



ENGLISH YOUNG LIBERALS

EYL Executive 2023 Winter Conference General Meeting -
18th February 2023 - Reports

English Young Liberals Co-Chairs

First and foremost, we would like to give a series of thanks. We owe a big thanks to our predecessor, Oliver Jones-Lyons, who abdicated early for us to begin our term in November instead of January, so that we could get stuck in and hit the ground running this annual year. We are grateful for him being so gracious to let us begin early, and most importantly for his work as EYL Chair last year. We look forward to working with him on this year's English Council Executive!

Additional thanks go to Roben Franklin, the former Chair of South East Young Liberals, and Charlie Moore, the former Chair of West Midlands Young Liberals. They have done brilliant work during their time as regional chairs, and we wish them all the best in the future! We hope to see you back in Young Liberals when personal circumstances allow.

Overview of meetings

We have, to date, convened four monthly meetings of the EYL 2023 Executive. Two of them occurred prior to the majority of regional chairs taking office, in November and December, to lay the foundations of our work in the year ahead. There was one emergency meeting of the 2022 EYL Executive on the 11th of December to deal with a compliance issue. There have been two regular meetings of the 2023 Exec, in January and February. You can see the minutes of these meetings on our website: youngliberals.uk/england/eyl-executive-meeting-minutes.

New Structure of Reps

This year, we welcome a new structure of the EYL executive. Our representatives to YL Federal committees were now open co-options, instead of being sourced internally from regional chairs. We are delighted to welcome Noah Allerton to Campaigns Rep, Huw James to Events Rep, Will Tennison and Sean Bennet to Comms Rep, and James Bliss to Policy Rep.

Finance

Following our accession to office in mid-November, we got stuck in with the YL Exec meeting where we decided the budget for the 2023 year. We had a huge win here for EYL; working with Lucas North, the federal Finance Officer, we secured a new £600 budget for EYL this year. In the December pre-term exec meeting, we agreed financial regulations to allow us to handle having a budget. It was decided that each of the eleven regions would have an allocated budget of £50, with £50 reserved as a central pot, belonging to EYL as a whole. We hope regional chairs can make good use of these funds, and allow them a budget in case their main party region declines them any spending requests.

We hope this money can be used in particular to support EYL's presence at regional conferences.

Executive Regulations

As an executive, we drafted and agreed upon executive regulations for the EYL executive. We hope this will make the roles upon the executive more defined, and allow each office holder to fulfil their duties to the best of their ability.

The Future of EYL

The EYL Exec has created a task and finish group to review the current structure of EYL, and make any necessary constitutional recommendations in order to improve EYL for the membership. This began with a typeform survey over the winter holidays, which was open to the membership to give feedback on their views of EYL. We would like to thank everyone who completed this survey!

Off the back of this survey, the task and finish group was created, called 'The Future of EYL'. A term of reference and project was created for the group, and membership of the group was taken from a diverse pool of applicants. We wanted to include as many different stakeholders as we could, hence we have people from the EYL leadership team, people from the YL Exec, people from the Party in England, and people representing the EYL membership as a whole. Thank you to everyone who is partaking in this.

So far, we have had one meeting discussing the terms and reference and structure of the working group. There are three sub-groups, each focusing on different areas. One is studying EYL's external relationships with bodies such as Federal YL and the Party in England, one is examining the relationship with the regions, and the last is considering EYL from the perspective of the membership, with discussions informed by the survey. To support the work of these groups, we are opening another opportunity for

consultation at this conference – please come and speak to us at our table 10am-12pm Saturday morning!

Each group will take some to discuss their areas and eventually draft recommendations for constitutional change, which will be fed back to the EYL Exec. Thanks again to all those taking part, whether it be answering surveys or being on the task and finish group itself – we are really excited to see what comes of this!

Party in England

Joe is taking the YL Chair's seat on the English Council Executive [ECE] (basically the Federal Board of the Party in England) and will have voting rights, while James has been co-opted onto ECE in a non-voting position. We are joined on there by a number of fellow EYLers: Oliver Jones-Lyons and Fergus Ustianowski as directly elected members, as well as Kian Hearnshaw and Lucas North, who have taken on the offices of Vice Chair Regional Parties Committee and Vice Chair Regional Development, respectively. We look forward to working with them over the coming year.

Additionally, Joe has been elected to the English Finance and Administration Committee (EFAC), which is a brilliant win. The first EFAC meeting he shall partake in will be at 2pm on Saturday 18th, during this conference. So far, there has been one ECE meeting, which was an introduction to the executive, and where James was co-opted. The real work will be beginning shortly, with the next ECE meeting being the 25th February, and the first English Council of the year being on the 4th of March. We shall feed back from these in due course.

Survey of Local Parties

We are currently working to contact each local party in England to ask them about their engagement with young people; on their exec, as candidates and as activists. This process is currently underway in Devon and Cornwall and will be extended to other regions in the near future.

Monthly Campaign Meetings

James and Noah Allerton have begun attending monthly campaign meetings of the English Party. We have committed to report back from each of these meetings to the EYL Executive.

Discussions from this meeting have led to the ongoing development of a campaigns strategy document for EYL.

Safeguarding

We are working alongside federal YL to develop suitable safeguarding procedures to better protect the wellbeing of our members. James has been appointed Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for YL and will be working closely with Lucas North (DSL) and Callum Clark (DDSL) to develop more effective and lasting safeguarding procedures within YL. This is a long-term project but we are happy to see the progress already made, including the adoption of an interim safeguarding policy and proposed constitutional amendments to formalise our safeguarding framework.

Organised the General Meeting

The exec has worked hard to organise this general meeting of EYL. We are pleased to have five motions to debate, two of which are business motions, with three constitutional amendments. We have also drafted a set of Standing Orders for EYL General Meetings that we will be proposing and hoping to implement at this General Meeting. The de facto thing to do was to adopt YL's standing orders for general meetings, and simply ignore the parts that didn't apply. This was, however, a flawed approach. Thus, we adapted the existing standing orders to be appropriate for use by EYL. We hope this will clear up ambiguities about general meetings in the future.

Action Day How-To Guide

To assist regional chairs with campaigning, we are in the processing of a how-to guide for holding action days. We currently have a draft version, that will hopefully be soon finalised in an artworked version and made available to regional chairs to hold many brilliant action days ahead of the local elections in May. Thanks to Noah Allerton for looking over the text of the guide, and to Will Tennison for helping with the artworking.

Style Guide

Work is being done to give EYL its own distinctive, visual style. You may have noticed this style in forum, with the use of Lib Dem Charcoal and EYL Red. Now that Federal Comms Committee are finalising the rebrand, EYL will adopt the new logo and shall produce a style guide in due course, for use by regional chairs for producing graphics.

Future Plans

- Continue working with the FoEYL Group to develop recommendations for reform.
- Continue contacting local parties to survey how they're engaging young members.

- Continue to develop a campaigns plan alongside Noah Allerton and Miguel Smith.
- Further support regional chairs to achieve their goals in their regions.
- Encourage build up of capacity/ action days ahead of the locals.
- Actively seek to foster greater diversity within EYL by approaching women and non-binary people as well as people from diverse ethnic backgrounds to scout out their interest in running at the next set of elections.

Vice Chair (Regional Development)

Miguel Smith

I don't have too much to report back on at this General Meeting. As we have two amazing chairs this year; I've had less work to pick up from them, and haven't needed to minute meetings etc.

For most of the first two months of my term, I have been working with the Campaigns Officer to support our regional chairs with action days, and also working as part of the 'Future of EYL Working Group' to look at what resources and support we need to give our regional chairs so they can get more young candidates elected, and build influence in local and regional parties.

Devon and Cornwall Regional Chair

Josh Ruddy

Since I took office on 22nd of January I have contacted all the local parties and attempted to reach all of my branches. Considering the rural nature of my region this has not been easy. As of the time of writing the new executive have not met yet although the second round of co-options has gone out. I have currently got 3 members on my executive and I am aiming to have a fully functioning executive by the next general meeting.

Looking forward with the local elections in Devon I believe that only with the contact information of my members can I truly organise action days and get young councillors elected. This is considering I only know of 2 other out of the 94 Young Liberals in my region. This increasingly challenging issue will prevent me from being able to stabilise the region in the long term and provide long term growth.

My main aims are to:

- 1 Revive all of the old branches and ensure their growth.
- 2 Create new beaches so that everyone in my region has a contact point that is local to them.
- 3 Update our constitution and reform our exec to better reflect our region's needs.
- 4 Grow the region to ensure that when the General election comes around we can take the 3 main target seats.

To conclude me and my executive are doing the absolute best we can with the given timeframe and the small team that I operate.

East of England YL Regional Chair

Will Tennison

We have had a great year in the East of England.

I was delighted to double the size of my exec and incorporate more talented members from across the region into positions of leadership.

A real highlight was our presence at regional conference where we delivered a speech on engaging young members and spoke to countless individuals both at our stand and throughout the day.

I would like to give a special thanks to Sean, Nathan and Luis who have been integral at supporting me and helping to drive the East of England forward.

Our priority for the next year is to focus on supporting young candidates in May's local elections and I believe the foundation we have built over the last year will allow us to be successful at this.

London YL Regional Chair

Nicholas Orford-Williams

I'm more or less plugged in – got access to most of what I need besides social logins. I've also established myself within Connect so can now make contact with London YLers with the aim of encouraging activity. I have a monthly catch up with region staff to co-ordinate YL activities and Action Days. We have our first planned for 25 March in Bromley. Still lacking a committee. This is waiting on a lighthouse -> fleet migrations in order to trigger the needed email.

Besides this, preparations are underway for the Greater London Assembly election. I've spent some of my time on the shortlisting committee for our candidate Greater London Assembly members – I plan to also be working on the London Mayoral shortlisting as well.

North East YL Regional Chair

Helder Costa

I took office as Chair of the Young Liberals North East Region on 21 January 2023, and therefore there is little work to provide an update on. The North East Region has recently opened nominations to be co-opted into our executive, we have received three nominations, and I am currently conversing with all the nominees to understand their ambitions and skills so they can be placed into roles that suit them best.

Furthermore, conversations have been arranged with local councillors to understand the best ways of engaging young people across the region back into the party.

We have yet to start any campaign as the executive still needs to be fully functional. I am happy to receive email questions (heldercardinali@gmail.com), and if anyone attending is local to the North East and would like to explore an opportunity within our executive, please reach out.

North West YL Regional Chair

Tom Sutton

At the start of my term, combined with taking a new job and relocating, progress has been somewhat slow. However, at the time of writing, plans are starting to take shape.

I am yet to co-opt a regional executive. However after consultation with Joe and James, plans have been created and I shall be seeking applications shortly. I hope to be able to build an executive that covers the region effectively and can work as diligently as its predecessors.

With a large number of local elections in the region, I shall be looking to organise action days or facilitate YL members to help in their local areas in the runup to May. With areas of potential growth (Liverpool and Lancaster especially) having a number of YL candidates, these areas will naturally be our focus.

I have developed some sense of a relationship with the Regional Party through the Administrator Jen Yockney. I shall look to join regional exec meetings in the future.

I have an item on the agenda and a stall at regional conference in March which is in Chester. I intend to talk about what YL can do for local parties and campaigners if they empower young members. I have received support and guidance from EYL in doing this.

I wish to have made more progress at this point where circumstances have been limiting. However, I am fortunate to have an effective relationship with Lancaster University LD (our largest branch) as a former exec member who conveniently works on campus. If there are individuals willing to create sustainable branches, I will be able to support this through my experience and position where needed.

I look forward to the rest of my term where I can hopefully assist on getting even more Liberal Democrats in our council chambers from Crewe to Carlisle.

South Central YL Regional Chair

Nathan Eve

2022 ended a quieter year for SCYL but at least with the election of a chair, and hopefully with the foundations of a stronger region. I took the opportunity with my early cooption in that year to familiarise myself with the role, the region, and the responsibilities, and to begin to build links with the regional party.

In the new year I'm hoping to strengthen the region through holding an AGM. An attempt earlier in January failed to meet a quorum, which was a disappointment, so I am planning on holding an AGM later this Spring. In the meantime, I am hoping to open the cooptions process for the executive to get some positions filled and build momentum towards an AGM, where we will hopefully be able to adopt the new model constitution.

Nevertheless, I am very proud of the fact that we are holding YL conference within the region. I am now sat on regional party exec and have been added to communication channels, and am hoping to work with them, including representing regional YL at South Central Liberal Democrats Conference later this year.

The next steps are to hopefully form a stable executive and hold a few regular meetings, organise action days to support to 2023 Local Elections, and to continue to develop YL branches (namely Oxford, Southampton, and Winchester) in the region.

Western Counties YL Regional Chair

Toby Hawkins

Upon becoming regional YL chair, I attended a handover meeting with James Green on 24/11/22. This was also attended by Fergus Ustianowski and we went through a 'who's who' of the regional executive members, my priorities for the year ahead and reviewing WCYL's lack of social media presence in comparison with other regions and the changes that can be brought in to address this. I subsequently met with the regional executive on 7/12/22 to introduce myself and meet the various members of the executive.

In-line with the checklist of tasks to complete sent out to regional chairs, I reviewed our regional constitution, which was recently updated by JG on 19/11/22 at our last AGM. I also reviewed the list of current members of YL regional executive members which, at the time, included myself as WCYL Chair and JG as Vice-Chair. Since that review, Zeb Mackintosh has joined the WCYL exec, taking on the Comms role.

In addition, I made contact with our regional branches via email and have met with the BaNES Lib Dems to discuss the upcoming local elections campaign and the potential for a YL action day, most likely to be held in March. I also introduced myself to the B&NES Lib Dem students group via Whatsapp.

In terms of next steps, the plan is to relaunch WCYL on social media throughout YL conference with this process fully being completed by the end of February at the latest. Further to this, it is my intention to run co-options for the next round of WCYL roles, once regional comms is fully up and running. As mentioned above, we're planning an action day soon in Bath so keep an eye out for further details!

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Co-Chairs

Jack Worrall and Patrick Gilbert

Jack

- I have taken part in 3 action days for Young Liberal candidates this May.
- I have encouraged a candidate to write an application for Young and Winning.
- Taken the lead in a ward where a Young Liberal is running in May - canvassing twice a week and helping with delivery too.
- Another 2 action days for Young candidates in York are coming up.

Patrick

- Supported a young candidate in Sheffield by ensuring signup to young and winning, assisting with access to further support and funding from ALDC, and assisting with other aspects of campaigning such as literature production
- Ensured the development and upskilling of young people in the local party, trying to ensure that they move towards leadership/senior activist roles
- Haven't yet managed to hold dedicated YL action days in my patch, but this is a major goal in the run-up to May

To do:

- Sort Y&H YL constitution out
- Form Y&H YL exec
- Hold AGM of Y&H YL

EYL Representative to Campaigns Committee

Noah Allerton

Since starting my term as Campaigns Rep in January, I've been active in attending meetings and trying to get underway with planning EYL's strategy for the local elections this May.

Myself and EYL Co-Chair James Green have begun attending the English Party's monthly campaigns briefings, between HQ, Regional Chairs and Regional Campaign Officers. Myself and James have a standing invite for this going forward, allowing us to better synchronise strategy with ELD and focus on targets that HQ and the English Party at large are focusing on.

Also met with Campaigns Committee and Campaigns Officer to go through the first round of Young and Winning applicants and select the candidates to receive funding.

I have also begun working with EYL Vice Chair Miguel Smith on EYL's Campaigning Strategy for the local elections this May, to help and assist Regional Chairs with their action day planning and targeting. I'm aiming to have this complete within the next week or so, to allow plenty of time for Regional Chairs to plan out Action Days across the next 2 and a half months leading up to the elections in May.

EYL Representative to Communications Committee

Will Tennison and Sean Bennet

Sean and Will are delighted to have co-opted to this role.

Due to the point of co-option we have had limited opportunity to make a meaningful contribution in our roles.

We have however joins the comms committee for meetings and contributed to the EYL style guide, which we are very happy with.

Moving forward we look forward to supporting EYL utilising Fleet and growing our presence.

EYL Representative to Events Committee

Huw James

I have assisted and provided constructive scrutiny to the events officer as and when needed.

EYL Representative to Policy Committee

James Bliss

The vast majority of my time has been taken up within Young Liberals Policy Committee helping with Reading Winter Conference. Assisting with drafting advice, selection of motions to fill the agenda, selection of chairs and aides, chair and aide training and a significant amount of admin around conference. In addition I have also helped with the late stages of selection of submissions for Spring Conference where we were unfortunately unsuccessful.

The Joint Committee of the Regions has yet to be set up due to issues with the Regional Policy Officers. Once Reading is out of the way I have various plans within thin EYL to expand Young Liberals influence via policy.

Reading Winter Conference

I assisted Policy Committee with drafting advice for policy submissions to Winter Conference, where there were a number of motions that needed drafting advice but that didn't necessarily always take it. Due to a relatively low number of motions submitted compared to previous conferences, all motions were selected for debate, similarly with Emergency Motions there was only one submission.

I have helped out with quite a bit of the admin around Conference particularly with the Agenda and Confera. I also ran the Chair and Aide training, helped with selecting the Chairs and Aides and will be onhand at Conference to assist where needed.

Spring Conference

Unfortunately none of the motions that the Young Liberals proposed to Federal Spring Conference were selected for debate, however this is not entirely surprising due to the large number of submissions and limited time due to it being a Spring Conference (so with limited days), the cancellation of Brighton and this now being the first in person conference.

There will be some really important work to be done at Spring Conference, in particular in getting Young Liberals members turned out to key debates on the Members Code of Conduct and in opposition to the constitutional amendment that would remove both non-binary people and self identification from the diversity rules for Party Committees.

As I have posted on forum, I cannot reiterate enough how important it is that if anyone can come to York Conference either in person or online that isn't already registered,

please make sure you do! Online Registration is only £15, and its so important that we organise against transphobic forces within the party.

Joint Committee of the Regions

I have made contact with Sally Burnell, who as the English Party Rep to FPC is the Chair of the JCR. So far there have been issues in getting contacts for all of the regions policy officers and so there has not been any work done around this.

Plans going forward

In my cooption application I talked about increasing young liberals presence within the regions via policy submissions to regional conferences. In terms of regional spring conferences, for some regions (like North West) the submission deadline has already passed, for some (like South Central, of which I am also a member of the Regional Party Executive and Conference Committee) the conferences are not yet fully organised and others either aren't holding Spring Conferences or I can't find any current plans for ones. This will likely be something to work on after the local elections with regional chairs in preparation for Autumn Conference, possibly with policy workshops to help members develop policies for both the regional conference and summer conference.