



ENGLISH YOUNG LIBERALS

Executive Meeting – July 2024 – Reports

English Young Liberals Chair

TL;DR:

- A general election was fought! Regional chairs did a great job of getting people along to action days and making contact with members to encourage them to follow the target seat strategy. It clearly worked!
- A lot of things were put on pause for the GE (e.g. English Party meetings), so outside of campaigning, there isn't a ton to report!

Now the GE is done, I've been thinking about what the remainder of the term will look like. Some key focuses will be:

- Holding the EYL AGM at YL Summer Conference
- Looking forward to next year's local elections in terms of campaigning and getting young candidates to put themselves forward
- Preparing for the English and Regional party elections in the autumn
- Ensuring a good YL presence at Regional Conferences
- Working with Federal to deliver a good Freshers
- Exploring how we can drive membership recruitment building on the success of the GE
- Continuing phonebanking to engage our membership

Joe Norris

Vice-Chair for Elections and Campaigns

We won an incredible amount of seats! Regions did a great job of either having action days or sign-posting members to existing local party ones. Some regions also phonebanked their members to encourage them to go to their nearest target seat, which was really great to see!

Rebecca Procter

Vice-Chair for Membership Engagement

Since the last time I handed in a report for this role, the general election was called, and subsequently took place. Due to this unfortunately previous ideas may have had to be delayed. I'm sorry I couldn't do more in the scope of this specific role but I hope everyone enjoyed the election campaign. I'll be getting back on top of things from next week now things are settling down again. Much love

Caitlin Richardson

Policy and Regional Engagement Officer

Over the general election I have been assisting with the twitter output, which has been a great success and we have seen high levels of engagement.

Policy committee meet for the first time after the General Election on the Friday just gone, and we will be meeting again this coming week once the policy deadline has passed.

I'd like to encourage everyone to sign up for conference and for Regional Chairs to encourage members within their regions to sign up!

James Bliss

Events Committee Representative

Position vacant.

Devon and Cornwall YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Todd Olive

East Midlands YL Regional Chair

Achieved since last meeting

- General Election – Unfortunately we won zero seats in the region, but are now second in Hinckley and Bosworth

- I rang half of East Midlands YL members and some agreed to head to target seats. I plan to still ring the rest so that I can introduce myself, invite them to join Facebook groups and attend conference
- Attended a local party (West Northants) meeting and have been added to a working group to create a Local Party YL group. Will keep you updated

Plans for future

- Begin planning action days for local elections. Currently I have Lincolnshire County Council Elections and Northants Unitary Elections in mind
- Prepare for Freshers fairs by contacting local parties with a University and looking for young liberals who attend universities

Josh Nightingale

East of England YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Tom Jordan

London YL Regional Chair

I began as an organiser for North Cornwall Lib Dems straight after the London elections. As a seat with no HQ support, as you can imagine, it meant being thrown in the deep end early which meant I was unable to be as proactive with London during the campaign, nevertheless I:

- ensured details of action days were shared in federal emails.
- publicised office location and hours of Wimbledon, Carshalton & Wallington (same as Sutton & Cheam) and Harpenden & Berkhamsted across our closed London YL channels.
- communicated with London university chairs to ensure they knew where they and their members should campaign in, including Harpenden & Berkhamsted which some inner north London parties were paired with.
- when the priority for Sutton shifted from Carshalton & Wallington to Sutton & Cheam, I confirmed with regional chair to shift our comms too. Many thanks to Sam Cumber for helping to promote the shift and the campaign activity there which helped us gain a sixth MP.

- A big thank you to my committee members who when I mentioned time struggles offered to help and fill in on the ground during the campaign.

The response from young people to our campaign has been great, although in London limited by the presence of the greens and some independents.

I recognise the focus on target seats has driven us back elsewhere, even in some of our council target areas - especially in seats with heavy youth populations where greens often came ahead of us. At the next regional executive I hope to review how we can ensure these areas are supported moving forward, and how we can make progress in London into the future as we will need to win outside of south west London if we hope to make further gains, as we saw at the London elections where we fell short of a third Assembly Member despite gaining the South West seat.

I am now back in London and plan to reactivate the group. I hope to see you all at the YL conference being held in our lovely city.

Josh Lucas Mitte

North East YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Thom Campion

North West YL Regional Chair

Well it's been busy since the last meeting!

Since then we've had a General Election so most of my time was taken up by that. I took a primary focus on Cheadle as my nearest target seat while Rowan Fitton kindly covered YL matters in Hazel Grove. I also spent a fair amount of time phonebanking the membership to get them involved.

It was great to meet so many Young Liberals on the campaign who I hadn't met before. And from it all we now have 3 MPs in the region in Tom Morrison, Lisa Smart and Tim Farron. We have also seen people join because of our GE campaign. So I would consider it a success!

Tom Sutton

South Central YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Nathan Eve

South East YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Tom Nevill

West Midlands YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Tim Macy

Western Counties YL Regional Chair

In the Western Counties we had lots of wins. Because of this we had lots of target seats in the election. This made it very difficult to get YL members to come to our action days in Frome and East Somerset to campaign, as almost everyone had an equally viable seat closer to home (or an unviable one they refused to leave). Despite this the Bath University Young Liberal branch did regularly come down to Frome in force and consistently had volunteers in the constituency throughout the campaign. They are very well integrated with their local party, so it was easy for them to hitch onto the considerable number of regular volunteers coming from Bath. The Bath branch had previously been quite illusive and had not responded to any of my attempts to contact them. I was able to meet their chair for next year who was keen to be more involved with YL. Additionally, when the pairings changed it made our life easier as Bristol were being sent to Frome by the federal party. Part of this was the Bristol University society who whilst being smaller than Bath also were campaigning regularly. This meant that the two branches we have in the Western Counties were out campaigning in the seat we chose to target. And all our effort was not in vain, as we now have an MP in Frome who agrees with us with wanting to build more bloody houses (they even have the shirt).

Zeb Mackintosh

Yorkshire and the Humber YL Regional Chair

No report received.

George Sykes