Counties	Toby Hawkins	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present		Present	Apologies	Present	
Yorkshire & the Humber	Jack Worrall	Present	Present	Present	Present	Apologies	Present		Present	Present	Absent	Present
	Patrick Gilbert	Present	Present	Absent	Apologies	Absent	Apologies			Absent	Absent	Absent
Vice-Chair	Miguel Smith	Present	Present	Apologies	Present	Present	Present		Present	Present	Present	Present
Chair	James Green	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present		Present	Present	Present	Present
	Joe Norris	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Apologies		Present	Present	Present	Present
Campaigns Rep	Noah Allerton	Vacant	Vacant	Apologies	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Apologies	
Co-Comms Rep	Sean Bennet	Vacant	Vacant	Apologies	Present	Apologies	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent	

Events Rep	Huw James	Vacant	Vacant	Present	Absent	Present	Present		Present	Present	Apologies
Policy Rep	James Bliss	Vacant	Vacant	Present	Present	Apologies	Present		Present	Present	Present

Table 4: Report Submission for English Young Liberals Executive Meetings.

Region	Name	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Devon & Cornwall	Josh Rutty	Not Required		Vacant	On time	Missing	Missing	Cancelled due to locals	Vacant	Taken as nothing to report, due to a small gap between the June and July meetings	Vacant
East of England	Will Tennison			On time	Late	On time	On time		Late		Late
East Midlands	Josh Nightingale			Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	On time		Late		Late
London	Nicholas Orford-Williams			On time	On time	On time	On time		On time		On time
North East	Helder Costa			Vacant	On time	Missing	Missing		Missing		Missing
North West	Tom Sutton			On time	Missing	On time	On time		On time		On time
South Central	Nathan Eve			On time	Missing	On time	Missing		On time		On time
South East	Roben Franklin			Missing	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant		Vacant		Vacant
West Midlands	Charlie Moore / Tim Macy			On time	Vacant	Vacant	On time		On time		On time
Western Counties	Toby Hawkins			On time	On time	On time	On time		On time		On time
Yorkshire & the Humber	Jack Worrall and Patrick Gilbert			Missing	Missing	Missing	Missing		Missing		Missing
Vice-Chair	Miguel Smith			On time	On time	Missing	On time		On time		On time
Chairs	Joe Norris and James Green			On time	On time	On time	On time		On time		On time
Campaigns Rep	Noah Allerton			On time	On time	On time	On time		On time		On time
Comms Rep	Will Tennison and Sean Bennett			On time	Late	On time	On time		On time		Late
Events Rep	Huw James			Missing	Missing	On time	On time		On time		On time
Policy Rep	James Bliss	Missing	On time	Late	On time	On time	Late				

Vice Chair (Regional Development)

As the first vice-chair since our constitutional changes, it was harder to cut out a clear set of responsibilities for my position. Especially as EYL has had two amazing chairs and a brilliant campaigns officer in place this year.

With this in mind, I focused mainly on planning our action days in twenty locations across England, and supporting our regional chairs to deliver them. In my election campaign I was adamant that the best way Young Liberals can build credibility on a local level is by being a strong campaigning force, and I definitely feel like this year has been a good step towards that - highlighted amazingly in Joe's recent Lib Dem voice article.

As a former regional chair, I also worked on the regional section of our constitutional changes - consulting with members across England on their opinions on how EYL should work.

Miguel Smith

East of England Regional Chair

We've had another eventful year in the East of England.

We have regularly attended East of England regional executive meetings, providing representation for the Young Liberals.

We are also working with the regional events committee to do even more at regional conference this year. As well as hosting a stall and speaking at the event we are looking at hosting a training session around engaging Young Liberals.

As chair I would like to offer my thanks to this year's executive who have done some great work at the same time as holding posts on the federal executive.

Will Tennison

East Midlands Regional Chair

Achievements since February:

- Helped organise and attended action days for young liberals in Nottingham and Lincoln
- Attended and contributed to the July EM region exec meeting
- Contacted all East Midlands Local Parties to introduce myself as the EMYL Chair and other assistance
- Contacted Lincoln and Loughborough parties about establishing University Societies
- Attended East Midlands Meeting – The date of the East Midlands Regional Conference was announced and I will begin to advertise it on socials and organise a YL stall

Goals moving forward:

- Attend regional conference with an organised table setup with the new Banner
- Organise Action Day in Lincoln for the upcoming By Election
- Contact all other Local Parties in the East Midlands with a University about establishing a Society
- Gain access to the EMYL Twitter account and let members know about all socials through FB, email etc

Josh Nightingale

London Regional Chair

Dear Member,

It continues to be an absolute pleasure serving as the London Young Liberals Chair in what has so far been an exciting year of preparation for our Greater London Assembly, London Mayoral and Parliamentary elections next year where London YL has had an effective voice in candidate shortlisting. We've also grown in our membership thanks to our fantastic University Societies and Branches.

While London didn't have any elections this year, other than council by elections, I am proud of our participation outside the capital – joining Action Days in Mid Bedfordshire and Somerton & Frome. Closer to home, we also held an Action Day in Bromley in March and as we canter into the summer, while supporting the campaign in Mid Bedfordshire, will hold further Action Days with the team in Carshalton and Wallington. Turning to freshers, we will kick off with a YL tour and Q&A with Hina Bokhari AM of City Hall in September. Details for these will be out on an email from “campaigns@londonlibdems.org.uk”

It has also been fantastic to see new London YL Prospective Parliamentary Candidates. We still have seats to fill and it's a great opportunity to get your approval through! If anyone is interested in standing for Parliament, feel free to speak to me.

I will aim for the London Young Liberals AGM to fall within November, with exact details being emailed nearer the time.

I shall use my last remark here to shamelessly advertise and recommend any member who might be interested in joining the London YL Executive to get in touch.

I remain your obedient servant,

Nicholas Orford-Williams
London Young Liberals Chair 2023

North East Regional Chair

Note from the English Co-Chairs:

Helder is currently on a leave of absence, but we are pleased to share that the North East Executive remains active. We'd like to thank Simon Zaragoza as the Vice-Chair, Rowan Fitton as the Membership Development Officer, and Luke D'Souza Smith as the Campaigns/Policy Officer.

North West Regional Chair

Since February, the main part of my work has been focused on the Local Elections. We had action days in the Morecambe area for my own campaign and for others where we were able to make gains on Lancaster City Council, but sadly not any YL ones.

Nonetheless, this was a vital experience for newer members of Lancaster Uni LD and others in terms of campaigning so can still be considered a positive. We also had action days in Stockport which I couldn't make which allowed us to solidify our council control. I was elated to gain more YL and young Cllrs across the region, namely Cllr Rebecca Turner (Waterfront South – Liverpool) who beat an established Labour Cllr who has since been elected as their Stockport PPC at 21. For context, we never held a city centre seat when we ran Liverpool as a majority administration for 12 years (1998-2010). Also, while he is a bit too old to be a member of YL, the rise of Carl Cashman as Group Leader in Liverpool has been fantastic, not just for the party's presence in the city but also the promotion of issues that matter to young voters and members.

I have also been engaging with the Regional Exec to ensure that YL concerns are at the forefront of their work. I have followed up with many of them regarding work in their respective Local Parties. I have also been approached by Preston and The Wyre to assist in setting up a presence at UCLAN University in the city; work is ongoing.

I plan to continue what I have been doing. I feel progress has been made and there is more to be done. However, the past few months have been highly positive in the North West.

Tom Sutton

South Central Regional Chair

South Central celebrated the election of several YL councillors in this May's local elections, as well as numerous candidates across the region, helping make sure that there are young voices in many town halls, but also showing the potential of YL to local parties.

We're still working our way out of the long-term effects of the pandemic, with several societies having previously fallen dormant, but I'm pleased to say that several are on their way back up again; Berkshire YL has been campaigning strongly in the county and particularly in Reading where the branch chair stood. The Oxford Branch is also currently re-structuring with a revitalised body, and the Southampton University branch has seen a new and enthusiastic chair take over the last few months, working towards setting up the society once again. Similarly in Winchester the branch there has supported the revival of Winchester University Liberal Democrats, with plans to hold a fresher's stall this September.

At our AGM this year we adopted the new model constitution for regions, which has helped streamline the executive.

As we face the next general election it is important that we make sure we release SCYL's campaigning potential. With hopefully a few successful freshers fayres this September we can move to getting on the doorsteps come Spring, and to work to further solidify our branches.

Nathan Eve

West Midlands Regional Chair

Since being co-opted shortly after winter conference I have:

- Held a long overdue AGM
- Attended all regional exec meetings
- Overseen the updating of our constitution
- Been elected president of Warwick Uni Lib Dems with a view to coordinating the region's university branches
- Helped with the local elections for Warwick District council, coordinating the four YL candidates
- Began to plan for freshers week
- Played a key part in beating Warwick Labour in a charity football match

Also, I'd like to give a special mention to Andrew Rushton for being elected in Lichfield!

Tim Macy

Western Counties Regional Chair

This month:

Our social media channels are now finally up and running, and appear to be growing steadily. I met with the Bath LD exec where we discussed working with Bath University LD on their platform for Fresher's Week, and I will be continuing to coordinate with them. I was approached by the Bath Student Parliament as they want to build their outreach with local political parties and youth-interest organisations. I met with their new chair for 2023-24 and we had a productive conversation, including talking about links to local youth and community groups, an upcoming community conference they intend to run and about building links with local political party youth and student wings.

To-date:

(These include tasks completed by myself and the WCYL Exec)

- Attended meetings of, and kept in contact with, the WC Exec
- Continued to build up a WCYL exec
- Reviewed the recently approved and updated WCYL constitution
- Coordinated with action days in Somerset & Frome
- Relaunched/launched WCYL on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook
- Made good progress through the EYL Regional Chairs checklist
- Established contact with the relaunched Bath University Liberal Democrats
- Met with the Bath Liberal Democrats Exec
- Enjoyed strong regional success in local elections

Future goals:

- Continue to expand the WCYL Exec through formal cooptions
- Continue to build links with local youth groups
- Work with university societies on their Freshers Week platforms

Toby Hawkins

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Chair

Since the last conference, we have been fully focused on campaigning and supporting Young candidates in the local elections in Sheffield and York. This has had mixed success. Out of the 4 young, target seat candidates in York, only 1 was elected, in Sheffield we had a 100% success rate in winning Young Liberal target candidates, as well as recruiting 4 non target seat candidates. In both Sheffield and York we had a full slate of candidates across each city.

Patrick knocked on 518 doors since January 1st and Jack managed to knock on 2754 doors in the same time frame - all supporting the wider campaign in the region. In total in Sheffield Young Liberals made 7256 attempts and in York 20442 attempts by Young Liberals.

We are still having difficulties in getting ourselves onto the regional executive and being invited to meetings.

An AGM is now needed and we welcome the support in creating a new regional constitution from the EYL executive, when this is in place a new Y&H YL executive can be put in place.

Jack Worrall and Patrick Gilbert

EYL Representative to Campaigns Committee

Since Reading, most of my work this term was focussed on the local elections prior to May. I worked with James Green and Joe Norris to complete and finalise our EYL Campaigns Strategy for the local elections, with a wide range of action days across the country in key target areas. Myself and James have regularly attended monthly campaigns briefings from the English party, which helped frame these target areas and align them with the plans of the party at large. This ultimately a success, and we had one of our best rounds of local election results as a party in decades - any small part YL had to play in that I think is a success.

I've attended action days in York for the local elections and Harrogate & Knaresborough for the General Election (whenever it may be) - the key target in Yorkshire with our very own young candidate Tom Gordon.

Since the local elections, I haven't been as active as I would have liked due to other commitments with college work, however I want to start looking forward to more action days and helping how I can with preparing for the looming General Election.

Noah Allerton

EYL Representatives to Communications Committee

This year your comms officers have regularly attended committee meetings to make sure EYL have representation on all issues regarding comms.

In particular we have provided our input on the TikTok strategy and advised on the back approach to launching the YL blog.

Will Tennison and Sean Bennett

EYL Representative to Events Committee

Activity to Date:

- I have had full attendance at Young Liberal's Events Committee as a representative of English Young Liberals since October 2022.
- I have acted as a critical friend and partner for Events Officer Katharine Macy where required.
- I have fed back updates to English Young Liberals as and when needed.
- I have mostly supported back-of-house operations and federal conferences where required. This includes being a sounding board for Katharine Macy, proofing event communications and materials, and helping with finances when necessary.
- I have not physically attended either of Young Liberal's Federal Conferences due to the availability.

Should the Events Committee Exist?

- I have been an Events Officer and on the Events Committee on and off since 2018. I support recommendations to cease the Events Committee as it currently stands.
 - The Committee can be useful as an advisory board of members and state reps, reporting back on those two constituencies.
 - The Committee is not particularly useful for sharing the operational workload of Event Management at YL.
 - This does not reflect on the competency, ability, or dedication of any Events Committee members - I believe the terms of reference and lack of responsibilities are the primary cause.
 - I would therefore recommend that the operational functions of the Events Committee are replaced by more informal arrangements within the discretion of Young Liberals' Events Officer
 - I would also recommend that the Advisory functions of the Events Committee are transferred into some sort of Events Forum for people organising events within YL, its states, and regions.
 - Several people have asked me to move a constitutional amendment abolishing the Events Committee, but I simply can't be bothered.

Thank you for working with me for yet another year, see you next time there's a co-option!

Huw James

EYL Representative to Policy Committee

Note: Report submitted late, but this was to account for a meeting of the Joint Policy Committee that occurred after the report deadline.

Young Liberals Policy Committee - Young Liberals Conference

For Newcastle conference I assisted policy committee with a lot of the admin including the superdoc and assisted somewhat with drafting advice, however due to a mix of planned annual leave mixed with work meant I was unable to help as much as i'd have liked.

There are some really great policy submissions, and it was particularly good to have more policies submitted than we were able to select and fit on the agenda, while this is obviously disappointing for those who didn't get selected this does mean that we have a much higher quality range of policies overall, and I would encourage those whos motions were not selected to build on them and submit them to future conferences. There is possibly a bit too much constitution at this conference (in both conference and this AGM), which I am certainly guilty of contributing to, but policy committee took an active decision to give CAs as little time as possible so to fit in more policy which was absolutely the correct decision.

Young Liberals Policy Committee - Federal Conference

Firstly I would like to note a big congratulations and thanks to Rebecca for getting a motion to federal conference selected! It is an absolutely amazing achievement that is often overlooked due to some of our past successes, but especially with how highly competitive federal conferences are at the moment with the combination of this being the first post-covid autumn conf (with york being fairly short) and with the impending general election, Rebecca deserves lots of praise for managing this.

Sat 23rd Sep 16.55-17.25 F13 Policy motion: Ending Period Poverty

There are currently plans in the work for amendments to the housing motion to restore national house building targets and depending on the success of my emergency motion we may also be looking at submitting amendments to two items that are trying to ban disposable vapes. If you aren't already planning to come to Bournemouth and think it would still be feasible financially for you, i would absolutely implore you to come, there will be some really big and important debates that will shape our policy for the impending general election.

I have also started plans to build on and replicate the great work we did around "voting recommendations" and gotv (whipping) at federal conference, and will hopefully be showing some early proposals to the federal executive at their next meeting so that we can have a strong and comprehensive presence at conference, which will be essential with the many big votes that are taking place.

I have also assisted Janey (Fed Chair) with forming out constitutional amendment to get the young liberals full seats on both FPC and FCC, and I would like above really encourage you all to attend to help grow and secure the young liberals influence in the party.

Sun 24th Sep 11.05–11.35 F18 Constitutional Amendment: Young Liberals' Representatives to Party Committees

Young Liberals - Other Bits

In addition to my core work as your rep to policy committee, post reading I have also attended most events committee meetings, in part within my role as an honorary vice president to try and look at ways to reform the committee following the debate at reading, but unfortunately that did not really come to much (though I must commend Kathy (Events) for inviting me and wanting to open the dialogue). Attending the committee has definitely helped with cross policy-events communication and has allowed me to feed in to some areas of events.

I attended the manifesto meeting with Dick Newby alongside other members of policy committee and Lucy (ADS), where he was actually quite receptive to our points around housing and the points I made about the need to develop policy around increasing density within urban/city areas. We also discussed trans rights and had solid commitments that the final manifesto will in no way deviate or minimise our policy. I would highly encourage all members to submit speakers cards on the pre manifesto item at Bournemouth to put forward your views on what you think we should be fighting at the next election.

Sun 24th Sep 15.10–16.25 F23 Policy motion: For a Fair Deal (Pre Manifesto Policy Paper)

Joint Policy Committee of the Regions

A part of my role is representing the Young Liberals and EYL on the English Parties Joint Committee of the Regions, which has met twice this year. The first meeting I was unable to attend due to work commitments, but the second meeting took place this week on Thursday (thus my report being late).

- At the meeting we discussed including the JPCR in the FCC consultation process in the run up to selecting motions, this would be an amazing tool for regional and YL representation in the conference policy process and hopefully this will take place for future conferences.
- There was some discussion on admin/terms of reference for the existence of the committee due to its relatively new existence within the wider structures of the party.
- We had a discussion on Autumn Federal Conference, including ways that regions could possibly cooperate on amendments, and if there are areas that regions could develop local government implementation strategies in respect to policies at federal conferences and recognizing areas where regions may need to take a different view due to local circumstances.

- Unsurprisingly I raised housing and the work that is ongoing between YL, Liberal Reform and others to fight back against the removal of housing targets in the housing paper. There was some feedback given that I will be passing on and inputting in to the work.
- I raise the possibility of myself, and possibly YL if the motion goes ahead, doing some work on the two proposals to ban disposable vapes, again I was given some good feedback and advice to feed in.
- There was discussion of our period poverty motion, and what could be done in respect to local authorities working around these issues.
- I discussed with Moshin (South Central Policy Officer and Chair of LDCRE) of some possible joint work that YL and LDCRE could do around policing at conference and will be working with him on what we think we can achieve.
- At a couple of points there was discussion about each regions policy structure/process, and I set out the quite complex system that YL has in comparison to all of the regions and the high quantity that we produce, as well as the core element of young liberals policy in respect to developing and training young members on how party policy works, how the party structure and process works and building confidence on developing policy and conference speaking.
- I was asked to give a brief to the committee post conference on what policy we produce, and there was some brief discussion about if the Young Liberals could advise regions on our quite comprehensive policy process and what regions can do to build up their own policy making processes, which I am more than happy to do.

I will use this opportunity to encourage all members to attend their regional conferences and if possible to submit policy. They are much smaller affairs usually but it can be a great way to get involved in the work of your region and the party, and can be a good way to influence policy within local government in a “soft power” way.

South Central Regional Executive

While not strictly within my EYL roles, I am also an ordinary elected member of the South Central Regional Executive, and just felt I'd add some background on some regional things I have been up to. Having both myself and Nathan on the executive definitely bulks the youth representation on the Executive, and I would really encourage everyone to get involved in your region, some big decisions can take place there and it tends not to be a massive time commitment, and it can be a great way to get involved in the running of the party. **I would heavily encourage everyone to run for Regional Executives when they come up in your region.**

A big issue within the region has been pacts with the greens (and in particular oxfordshire where I live), and I have always made sure to put forward a strong voice against pacts and deals (the greens are not nice, always eat your greens) and will continue to do so.

I have also been in discussions about how the region can improve its social media presence and passing on some of the things that the Young Liberals does has been greatly received. There are many areas where we do things quite well compared to some parts of the party, and generally

speaking people are receptive to hearing what we have done and how they can adapt and replicate it.

Future of the role

At this general meeting, alongside the many other changes to the constitution I am proposing reforming my role (unelected/coopted policy rep to yl policy committee and joint committee of the regions) into a Policy and Regional Engagement Officer as a full elected member of the executive. While I have been historically cautious about proposals to introduce an English policy officer, I think that having a full officer who coordinates policy between federal and a state and regional level would be greatly beneficial.

An area that we have often failed at as an organisation is fully taking advantage of the possibilities that regional parties offer in terms of influence, and in particular coordinating stall and policy presence at regional conferences would be a great benefit to the organisation. In addition, while it is a very new committee still finding its feet, I think there is a great deal of opportunity in the joint committee that we can exercise given how developed our policy process and content is compared to regions. So I would encourage you all to vote for my Amendment!

As always, if you have any questions or want any help with policy or anything else please feel free to email me at james.bliss.ld@gmail.com