

Belcher for England

I am very excited to be running to be your next English Young Liberals Chair. The EYL Chair is a multi-faceted role which requires balancing many responsibilities: bringing the regions together, representing England to federal YL, and fighting for young people on English Council. I have:

Served two years as Yorkshire and Humber regional chair

Served one year as an EYL rep to English Council

Attended almost every EYL general meeting since 2018

The election of 65 Lib Dem MPs in England is an achievement that was made possible by including young people with new ideas at every level of the party. With the party's renewed stature, we must not allow our voice to be diluted. My mission will be to amplify the voices of young people in the English Party.

"Throughout my time in the Lib Dems I've known Adam to be very diplomatic and also care passionately about the organisation and his own work." - Hermione Peace, former Vice-Chair of the Young Liberals

Embed Young Liberals in regional parties

Recently EYL's stature in the English Party has gone from strength to strength. On English Council and ECE, I will use my consensus-building attitude to maintain and develop the bridges we have established over the past few years with other key stakeholders. However, there are huge inconsistencies in how regional parties engage with YL, with some regions virtually ignoring us. We can change this if we get more young people to attend regional conferences, to secure places on regional executives as well as maximising our presence on English Council. I will encourage this by:

Surveying young members about their experiences of regional conferences as one of my first priorities

Ensuring that YL conference access funds can be used to help young members get to regional conferences, and that this is well-advertised

Working with the YL Events Officer to encourage more regions to hold hybrid conferences

"Adam has the right priorities for EYL. I think he can be supportive at the grassroots and build bridges with the wider party, with some brilliant ideas for the organisation." - Patrick Gilbert, former YL Branch Development Officer

More confident and diverse regional chairs

EYL often struggles to recruit regional chairs. Elections are uncompetitive and shockingly lacking in diversity, with zero women coming forward last year. We need to understand why being a regional chair seems to be unappealing to so many. Furthermore, those who do become regional chairs may inherit a less-developed region, may not receive much of a handover from their predecessor, and may go on to stop engaging with EYL. I will encourage

more candidates to come forward in 2025, as well as support regional chairs over the coming year, by:

Working with the Accessibility, Diversity and Standards Officer to address the lack of diversity in regional chairs

Working with the Branch Development Officer to ensure that there is at least one active branch or society in each region which is engaged with YL at the regional level

Producing simple welcome guides for new regional chairs so they can hit the ground running in January

Supporting regional chairs throughout the year with monthly one-to-one meetings

Inviting successful former regional chairs to give talks to EYL Exec in order to preserve institutional memory and share best practices, and potentially explore the possibility of paired mentoring

“Adam is a dedicated and hardworking Lib Dem that I know will do fantastically as EYL Chair. He’s a credit to the party - thorough, organised and committed. He’s got my vote and I hope you’ll back him too.” -Cllr. Sophie Thornton, former Chair of Liberal Youth England

Vote Adam Belcher #1 for Chair of English Young Liberals