



Officer Reports – Young Liberals Winter 2025 Conference

Please contact reports@youngliberals.uk with any questions

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Chair – Harvey Jones

Chair's Report to Winter Conference

It was a privilege to be elected as Chair of Young Liberals in October and I would like to thank all of those who stood for every role across our organisation, including Joshan Parmar for a healthy contested election for Chair. This is a very large youth wing and it is a testament to the hard work of our members and the trust the party puts in us that so many of our members are represented at all levels of the party.

I would like to pay tribute particular tribute to Janey Little, my predecessor, who did a fantastic job at advocating for young people across the party, helped us win some vital changes to policy and representation with her voice on committees, and was a source of some very sound advice and wise words in the first few weeks of the term and since.

I will structure this report around the three key areas of the manifesto on which I stood. In the three months since taking on the role I have been working out how best to balance YL, my job and my personal commitments, so much of the work I have done so far is preparatory or exploratory, with the bulk coming in the latter part of the term.

1. Executive Culture

At our Handover meeting in October, I set out a number of key expectations around Exec members' behaviour, their responsibilities, and how we can help each other to achieve what we want to do. This was followed by an offer of an individual meeting with me to discuss aims, objectives, concerns and any training needs. I am inviting Officers to a follow-up meeting in the next two weeks to discuss how their roles are progressing and how I and others can support them.

A key belief of mine is that YL roles should be used as a training ground for both transferable skills and development within the party. I am therefore developing a programme of training for Exec members to take place following the main business of our Executive meetings. So far we have had one session on unconscious bias, with other suggestions including tackling misogyny, social media presence (which will also be offered to Committee members, and I plan to discuss how we can offer this to anyone with a Lib Dem imprint on social media), Lib Dems in Parliament, tackling racism (incl.

specific focus on antisemitism and islamophobia), and candidate approval (for those interested).

I also wanted to continue Janey's work to recognise individual Officers for their contributions to YL each month, by continuing the 'Exec Member of the Month', awarded at each Exec meeting. So far this has been awarded to:

- Membership Development (Will Tennison) for securing extra training opportunities for members outside YL about young people and youth issues.
- Policy (Ulysse Abbate) and Non-Portfolio Officer (Harvey Thomas-Benton) for their work on Winter Conference engagement, and Harvey for stepping up as Secretary.
- Accessibility, Diversity and Standards (Rebecca Jones and Bex Foulsham) for their stellar management of Diversity Committee and their work on the Diversity Plan.

Executive Meetings: Alongside our Non-Portfolio Officer, Harvey Thomas-Benton, I have been taking on much of the role of Secretary in recent weeks, to ensure reports are collected and circulated, agendas and minutes are prepared, and going forward, that those who chair committees are supported. I would also like to particularly thank Harvey for their work on this. To that end, I have included the statistics for attendance and reports for each Executive Officer for the meetings held since November 1st. Green is attended/report time, orange is apologies/report late, red is absent without apologies/no report received.

ATTENDANCE		Handover	Nov	Dec	Jan
Chair	Harvey Jones				
Secretary	Oliver Jones-Lyons				
Fundraising	Callum James Littlemore				
Comms	Sarah Anderson				
Elections	Alex Gallagher				
MemDev	Will Tennison				
BranchDev	Chang Liu				
Events	Lucas North				
Policy	Ulysse Abbate				
International	Tom Jordan				
	Rowan Fitton				
ADS	Bex Foulsham				
	Rebecca Jones				
REDL	Timi Jibogu				
NPO	Harvey Thomas-Benton				



EYL	Josh Lucas Mitte				
WYL	Sam Wilson				
SYL	Leo Dempster				

REPORTS		Nov	Dec	Jan
Chair	Harvey Jones			
Secretary	Oliver Jones-Lyons			
Fundraising	Callum James Littlemore			
Comms	Sarah Anderson			
Elections	Alex Gallagher			
MemDev	Will Tennison			
BranchDev	Chang Liu			
Events	Lucas North			
Policy	Ulysse Abbate			
International	Tom Jordan			
	Rowan Fitton			
ADS	Bex Foulsham			
	Rebecca Jones			
REDL	Timi Jibogu			
NPO	Harvey Thomas-Benton			
EYL	Josh Lucas Mitte			
WYL	Sam Wilson			
SYL	Leo Dempster			

As per the constitution, any member who does not submit a report three times in a term is invited to discuss any support they may need in their role. I am working with

Tom Hughes, the YL Development Officer at LDHQ, to facilitate any requests.

I would like to remind all members that they are welcome to join all YL Exec Meetings. All our meetings for the rest of this term will be virtual (with the exception of our October meeting to handover to the next Executive). Details will be circulated in YL Forum and on the WhatsApp community.

Future work: Formal adoption of a conflict of interest policy, Chair Check-Ins every 6 months with a focus on manifesto commitments and personal goals, greater collaboration between, and support for committee chairs, and implementation of the Diversity Plan with targets for every officer.

2. Diversity

Diversity Plan

One of the main issues identified by all candidates at the election was issues around diversity - particularly the underrepresentation of women and cultural issues with misogyny, people from ethnic minority backgrounds and support for people with disabilities.

Along with Rebecca Jones and Bex Foulsham (Co-Accessibility, Diversity and Standards Officers), we have started work on a thorough plan to assess the current situation, suggest recommendations for all Officers, and how we can collaborate with other AOs to support and mentor young people from diverse backgrounds through the party.

The current draft is ready to be sent to Diversity Committee for feedback from individual community reps, and will be circulated with the Executive in due course. It is currently comprised of an outline of stats for conference attendees and policy authors, Officers Committee members, problems that have been identified through discussion with the A officers, and ways in which we can address these by giving every officer a stake in tackling issues of inclusion and diversity.

Federal People Development Committee

FPDC has met twice since I took Office. At the most recent meeting I agreed to follow on from Janey as Chair of the Safeguarding and Wellbeing working party. Clair Hudson (Chair) and I have agreed to meet for a briefing on progress, outstanding work, and

future priorities for the group.

Future work: Discuss possible collaboration with Lib Dem Women, LDDA, LDCRE and Plus on mentoring and support for members, completion of diversity plan to include goals for each Officer and committee, and begin planning for YL and LD elections to ensure we encourage a diverse range of members to stand.

3. Engagement

Membership Engagement

I am planning to work with Sarah and individual officers to improve information relating their portfolios on the website, to ensure that members have clearer guidance on how to get involved in various strands of YL's work. Policy have made a good start on this so far as an example of how to clearly explain what we do and how to get involved.

Meetings and Outreach

Alongside Sarah Anderson (Comms Officer), we finalised a Media Plan for triaging requests for interviews and comments. This has involved setting up a small group on Slack to handle this - consisting of Sarah, Ulysse (Policy), Harvey Thomas-Benton (Non-Portfolio Officer, in case of need for cover). The group will be used to develop appropriate quotes or written responses, generate policy briefings for media interviews and have a bank of stock responses.

Going forward, I will be working with Lucas North (Events Officer) to ensure we have solid representation of YL issues at Harrogate, including developing our responses to motions, creating an engaging presence for the stall, and meeting with MPs. I plan to speak with any MPs who would like to hear more about our work, as well as identifying MPs in key policy areas to discuss shared priorities.

Finance and Resources Committee

As Chair I sit ex-officio on FRC. We have met once to discuss fundraising, budget planning and the process. Discussions around budget requests ahead of the December Exec meeting took place over Slack.

Elections Committee

As Chair of Elections Committee, I have held two meetings since taking office. The first

meeting was held early in the term to assess our top priorities for 2025, and longer-term aims for 2026. The second was held in January to discuss the impact of the YL budget setting meeting, which cut funding for Young and Winning, and against the backdrop of election cancellations.

At that meeting we agreed to return to the issue of supporting candidates (with a Y&W type scheme) once election cancellations had been confirmed, with a view to proposing this to English Young Liberals as a scheme they could fund for the reduced local elections taking place this year using their increased budget. This is now with the Elections Committee for final sign off.

External meetings

- I have attended all meetings of the Federal Board and FPDC since taking office. I have met with Mark Pack (Party President), and I plan to regularly meet Clair Hudson (FPDC Chair) to discuss YL's priorities and how we can collaborate. As part of my role on Federal Board, I agreed to be part of the interview panel for the Federal Returning Officer vacancy, currently being advertised. I also joined a number of Board colleagues at the hustings for the new Vice-Chairs of the Racial Diversity Campaign.
- Regular meetings with Tom Hughes, the YL Development Officer, and his line manager, Jon Alwyn, are being set up. Part of this will also include discussions on how to ensure our Complaints and Standards procedures are robust, something which was also raised during the election campaign as a major issue for many members.
- Will Tennison (Membership Development) and I met with Abi Bell, Head of Member Services at ALDC, to discuss Future Councillors, currently in its penultimate year.
- Planning outreach/media work with Make Votes Matter to discuss YL policy on political reform.
- Over the Christmas break, I took part in a pre-recorded interview about the youth vote.
- I am hoping to attend a LYMEC event in London in March in my role as Chair.
- I attended Scottish Lib Dem Conference as Chair, and had hoped to attend either Winter or Spring Conferences for Wales, but due to the clashes with Scottish Conference this has not been possible so far. I am hoping this will be possible for

Welsh Conference in the Autumn.

If anyone has any questions about my report and cannot make it to Conference, please do not hesitate to email me at harvey.jones@youngliberals.uk.

Harvey Jones

February 2025

Secretary – Oliver Jones-Lyons

No report received

Fundraising Officer – Callum James Littlemore

Intro:

Being a relatively newly established role within the organisation, my role represents two different strands of work. Firstly, I am responsible for merchandise and other affiliated activities which have the potential to generate income for the organisation. And secondly I am a key stakeholder and bridge to the wider party – in particular our Parliamentary cohorts – which helps boost our profile and join together those wanting to support our work with viable fundraising activities. The latter is where I have chosen to focus the first few months of my term, helping establish new connections both with individual MPs and with the wider Liberal Democrat group in the House of Lords. I will briefly outline things I have worked on, those which I plan to begin work on soon, and those which I hope to have begun by the end of my term.

So far:

A lot of my early work has been helping develop a better understanding of the role and using my connections within the party to begin a good working dialogue. As my Officer Reports show, a lot of this has focused on conversations about how we connect up YL with new MPs and the organisations within Parliament – who offer us not only a direct source of potential income but also are key in helping front events and fight our corner. Much of this work has been complicated by the busy Parliamentary timetable, which has been short but busy and meant both myself and the Chair (the other key ambassador role to these groups) have not made as much progress as hoped. However, there are easy wins that can be achieved in the coming months which I will be focusing on. These include;

- A full intro to YL session at one of the Peers group meetings,
- A welcome letter/pack for new MPs offices,
- 'YL Champions' from the new MPs,
- Initial fundraising projects with set goals (such as international events),
- Reformatting and restructuring of the YL merch system and sales.

These are things I have already began work on and will be focusing my efforts on between now and the end of March.

The Future:

Moving forward, my focus will be much more on specific projects and goals in conjunction with other officers. With the initial discussions had and connections made, this will allow us to much easier approach Peers and MPs with asks that they can buy into. I also aim to ensure that a previous offer of basic fundraising training for the Executive is delivered upon, so we all can feel more confident making the ask. I also aim to use Federal Spring Conference in Harrogate as a chance to relaunch and re-focus our sales efforts when it comes to merchandise. This includes clearing our existing backlog of stock, recouping what money we can from those sales, and having a design contest to source new ideas for items ahead of Autumn Conference in Bournemouth. I also hope to work with other Officers to develop their ideas which would benefit from extra funding derived from donations specifically to support them. I am always happy to discuss my work and take on ideas from YL members – in particular those in the English regions who have ideas for more targeted local events where I can help connect them with MPs/Peers/Staffers who can help take them forward. My email is Callum.James.Littlemore@youngliberals.uk if anyone would like to get in touch.

Communications Officer – Sarah Anderson

The general summary since the last conference is that my job has ended up being more intense than anticipated so I have mostly been responding to other people's requests rather than initiating any projects of my own.

- Successfully sent out newsletters in September, October, January and February including all information sent to me and, when capacity has allowed, general news from the party
- Have maintained a strong Instagram presence by resharing branch events and information to the story, as well as posting when relevant to our feed. Posts currently being put out for LGBT+ history month (my thanks to the diversity committee and particularly Harvey for the copy on these).
- Have held three Comms and Campaigns Meetings, generally in an attempt to be forward thinking and also distribute the work. My thanks to Alex for taking on some of the running of the X account.
- Have created a BlueSky account and followed party members as and when they move across.
- I have had to rely heavily on Tom's support with the website as Fleet isn't always intuitive. This led to a delay in getting updated committee information up after elections which I take responsibility for.
- There is a content request form which I monitor for general comms requests, and I have kept up to date on Canva requests
- I am always on hand to assist exec members with media queries, and have passed on any I have received to the comms email to the appropriate person.

Elections Officer – Alex Gallagher

- Organised or helped organise action days for YL candidates in Woodhouse in Sheffield, Maidenhead, Durham, Cambridgeshire, Chichester, and Kent.
- Ensured that these action days were/will be accessible and have a variety of activities available.
- Have been getting in touch with local parties to identify young candidates who aren't necessarily involved in YL. The goal is to create a comprehensive list of young candidates ahead of 2025 elections - aim to get this finished by end of February.
- Worked with MDO Will Tennison on a potential replacement scheme for Young and Winning to keep supporting young candidates.
- Met with Tom Hughes to discuss strategy and make clear to HQ that we will be prioritising campaigning for young candidates.
- Spoke in Elections Committee to guide YL's strategy ahead of local elections.
- Worked with Comms Officer Sarah Anderson to promote upcoming action days on social media.

Please contact me at Alex.Gallagher@youngliberals.uk if you have any questions, requests, or election-related information you think I should be aware of!

Membership Development Officer

– Will Tennison

TLDR:

It has been an excellent start to the year working with my fellow exec members.

I have been working hard to revive Friends of YL, delivering federal training sessions, working with the events and campaigns committees and designing training for the rest of the year.

Friends of YL

Working alongside the comms officer, we have set up a Friends of YL mailing list and form on the website.

I will continue to develop this throughout the rest of my term.

Forum

I have been managing Facebook forum in the absence of other exec members. This has included answering questions from the moderation team, providing Lighthouse access, reviewing posts and managing membership requests.

Campaigns Committee

As part of the campaign committee, I have worked closely with Alex to develop a Young and Winning style programme for EYL.

This pitch has been sent to the committee and is awaiting feedback.
YL Winter Conference

Since pivoting to an online conference, I have worked to put together a comprehensive fringe stream which includes training sessions and talks.

As part of this I have recruited ALDC to deliver a number of campaigning training sessions to utilise their expertise.

I have also worked with the international officers to allocate them time in the fringe stream.

Spring Conference

I have secured a record number of training sessions at Spring Conference.
HQ Training

I offered the HQ training team that the Young Liberals could deliver a few virtual sessions as part of their regular training programme.

We have delivered two sessions so far, with two more to follow.
The sessions have been well attended and received good engagement and feedback.

Thank you to Chang, Harvey and Sarah for agreeing to co-deliver these sessions and make them such a success.

WhatsApp

Created the Councillors Network group

Exec Activities

I worked closely with the chair on handover day to give us a few team-building activities, a start to strategy and goal setting, as well as a quiz to help the current exec get to know each other better.

I organised the yearly exec away day alongside the Chair.

This featured a day of team-building challenges and strategy setting.
Feedback from the day was positive, and we kept it as hybrid as possible.

Branch Development Officer – Chang Liu

This report is breaking down manifesto promises achieved and the progress made, results of the recent information update survey, and other activities and duties I've carried out.

Manifesto policies

In terms of recruitment, I have shared with branches the Comms request form to have Young Liberals (YL) advertise their contents to the wider audience on our communication channels. I have started working on Freshers campaign, made calls to the wider executives about different policy ideas we may wish to campaign on. I have also reached out to branches that are experiencing significant drop in activity level to ensure that the regional/ state chair is involved and offered support from the federal level.

In terms of engagement, I have created a new WhatsApp group chat for all the branch chairs and presidents allowing better and direct communication between YL and branches and also between branches. All of our accredited branches have received an email from me about updating their contact details, and reminding them about the resources YL offers. Further information about what has been gathered is shown later in the report.

In terms of development, unfortunately due to the severe constraint on the YL budget it has not been possible to secure a dedicated training budget. I have delivered a federal training session with the Membership Development Officer on Working with YL on all levels. I will be working on delivering further training sessions in the Young Liberal conference and the upcoming federal conference. I have finished the first draft of the Branch Development Guide, this has been circulated to the diversity committee for further comments and suggestions. The under 18s rep has already given feedback on the draft which I've incorporated them already.

Responses to the information update survey

The following 13 branches have responded to the request of updating their information. Warwick Liberal Democrats, Bath University Liberal Democrats, Swansea University Liberal Democrats, Royal Holloway Liberal Democrats, University of Bristol Liberal Democrats Berkshire, Lancaster University Liberal

Democrats, UCL Liberal Democrats, Cambridge University Liberal Association, King's College London Liberal Democrats, Durham University Liberal Democrats, Oxford Student Liberal Association, and Sevenoaks.

Diversity of our branches

The information update survey also contained diversity monitoring, where branches are asked to rate their membership diversity across race/ethnicity, gender, LGBT+ , and class. Most of our branches(5) rate themselves as slightly diverse in terms of race/ethnicity, only 4 branches rate themselves as slightly diverse and very diverse in this category. In terms of gender diversity, only 1 branch rates themselves as very diverse with the rest of branches spread evenly across the rest of the categories. The majority of branches (9) rate themselves as slightly or very diverse in terms of LGBT+ . 6 of our branches rate themselves as slightly or very diverse in class.

Activity level of our branches

Branches were invited to rate themselves in terms of activity level, where 1 is no activity and 5 is very active. 6 branches out of all branches responded have self rated 4 or 5 in terms of activity level. 4 of our branches have self rated as a 2 in terms of activity level. Attendance level of branch events, 75% of branches have 5-10 people in attendance for most of their events.

Other activities and duties carried out

Since my election, I've worked with Ealing, Queen Mary's, Wolverhampton, Tunbridge Wells, and Falmouth University & University of Exeter branches to get accredited. I've drawn up a protocol of how branch development fund requests will be funded and processed in England, and agreed with the English Young Liberals executive committee. I've chased up regional chairs getting them to remind branches that haven't responded to the information update survey. I've also got involved in supporting new branches setting up alongside the relevant regional chairs, sharing best practices and ideas with members wishing to start a new branch in areas like Middle Sussex, Farnham, and Basingstoke and surrounding areas. Updated example constitution for area based branches, and utilising the YL staff's help with reviewing the safeguarding practice in the example constitution. I've also created a template banner for new societies wishing to have their own banner on Canva.

Events Officer – Lucas North

Hello Conference!

At the time you'll be reading this, Conference starts tomorrow. I hope all attendees will have an enjoyable time, and a good Conference experience.

I must first acknowledge that the Conference we are about to have is not the one we wanted. Myself and Events Committee were excited to bring Conference back to Wales for the first time in 6 years, with a wonderful weekend in Cardiff. Unfortunately, that hasn't happened due to contractual issues, and so we will instead be meeting online.

Events Committee will be providing 'breakout' online spaces for members, to try to recreate at least some of the social aspect of Conference. It's also great to see several regions set up regional watch parties or social events, and I'd like to thank those involved in making that happen.

At the time of writing, we have 70 members registered to attend. This is slightly behind where I would hope to be, but I do hope that Conference being online means more people may register part way through the event or at the last minute.

Our timetable promises to be one of our most exciting in recent memory, with 7 parliamentarians joining us for keynote speeches and a policy agenda ranging from the future of the monarchy, to taking Parliament online, through to how we ensure that independent creators are supported in an increasingly digital world.

As well as my role at YL conferences, I am also the YL representative to the Federal Conference Committee. In this role I have attended all meetings of FCC, and will also be present at Harrogate conference in March. YL will have a stand at Harrogate conference, and will also be providing a fantastic training agenda as a result of Will Tennison's incredible work.

I'd like to thank all those involved in making this Conference happen – our staff teams, Executive members, Policy Committee, and Events Committee have all worked hard to deliver the best event we can under difficult circumstances, and I hope that we manage to deliver an amazing Conference experience for all members.

As always, I'd like to close my report by thanking you, the membership, for this opportunity. Being the Events Officer of the Young Liberals, and getting to organise our largest democratic event and take a role at the heart of our organisation, is an incredible honor and privilege. I truly enjoy hearing about the amazing work our members are doing in the Party and in society, as local and regional party officers, publicly elected officials, and volunteers.

In Solidarity,
Lucas North
Events Officer, Young Liberals

Policy Officer – Ulysse Abbate

The beginning half of this year has been a pretty positive one, with lots of work particularly on developing membership engagement and making the Young Liberals Policy processes more accessible.

Other significant work has surrounded my ex-officio role on the Federal Policy Committee and on the FPC's Policy Review Working Group. The FPC itself has 6 working groups currently on track (see later), and I will continue to ensure the young people's voices and needs are best reflected across our policies.

Young Liberals also continue to be active at Federal Conference, and will be submitting a number of amendments, as well as whipping on specific conference items, if and when appropriate.

I've also been pleased to support a number of other executive officers on their various projects (which I will let them report on in detail).

In areas that may need some improvement in the next 6 months, I think there is still more work to be done on empowering individuals. Whilst YL in and of itself is an effective vector for making sure young people's voices are heard, and I think this generally is successfully done, I want to consider more how we can look at YL as a system of upskilling young people and introducing them to the wider Federal Party (for instance understanding more of the nuance of Federal Conference/Policy Committees, or the relationship between Local, Regional, State and Federal Parties).

There also, of course, remain some challenges surrounding Young Liberals Conference, in that the matching of our constitutional and procedural requirements can sometimes come in conflict with other priorities. There are a high number of Constitutional Amendments coming to conference which reflect this, and I look forward to seeing how they impact the Constitution and the Young Liberals.

Young Liberals Policy Making

A significant part of this first half of my term has been focussed on making policy making more accessible and ensuring that more people felt they understood policy beyond what they may see at Conference.

To that end, I and the Policy Committee created 9 [guides](#) on various aspects of the Young Liberals (and wider Liberal Democrats) policy-making system, which we hope has been useful.

For this Winter 2025 Young Liberals Conference, we also looked to engage in specific outreach to members who have shown interest in policy previously, but may have lacked the specific skills to submit policy, to increase our diversity of submitters. This is reflected in an improvement in diversity of motion submitters, but there is more work to be done. Looking forward, I am in particular keen to explore how we can effectively use typeform to gather diversity-related data in a compliant way and how we can expand our targeted outreach to more general outreach to appeal to all members of YL.

Young Liberals Conference

I'd like to firstly thank Lucas North, Events Officer, for their consistent hard work in getting Conference sorted this year. It is an immense job and requires a lot of time, and I hope members share my deep thanks to Lucas for organising this.

On the policy side, I would firstly like to echo the previous paragraphs relating to outreach, and in particular thank Harvey Thomas-Benton for her sharing of graphics (dare I say, far more visually appealing graphics than the heavy-worded superdoc or policy book!) across the YL Forum, which I have had positive feedback on

On the selection of motions, the Committee received a number of policies and sadly was not able to select them all. I hope that motion submitters are not discouraged to keep submitting motions: we simply cannot accept all motions, but this should not be seen as a negative reflection of the motion itself!

We also received a large number of Constitutional Amendments, including some long Constitutional Amendments. Whilst I nor the Policy Committee does not have an official view on the content of these CAs, I am still aware that Constitutional Amendments can be restrictive and exclusive in terms of engagement, in particular considering that they often require a strong understanding of the constitution to properly engage with. I will continue to consider how we can best balance the rights of submitters with the inclusivity of Conference.

Federal Conference

Young Liberals submitted three motions to Federal Conference, none of which were accepted. We are, however, looking to submit some amendments to selected motions (after the full content has been seen), including an amendment on Space Policy for the Science, Innovation and Tech FPC Motion, and an amendment on waiting times for the LGBT+ Equality Spokesperson Motion.

On this latter motion, I would like to extend my thanks to Christine Jardine MP for continuing to engage productively and fairly with the Young Liberals. Not only does it show the value of the Policy Office, that my predecessors have built up (and which I am privileged to now ruthlessly exploit for my own clout!), but it also should be a credit to Christine and our Policy Advisory Unit at HQ, in their readiness to engage. We expect to be supportive of this motion.

Federal Policy Committee

Following the high-intensity, high-importance work of the FPC on the 2024 GE Manifesto, workload has quietened down. The existing policy papers had already been heavily worked on ahead of the General Election by their [working groups](#), and new working groups on Climate Change and the Policy Review Working Group (more below) are still in their infancy. We have also recently launched the Mental Health and High Street & Town Centres Working Groups, which you can register your interest for [here](#).

On the Policy Review Working Group, I was privileged to have been selected as a member. Whilst I cannot currently comment on the specifics of the work, I would like to note that a significant component of the Working Group's activity centres around membership engagement. I would therefore like to flag the upcoming consultation session at Federal Conference (for those attending) as a key way to share your thoughts. This will directly be fed to members, and I'm pleased to say that members, including Chair Ed Davey MP, are incredibly receptive to what members are saying.

Other

Echoing the points made in my introduction, there is of course more work to be done on a number of areas.

Firstly, I would like to see policy be a bit more engaging and a bit more diverse. Whilst we have had improvements, there is still work to do, and I will discuss

with Policy Committee and other executive officers how we can best increase engagement.

I am pleased to be working (in a very minor way) with officers including Will Tennison (MDO) on the Friends of YL Campaign, Chang Liu (BDO) on Freshers and Harvey Jones/Sarah Anderson (Chair/Comms) on Media work. I will let them respectively report on these pieces of work.

International Officer – Tom Jordan & Rowan Fitton

Introduction

Since our last conference report, YL's international work has taken strides in multiple areas. We have passed policy at both LYMEC and IFLRY, deepened YL's cooperation on international matters, both within the party and across partner organisations, and involved our committee in decision making.

European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)

Since the last conference, YL's work with LYMEC, spearheaded by Rowan, has been progressing well. The organisation sent delegations to both the Autumn Congress in Warsaw and the Digital Assembly hosted from Belfast earlier this month. In Warsaw, we successfully passed a resolution reaffirming the UK-EU relationship and acknowledging the specific challenges that have emerged since the UK left in 2020.

Rowan was also reappointed by LYMEC's executive bureau to continue acting as the Editor-in-Chief of *Libertas*, LYMEC's official magazine, and is looking forward to developing the magazine over the coming year. YL member Oliver Poyser has also joined the Editorial Board and is already working hard to contribute.

Rowan is continuing to work alongside colleagues in LYMEC as a member of the delegation to the next ALDE Congress. The last meeting was held earlier this month and the LYMEC delegation is currently finalising the policies it seeks to focus on for this Congress.

LYMEC's annual Changemaker's Academy, held in collaboration with the European Liberal Forum, is due to start in March and the first session will be held in London; representing the profile that the Party and YL have within amongst our partners in Europe. LYMEC have been working closely with both the Party and YL in order to host this event, which will bring together a select group of young changemakers from across the continent.

YL are in the middle of preparations for the next LYMEC Congress in April, due to be held in Zagreb, Croatia. Our delegation has been finalised and will be

publicised in due course, and we are currently exploring potential policy proposals ahead of the respective deadlines.

IFLRY

Since Summer Conference YL has continued to participate as a leading member of IFLRY, being involved intimately and prominently within the discussions that are underway on the future of the organisation and in particular its statutes and position on the ongoing conflict within the Southern Levant.

Of course, most of our efforts have revolved around the organisation's General Assemblies. Since the last conference we have attended one General Assembly, which was hosted in Tallinn, Estonia. With a full delegation of six Young Liberals we represented the organisation admirably, helping to steer the direction of discussions during the Working Groups, carefully scrutinising the Finances and work of the Bureau, and successfully submitting a Motion. Our motion called on IFLRY to fight for the rights of disabled young people around the world - particularly focusing on their ability to travel and emigrate.

Other motions which were passed covered a variety of issues, from Tik Tok to Anti Semitism. Members can find all of the motions which were submitted [here](#). I will be circulating the minutes of the GA when they are published which will confirm which motions were passed, as only around half of all motions were passed and discussed.

I can also report that at the General Assembly, IFLRY accepted several new members in to our Liberal family, whilst also upgrading the status of two parties to 'Full Membership'. This is something which I know is always of interest to our membership. The parties which joined us are Estonia 200 Youth, JALIDE (Cote D'Ivoire), Jeunesse Haraki (Morocco) (all as associates) and then we had Young Yesh Atid (Israel) and Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux (Belgium) go from Associate Members to Full Members. The Delegation supported all of these applications, but we carefully scrutinised each application during the Working Group on Membership, in particular examining the links between Young Yesh Atid and their Mother Party. I appreciate that some Young Liberals may disagree with our choice to vote to approve Young Yesh Atid, I am more than happy for anyone to reach out to me and ask any questions they may have on this. You can find a link to the applications [here](#).

We would like to thank our fantastic delegation of Trystan Lloyd, Josh Lucas Mitte, Roberto Herrera, Katherine Macy, and Tom Sutton. We had a fantastic time in Tallinn, exploring the city, making new friends and seeing old, and hearing from some fantastic guest speakers at the General Assembly.

The International Officers have taken part in two official Working Groups for IFLRY, first a Working Group on IFLRY's policy on the Israel-Palestinian conflict, where Rowan Fitton represented our organisation. This working group produced a motion which was passed at the General Assembly. Secondly Tom is currently participating in the working group on the future of the statutes, which has been ably organised by YLs very own Vice-President Kai Pischke. The Working Group has been productive so far in the whatsapp group, with our first meeting on Wednesday the 19th of Feb.

Several Young Liberals hosted a webinar, alongside Mark Pack, on behalf of JULAC and IFLRY South America in October where, in a mixture of Spanish and English, they discussed our General Election success and what the Liberal Democrats stand for. Rowan Fitton and Josh Lucas Mitte did a brilliant job.

FIRC

YL holds an ex-officio seat on the Party's Federal International Relations Committee (FIRC) and this is held by Rowan. Rowan attends the regular meetings and has ensured that YL's views on key issues are articulated.

Recently, there has been significant attention on youth mobility as an issue within FIRC and Rowan has ensured that YL is at the forefront of these conversations. There have been discussions on collaborations to create a campaign pack to support Lib Dem members and local parties wishing to participate in the campaign for youth mobility and further updates on this work will be provided as available.

More broadly, FIRC has focused on deepening relations with the parliamentary party, monitoring the rise of the far-right in Europe and the electoral success of liberalism through contacts within sister parties, and explored potential responses to Donald Trump's re-election in the US.

Sister Party Relations

Since the last Conference, we have, alongside our committee, been committed to strengthening, maintaining and expanding our fantastic sister party relationships with

likeminded groups all over the world.

In October, 3 Young Liberals, Sam Cumber, Sharan Virk and Arthur Wu were able to visit Unge Venstre's Congress in Oslo. A fantastic, educational and eventful opportunity the three of them were able to observe a Scandinavian style Party Congress, with a keen eye in particular on how they organise their agenda and elect their Executive. They had the opportunity to witness an election of a new Executive, and I can happily confirm that we are very confident about and excited in Unge Venstre's direction.

Aside from visiting UV Congress and meeting other delegations at official meetings, we have both proactively kept in touch with other International Officers and our partners Executives. We have had a dozen meetings and calls with these key stakeholders over the past half year, including meeting Kai Pischke to discuss the future of IFLRY and his campaign to become IFLRY's Treasurer. A full list of meetings is listed below.

One particular highlight has been our dialogue with our two transatlantic partners, the Young Democrats of America and the Young Liberals of Canada. Two of our closest friends historically, our relationships with the two organisations have been contrasting over the past few years. The YDA has maintained a close relationship to us, whilst the YLC have drifted away from us and the International family and is becoming increasingly hard to reach. Tom called YDA International Officer Zachary several times, discussing topics ranging from the Presidential Elections to IFLRY's statutes. Hopefully Zachary will be joining us this summer for our Conference.

Tom has also been able to restart our relationship with the Young Liberals of Canada, beginning a correspondence with their International Officer and President, which has resulted in a call on Thursday 13/02 to discuss CANZUK and campaigning for close Anglo-Canadian ties during the Trump Presidency. Although this seems small, restarting this relationship was a personal goal of Tom at the start of his term, so we are celebrating this victory.

August: Arne Nelson, IFLRY, Vice-President

September: Zachary Annis, Young Democrats of America, International Officer
Kai Pischke, IFLRY, Vice President

October: Maarten Tollenar, Jonge Democraten, International Officer x 2
Knar Kablan, Young Yesh Atid, International Officer

November: Julius Lajtha, JUNOS, International Officer

January: Kai Pischke, IFLRY Vice President x 2

February: Julie Ruby, Radikale Venstre, International Officer

Edvin Matterson, LUF, International Officer
Benjamin Jokenen, Svensk Ungdom, International Officer
Young Liberals of Canada Executive

Committee

This year's committee members have broadly been very engaged and have been strong advocates for YL's international work. We want to thank them for their effort up to this point. Whilst our first meeting was delayed until after YL got through the Winter Statutory Meetings, the committee is now settled in and is providing support to both co-officers in their work. We have held meetings to decide priorities for the year and select delegations, and communicated on policy matters and international events.

List of Committee Meetings:

12th December 2024 - First Meeting of the 24/25 International Committee
6th February 2025 - Zagreb Selection Meeting

Accessibility, Diversity and Standards Officer – Rebecca Jones and Bex Foulsham

Diversity Committee

One of our main goals for this year was to empower Diversity Committee (DC) as an active, regularly-meeting committee, rather than the often-forgotten group that it once was. This has been a great success, with 3 meetings being held thus far. The Committee also regularly works on projects in our slack channel, such as delivering a speedy response to the puberty blocker ban, as well as giving the go-ahead to plans such as the Branch Development Guide. We've also offered advice on wording for other exec officers to ensure our language is inclusive.

Bex's experience of two years on DC as Disabled Rep has allowed her to take on the role of chairing the committee, while Becca acts as Secretary. After each meeting we have circulated the minutes on forum for purposes of transparency. Our hope is this helps more people recognise the importance of DC

Diversity Strategy

We have engaged in 2-on-1 meetings with Harvey Jones to discuss YL's future Diversity Strategy. This tackles key areas where YL is experiencing diversity challenges, such as:

- Exec culture, perception and misogyny
- Engagement of minority groups, in particular gender and global majority representation on executive and committees
- Reviewing opportunities to increase diversity

Becca Specific Work

So far I'm happy with what I've been able to achieve over the last few months. Alongside the above, I've also been able to go further with managing our committee. I've been tracking attendance to ensure those who are absent frequently are able to have the right management to ensure they can attend the meetings.

With 3 meetings here is the current attendance:

Meeting Attendance Tracker			
Member	Meeting 1	HVP Meeting	Meeting 3
Abrial Jerram	Attended ▼	Attended ▼	Attended ▼
Bex Foulsham	Attended ▼	Attended ▼	Attended ▼
Ben Glover	Attended ▼	Apologies ▼	Attended ▼
Brendan Roberts	Absent ▼	Absent ▼	Absent ▼
Cian Tynan	Attended ▼	Attended ▼	Partly ▼
Harvey Thomas-Benton	Attended ▼	Attended ▼	Apologies ▼
Liam Hitchin	Absent ▼	Absent ▼	Absent ▼
Olivia Dunn	Apologies ▼	Attended ▼	Absent ▼
Rebecca Jones	Attended ▼	Attended ▼	Attended ▼
Shaunak Gupta	Attended ▼	Absent ▼	Absent ▼
Scarlet Threadgold	Attended ▼	Absent ▼	Partly ▼
Timi Jibogu	Absent ▼	Absent ▼	Absent ▼

In case you missed the diversity committee meeting minutes, here are the links:

[Diversity Committee Meeting 1 Minutes - Google Docs](#)

[Diversity Committee + HVP Joint Meeting Minutes - Google Docs](#)

[Diversity committee Meeting minutes JANUARY - Google Docs](#)

I have also been working with Christine's office with Ulysse on the upcoming LGBT policy paper to ensure it is fully inclusive of young LGBT people.

I also am working to keep Lib Dem Women in the loop about us and work with them in my role as ordinary member on their executive.

Finally, I've also just had my induction to the Federal Council and will ensure our voice is heard there too.

Over the next 6 months I am likely to receive Gender Reassignment Surgery so am working to ensure I am prepped for that financially.

Bex Specific Work

My main focus has been on chairing Diversity Committee - we have met three times focusing on issues such as exec scrutiny reform and conference accessibility. This is the first time I have ever chaired a committee, so it has been taking time and energy getting used to this, however I am proud to say that I believe I have taken to it well.

Alongside Becca, I have been working on YL's Diversity Strategy, and I continue to push diversity as a front-and-centre issue at exec meetings - it is my belief that diversity should be a concern of every exec member, not just ADS. Unfortunately, our exec and our committees are still largely dominated by cisgender white men, and ensuring greater diversity at the next elections (both internally within YL and YL representation on federal committees) is always at the forefront of my mind.

I have also taken YL's seat on the Plus Executive and co-ordinating between the two AOs is a significant part of my work. Through this, I am also working on amending Christine's LGBTQ+ policy, as well as agreeing for Plus to sign off on our recent statement calling for Wes Streeting to resign.

I am also entering a few busy months. I am in the process of writing my dissertation and finishing up my final year of my undergraduate, alongside regular training for national sailing events. Furthermore, I am about to start hormone replacement therapy, and will need space to adjust to a second puberty. I intend to keep working on YL business as much as possible, but I have already discussed with our NPO about asking her to take over responsibilities if the need arises.

For the future

We'd like to still work on implementing our diversity documents as well as finishing and implementing the Diversity strategy.

Racial Equity, Diversity and Liberation Officer – Timi Jibogu

No report received

English Young Liberals Chair – Josh Lucas Mitte

I started at the end of October which means half my time was spent overseeing the end of the last executive and the transition to the new executive, with the last month being spent establishing our new executive. You can see my activities over the past few months more thoroughly on my previous reports [here](#). Of note, meeting some of my manifesto pledges:

Handover

I ensured incoming members with an immediate predecessor had 1-to-1 handover meetings, and where there was not one or a meeting couldn't be arranged, I offered to meet with them, with Tom Jordan also helping. I used the '8 objectives' trackers to give some provisional guidance to regional chairs taking over before the official new term.

I also held an introductory onboarding meeting in December, giving a more thorough overview of our organisation and explaining how all executive members, in particular regional chairs, can work (incl. with EYL and YL officers) to help us reach our organisations' objectives.

Regional Conferences

I strongly advocated for presence from both 2024 and 2025 regional chairs at these, with large success and great representation across our regional conference, of course credit goes to the individuals who represented us, whether through stalls or panels, at these conferences.

My main contribution was coordinating conference kits and creating a spreadsheet on the back of these conferences with various details that will support the new executive in securing a better conference with a stronger YL presence and contribution.

I have, with the support of the former and incoming EYL executive, used part of our grant to create an access fund for regional conferences, hoping to encourage and facilitate greater participation from YLers at these (usually) day conferences, especially for those in more geographically dispersed areas.

English Party

Representation

- There is to my knowledge a slightly smaller contingent of YLers in English Council, this is partly due to the loss of 1 EYL rep in the allocations (based on membership number), and partly due to a fewer number of YLers standing and/or getting elected to the English Council. Similarly, Lucas North was the only YLer directly elected to the English Council Executive. Nevertheless, I remain hopeful on our ability to influence policies.
- English Party terms last 2-years, so there is likely little ability to do more work on this respect under my term, unless vacancies were to arise.
- I took a proactive role in attempting to find and encouraged YLers to stand in regional elections for their executives as well as English Council. I am glad to report some were elected to both regional and English party bodies.

Meetings

1. **English Council Executive (ECE)** - I was unable to attend the last meeting of the 2023-24 English Council Executive, but sent Ulysse Abbate as my substitute. There was little of importance to report as the last meeting. EYL's funding from the English Party remained unchanged. I attended the first meeting of the 2025-26 ECE where I raised my concerns at the reduction of English Council meeting times.
2. **English Council (EC)** - I led the English Council delegation on 30th of November, continuing the practice of a 'whip sheet' to help guide YLers through the long meeting, while also explaining any decisions where possible to justify the guidance. There has not been a meeting for new EC, hence the lack of an English Council Reps report as the new delegation has not met since. I have also used my voice in the ECE to ensure EC members were consulted on any changes to the scheduling, as well as to raise concerns on the practicality of cutting EC meetings to 4 hours a year (2 hours in 2 meetings).

Organisation

1. English Council Executive

I have used the WhatsApp group to speak, primarily focusedly on matters in the remit of the English Party, to both present YLers' views, such as in desire for a separate approvals system for paper candidates v. advanced seats, as well as to gather support for YL by showing alignment where there is some, such as by highlighting some concerns to the centralisation of candidates rules.

I have been elected to the English Finance and Administration Committee, which amongst many responsibilities drafts the state party's budget. Unfortunately the body will committee will likely get abolished later this month, with its powers transferred to the officers group which I am not a part of.

I have had a productive meeting with the new English Party treasurer, and strongly spoke in favour of using more funds on development staff who often focus on areas with higher rates of younger people. I also shared many of the ways EYL can work with the English Party to achieve shared goals, incl. plans for a membership drive, where he suggested reaching out to HQ.

2. English Council

We are in the process co-opting our fifth representative, however opportunities to substitute may (and often do) arise, so I encourage anytime interesting on finding out more about the English Party, or with an interest in it, to approach me. I have also (through my role in the London Region Executive) been charged with supporting in arranging substitutions for the 27 London EC members, so would extra encourage London members interested in the English Council to approach me.

I have created a group chat for all YLers in EC, whether elected via YL or through regions. This is a semi-informal space for people to discuss English Party matters, and I have used it to keep people updated on what is going at ECE (thanks to Lucas for a couple corrections); to request any feedback on certain issues - to ensure I continue to represent YL's interest; and to facilitate discussions on topics under the English Party's remit. Most recently it has been over Caroline's (English Chair) proposed reforms and the upcoming amendment at Harrogate (F10).

Finances

In discussion with former chairs and other relevant officers, we decided to not handover the full English grant to Federal YL. This hopes to decentralise the use of money across YL for more effective promotion and usage, and to encourage further active collaboration between EYL officers and regional chairs and YL officers. While it has not gone perfect and we have lessons to learn (we ended up going back to federal on some issues), it is our first budget, and I do believe it has encouraged greater collaboration and given EYL a stronger voice in financial decisions where EYL funds are concerned .

- I am particularly thankful to Chang for creating thorough guidelines on branch funding, which tie from region up to federal.

- While originally there was some opposition to Y&W as it existed from both sides, following feedback from some federal exec members I did consult with EYL who became open to supporting a new reformed scheme. Will Tennison, Alex Gallagher, Adam Durbaba and Harvey Jones have been working on this, which I hope the EYL exec will approve.
- Thinking ahead, I also hope to work with the Communications Officers and the Communications and Campaign Committee to put some focus on recruitment, hoping to work with HQ and/or regions to for a targeted letters scheme that promote our organisation while pursuing membership growth, and can double up as campaigning literature. This not only benefits us, but would also support a main party goal following months of gradual membership decline.

I have also used my voice in FRC to ensure YL (1) included an in-person Winter Conference in its federal budget, offering some more EYL funds to support access funds, and more recently (2) suggesting ways we could keep the staff member while reducing our financial burden, for longer term sustainability.

Diversity

Unfortunately, I have had little meaningful progress on this. While there are many issues in this respect, we are particularly struggling in regard to gender. I have accepted that the rush in attempting to fulfill vacant roles meant that we had little time to try and reach members from underrepresented communities.

That said, I have taken initial work with the Diversity Committee by creating a diversity form along with their feedback. Of course this only provides data, I hope to take a more proactive role moving forward, and will be working more closely with federal YL Chair, ADS and REDL officers to prevent any double-up work (such as approaching LDW separately when could do jointly). I intend to adopt and adapt (if needed, to fit EYL's work) the strategy being worked on federally, and will have a focus on diversity in a future EYL Meeting.

I have promoted diversity in others aspects, in the elections committee, voicing support for the prioritisation of underrepresented groups (I had this under EYL budget plan notes but we then delegated this money to the election committee, who also share this goal and measure). When drafting the budget, when inviting two Regional Chairs to the smaller drafting group (made up of the officers) I had diversity in mind, which meant the chosen individuals improved the diversity - although they weren't chosen just because of this. And lastly in the EC(E), expressing how important it was to approve the new rules to ensure they could be used in new selections, and continuing to urge people to back them as we approach a new vote. I also shared my concern on how centralisation of

candidate selections risks diversity efforts, especially as the federal party prefers a rushed early selection approach that favours the status quo of the party.

Looking forward

I hope to improve communication between YL and EYL further, especially regarding coordination of events. I have taken the helm to begin with but have gradually been delegating more and more responsibilities, and with my new job heavily restricting my volunteer time - I will continue to do this not just to share workload but empower officers or regional chairs in their roles, but continue to be a supportive voice where needed.

I am also always open to feedback, and encourage both officers and ordinary members to contact me if they want to understand why I am doing something or want to express their disagreement over an action (I'm not perfect!). Equally, if you have any feedback on how something could be improved let me know, including on if I should have shorter reports.

Welsh Young Liberals Chair – Sam Wilson

Skim

Recent Focuses and Objectives

Policy work

Campaigns

Thanks

Recent Focuses and Objectives

We have been working on reaching out and engaging our membership to ensure that young members know about the organisation and are able to contact us. We are aiming to increase our diversity and accessibility on the WYL exec to our members.

Phone calling has been planned to reach members to open ourselves up, as well as advertise Welsh Party Conference.

We are in the process of putting together a mailing to reach members and invite them to be involved. Highlighting the great work WYL and Fed YL does.

Policy Work

Brendan hopes to be involved in helping set the agenda for the Welsh Liberal Democrat Spring Conference. He'll be submitting his own policy to this conference called the 'Basic Health Guarantee'. He will also be involved in discussion about the Senedd 2026 Manifesto.

Campaigns

Several Campaigns are currently happening. Welsh Young Liberals Campaigns officer Dylan Calved is currently working with David Chadwick MP on his Banking Campaign which involves 'Save Pontardawe Bank.

He has also been working alongside the membership team to understand and survey the current university branches in Wales.

Dylan has been working hard on developing local campaigns as a Young Liberal and plans to organise action days in Cardiff, Brecon Radnor and Cwmtawe and Swansea constituencies.

We have just learnt of a Young Liberals group in North Wales organising their own campaign around transport links and buses. Dylan and Sam are waiting to hear back from the chair of the local party to find out more and to see what we can do to help.

Vice Chair

David Leigh has recently joined the WYL exec and has quickly settled into his role as vice chair, assisting in translation, and organising. He has now taken a position on the events committee as WYL Rep.

Thanks

I want to thank the WYL officers who are working very hard, and the YL staffer who has been incredible in supporting the work we do.

diolch yn fawr iawn

Thank you very much

Scottish Young Liberals Chair – Leo Dempster

Report received late

TLDR; All but one committee position filled, SYL Fundraising underway, Highland Branch revival possibility, SYL Pub Quiz, SYL Stand @ Scottish Conference & Committees are now being fully attended by their respective officers.

In the time since my last report SYL has grown significantly, with only one position now empty on the executive, the Treasurer.

SYL has begun our fundraising campaign which will soon be made fully public, alongside being handed the SLD conference pub quiz which will aid in those efforts.

SYL will also have a stand with the exhibitors at Scottish conference, which will have a full slate of materials to hand out to members and will be attended through the day by members of the exec.

Scottish conference has a promising outlook with the attendance of Scottish Young Liberals set to be quite high.

Talks are in place to revive the Highland YL Branch which should have an outcome soon, as well as the accreditation of S.T. Andrews being underway.

Scottish officers are now attending their respective committee meeting sand ensuring that SYL Plays in important role in the Young Liberals.

Non-Portfolio Officer – Harvey Thomas-Benton

For the term so far, most of my work as NPO has been covering for the Secretary. I have been writing the minutes for all of our exec meetings. I have also reached out to some exec members who have not been submitting reports to see if as NPO, I could help with their work in any way.

I also am the LGBA+ Rep for YL, so I have regularly attended diversity committee meetings this term. I have also worked with Sarah, comms, to have weekly social media posts for LGBTQ+ history month – which is right now. Please remember to like and share these posts. I intend to work on something similar for Pride.

Additionally, I am an elected member of the policy committee. This term I have helped Ulysse, policy officer, with some comms on forum – to point out where holes might exist in our policy. But also, created graphics which simplify policies, to encourage people to read them in advance of conference. I think these have been successful.

Further Report: Honorary Officers

You can find the Further Report submitted by the Honorary Officers linked [here](#).