

Officer Reports - November 2024



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Chair - Harvey Jones

Meetings

- Met with Mark Pack, Party President, to outline my priorities and the Exec's goals and strategy for 2025.
- Met Jon Aylwin, Director of Field Resources (Campaigns & Elections, LDHQ) to discuss line management of the YL staff member and our shared priorities.
- Attended my first Federal Board meeting and asked about the future of AO grants (YL's federal funding source)
- Met Tom Hughes, the new YL Development Officer (staff member).
- Held Chair Check-Ins with a number of Exec Officers.
- Attended first meetings of Finance/Resources, Diversity, Policy and Comms/Campaigns Committees.
- Chaired the first meeting of Elections Committee to discuss the strategy for the 2025 local elections and forward-looking projects for Senedd/Scottish Parliament.
- Attended Scottish Lib Dem conference with Leo Dempster, SYL Chair, and spoke to a number of parliamentarians and members about our work.
- I am hoping to arrange an initial meeting with Clair Hudson, Chair of the Federal People Development Committee, a Committee on which I will sit as YL Chair.

Projects

- Began work on the Diversity Strategy for 2025 alongside the ADS Officers. This included scope for future events work with committees to ensure our events are inclusive. I will now be drafting an outline structure for the Officers and Committee to amend and contribute content relating to the various groups the Committee Reps represent.
- Began drafting points relating to how YL has managed media, with a view to discussing a new Media Strategy with Comms and Policy to ensure that any requests for comment or appearances are triaged and handled appropriately, in line with the duties that Officers have.

Outreach

- Wrote a tailored letter to our frontbench MPs and a large number of backbenchers to introduce the new Executive and offer a meeting to discuss opportunities to work together and issues facing young people in their constituencies. This is ongoing and all MPs should receive a letter by Christmas.
- Working with our ADS Officers I will be ensuring Chairs of the party's Diversity AOs can feed into the Diversity Plan, and that YL members can access the opportunities these groups provide for members too.

Secretary - Oliver Jones-Lyons

No report received

Fundraising Officer - Callum James Littlemore

- Attended Exec Handover and first meeting.
- Held exploratory talks with the Membership Development Officer and the Co-International Officers about exploring projects for fundraising.
- Discussed the existing financial situation and backdrop with the Finance Officer.
- Began work on an initial introduction and fundraising pitch with the Chair, with the aim of getting letters to every MP and targeted peers before Christmas.
- Made formal introductions to our leadership in the House of Lords and aim to secure a 'How you can support the Young Liberals' presentation to all Peers.
- Working to identify target MPs who have the capacity and willingness to support YL beyond offering to front events.
- Started work on securing existing YL merchandise stock and plan to undertake a full inventory to assess our current outlay and identify opportunities to reduce this.
- Attended the first Finance & Resources Committee meeting and outlined potential fundraising avenues that will not handicap our work if not met.
- I am also exploring options and avenues to reactivate the 'Friends of Young Liberals' network in order to facilitate event sales and donations.

Communications Officer - Sarah Anderson

No report received

Elections Officer - Alex Gallagher

Not much to report back on. I helped organise an action day in Sheffield for YL candidate Willis Marshall who is standing for a by-election in Woodhouse ward.

Most of the credit should go to the Sheffield Lib Dems and especially Sophie Thornton for organising.

Due to poor weather and problems with transport, attendance was unfortunately rather low. To make up for this I am currently trying to organise a phone knock up/maraphone session on Thursday.

I am also looking to organise something similar for an upcoming by-election with a YL candidate in Wakefield.

Looking ahead to 2025, I have been contacting regional chairs to get an idea for where YL candidates are standing. As discussed in Elections Committee, I would like to prioritise Action Days in wards with YL candidates, so this is a good starting point for that.

Membership Development Officer - Will Tennison

This month I:

- Supported the chair on preparation for handover day
- Continued with forum moderation
 - Added new mods to Lighthouse so we can continue to validate membership numbers
- Attended handover meeting with staff member Tom and discussed training schedule for the year
- Had meetings with Elections officer & BDO to discuss cross training opportunities
- Started work on YL wellbeing guide
- Worked with Becky at HQ to add YL led training to HQ's training programme

Branch Development Officer - Chang Liu

Since my election, I have met with other officers and staff to align our goals and collaborate on projects. I have got in touch with branches about pending branch development funds, and supporting a few new branches going towards accreditation.

Meetings

1. Met with MemDev and Elections officer on training and budgeting for training.
2. Attended Communications and Campaigns committee meeting, discussed goals for the year on the committee and updates. Freshers' week preparation will formally start in January.
3. Met with YL staff and chair to discuss goals for the year and upcoming projects.

Branch outreach

1. Reached out to UCL LibDems, updated contact information and committee details. Liaised with the London regional chair and EYL chair to provide information.

2. Ealing YL is going through the process of setting up, I have updated the accreditation form, provided template constitution for the branch (currently being reviewed for update).
3. Queen Mary's LibDems is also setting up, helping to get the constitution in order with the necessary details, checked registration is completed with the SU. Can move forward with accreditation
4. Chased up University of Birmingham branch, appears to have stopped existing. Moving to un-accreditation.
5. Researched Kent University Liberal Democrats, appears to have no activity or contact details left. Moving to un-accreditation.
6. Reached out the Medway Young Liberals using known contact details, no replies received. No activity found online.
7. Reached out to South Lakes Young Liberals using known contact details, no replies received. No activity found online.

Branch Development Fund

1. Cleared the backlog of applications, all branches that provided the bank details and satisfactory applications have been passed onto the treasurer to be paid.
2. Updated the application form to require evidence of use of the fund and a short report to ensure we can demonstrate the impact and proper use of the fund.
3. Agreed to use the fund to pay for postage to get conference kits to all the regional YLs. Received photos of the conference kits in action.

On going project

1. Review and update branches
2. Developing a template website for YL branches
3. Exploring the possibility of an official group chat for branch chairs/ presidents

Events Officer/Treasurer/Designated Safeguarding Lead - Lucas North

Report received late

Events:

- Ongoing work to book (and then announce) YL Winter Conference 2024
- Spoken with other officers about potential joint projects and more to follow on this soon

Treasurer:

- FRC has met and has started the process of 2025 budget setting, with more detail to be shared with the Exec at our meeting this week

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

- Nothing to report

Policy Officer - Ulysse Abbate

Summary:

Starting this new term, there's a number of projects and actions that I and the Policy Committee are looking forward to completing (see below). These were informally discussed at our PolCom Pre-meeting (Early November), with our first formal meeting taking place the day after our first Exec meeting. I will report on the formal progress of PolCom in more detail in my next report

1. Young Liberals Conference
2. Federal Conference
 - a. Young Liberals Submissions and Policy Presence
 - b. Equalities Spokesperson Paper on LGBT+ Rights
3. Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion
 - a. Accessibility of Policy
 - b. Outreach
4. Constitutional Affairs

Young Liberals Conference:

Whilst this section may seem slightly high-level, in part due to commercial sensitivities surrounding Conferences, the key points for Conference include the draft/expected timelines for the policy deadlines, with an expected opening of drafting advice in late December.

PolCom have discussed how we can best support people with policy deadlines, and I expect December to be a month where policy at YL Conference will take an elevated place in our priorities list.

As Policy Officer, I am also looking to work with the Events Committee to level-up the presence of non YL organisations, as has been previously trialled and successfully carried out by Lucas North at 2024 London Conference.

More details will come soon on policy at the YL 2025 Winter Conference

Federal Conference:

Young Liberals Submissions and Policy Presence

Informal discussions have taken place about YL's involvement in policy at the Spring 2025 Federal Conference, Harrogate. December will be the opportunity to

consolidate ideas and begin drafting relevant policies, as well as reach out to others in the party to generate interest and support for policies.

Harvey Jones has particularly noted the opportunity to begin thinking of Autumn 2025 Federal Conference, Bournemouth, and to begin some of the outreach to key Liberal Democrat Individuals (e.g. our education and young people spokespeople), to build up momentum in preparation for Autumn 2025.

Equalities Spokesperson Paper on LGBT+ Rights

I am delighted to say that Christine Jardine, MP for Edinburgh West and Lib Dem Women and Equalities Spokesperson, and the HQ Equalities team, have continued to be proactive in their engagement with YL on key issues. Subject to approval by the FCC, it is expected that Jardine will be bringing a spokesperson paper on LGBT+ Rights.

Young Liberals have contributed thoughts independently, and will continue to work with allies across the party, particularly with LGBT+ Liberal Democrats and Lib Dem Women, to ensure that the paper continues to progressively and ambitiously advance Lib Dem policy on LGBT+ rights. Towards the end of my previous term I (alongside Rebecca Jones and Janey Little) held a discussion with Jardine and the HQ Team, and will be submitting a more formal YL position paper, once Diversity Committee, PolCom and other key individuals have been given the chance to look over the piece (hopefully, by Monday 25th Nov).

Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion

Accessibility of Policy

Following feedback from conference and wider events, it has become clear that the Young Liberals Policy Office will need to provide greater support to members in engaging with the policy side of politics. Whilst I will wait for our next meeting to formalise the action plans, current ideas proposed have included:

- More regular live training sessions with PolCom members
- More training guides that are always accessible
- Complementing the Policy Book with new methods of tracking YL Policy that may be more accessible.

As PolCom continues to meet, we will work closely with YL members and DiveCom to improve the accessibility of policy. You can email policy@youngliberals.uk with any suggestions or questions you have.

Outreach

Following feedback from previous conferences, on the lack of both demographic and non-demographic diversity in engagement with policy, it was agreed that the PolCom should look into engaging more actively and conducting more outreach, in order to reach those individuals who may feel less confident in submitting policies, or from underrepresented communities. Whilst I have no concrete updates on this, I think it is important to have this outreach project flagged in this report.

Constitutional Affairs

The Young Liberals Constitution is in need of reform, in particular surrounding sections on executive scrutiny. To be clear, **the ongoing Honorary Vice-President workstream will continue to be the authoritative method of reforming Executive Scrutiny**. With that said, I am keen to ensure that Policy Committee, as one of the key Committees involved in delivery of Conference, proactively supports the workstream. More concrete reports on this will come in due course.

International Officer - Tom Jordan & Rowan Fitton

November was a busy period for International with both LYMEC and IFLRY holding their respective meetings at the start of the month. Therefore, much of the Co-International Officers time has been dedicated to preparing, participating, and reporting on both of these events. A detailed report on both the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Warsaw and the IFLRY General Assembly in Tallinn will be made available once presented to and approved by the International Committee. In the meantime, a provisional report on both events is available below.

LYMEC Autumn Congress

This year, LYMEC's Autumn Congress was held in the city of Warsaw, Poland and ran from 8th-10th November. Overall, the Congress was incredibly successful for YL and our delegation, led by Rowan, produced strong results and built on our existing relationships with European partners.

Of the six-person delegation, our two in-person delegates, alongside Rowan, played a key role in representing YL. Both Sharan Virk and Prem Raghvani were attending their first LYMEC congress and both played a key role in supporting YL's work and engaging with other young people from across Europe. Our online delegates, namely Tom, Trystan Lloyd, and Josue Lucas Mitte, also engaged well. Continuing our record of being an organisation whose online delegates play a key role.

Our resolution on Resetting the EU-UK Relationship passed successfully with

overwhelming support from our friends in Europe. This resolution focused on updating LYMEC's policy to account for the significant change in attitude toward EU relations under the new UK Government, whilst also ensuring the new and continued challenges of Britain exit from the EU were thoroughly discussed. YL also submitted various amendments to resolutions, ensuring the UK was at the heart of European policy discussions.

Rowan was also successful in his campaign to be elected to LYMEC's delegation to the next ALDE Congress in 2025. Member organisations responded to Rowan's priorities (mainly representing all parts of Europe, tackling far-right and far-left politics, and advocating for stronger support for ERASMUS+) and his emphasis on 'giving back to LYMEC'. He will now work with colleagues from across Europe to advance the priorities of young people, whilst reaffirming the importance of British participation within ALDE more broadly.

On the Sunday of Congress, YL took part in a remembrance ceremony, laying a wreath at Warsaw's pilot memorial to commemorate Polish pilots who flew in the RAF during the Battle of Britain. This was organised by Rowan alongside our colleagues in Młodzi Nowoczesna, our partner organisation in Poland. We would like to thank the Communications Officer for her help in ensuring this activity was shared through the official YL account. Many past and present YL members reached out to express how glad they were to see this act of remembrance take place, and it was thanks to Sarah that we were able to share this with them.

IFLRY General Assembly

Following on from our success in Warsaw, we sent a 6 strong delegation to Tallinn for IFLRYs 54th General Assembly which was held from the 15th-17th.

Going into the GA, we had several goals: proper scrutiny, statute reform, adding to the statute book, building consensus, and developing our delegation. We are delighted to say that we achieved all of these goals.

Coming out of the GA, we are very satisfied with the financial and political direction of IFLRY and its Bureau. With a focus on financial transparency and political consensus being pushed to the forefront of the agenda.

Looking forward, the next GA will be an electoral one, where we will be aiming to re-elect our Vice-President, Kai Pischke. This won't be easy, and Tom has already started campaigning for him. Having Kai in the bureau has been invaluable and his work as VP has been top notch.

Following the relative success of the Working Group on Israel-Palestine the GA voted to create a working group on both the conflict in Lebanon and the Statutes of IFLRY, Tom will be representing us on both and we welcome all

internal input.

Youth Mobility Petition

Earlier this month, the Policy Officer wrote and launched a UK parliamentary petition calling on the UK government to negotiate a youth mobility scheme with the EU. This petition is now live and it goes without saying that the Co-International Officers were very pleased to see this. We were glad to be able to contribute to the initial draft and offer feedback alongside the rest of the Executive, and we would like to extend our thanks to Ulysse for prioritising this key international issue.

Our attention as Co-International Officers will now turn to promoting this petition and working with the rest of the Executive to do so. This will be a key priority for the International Committee in the coming months and Rowan has already been working to promote the petition within the Federal International Relations Committee (FIRC) in his role as YL's representative.

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

Since the start of term, our main focus has been on getting Diversity Committee up and running, and we are very pleased to announce that we have already had two meetings. The first included introductions and discussing plans for the year. The second included Arthur Wu in attendance to discuss the HVP-led reforms of exec scrutiny in a context of diversity and inclusion.

We have also attended a meeting with Harvey Jones to discuss diversity strategy for the upcoming year. We are very pleased to announce this meeting was productive and we feel the three of us are on the same page in terms of plans to improve diversity in YL.

Becca

It's been great to get stuck in with diversity data so far. In our joint meeting I've emphasised how much I'd like to gain diversity data from branches, regions and states to understand how deep YLs diversity issues run. I've spoken to Harvey and other exec members about helping source this and look forward to getting it.

My focus has been on the exec side of things but was unfortunately unable to attend the handover due to it clashing with catsitting in Devon. I have attended both diversity committee meetings and have been posting the minutes on forum. In case you missed them they're available here:

Diversity Committee Meeting 1: [Diversity Committee Meeting 1 Minutes](#)

Joint Diversity Committee & HVP meeting:

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

Annoyingly this has also been an exceptionally busy month for me with my job in cinema and me standing in a by-election so I haven't been able to devote as much time to YL as I'd have liked but I'm still proud of the work we've done so far.

Bex

Our plans for the year mean that I will spend more time focusing on Diversity Committee, as I have already served on this committee for the past two years and therefore have an understanding of how the committee operates. I chaired both Diversity Committee meetings, as well as attending the first Events Committee meeting to bring forward matters raised by Diversity Committee members around the timing of Winter Conference.

I am very pleased to see the enthusiasm of Diversity Committee members in working on their own projects, including plans for LGBTQ+ History Month, as well as general enthusiasm around building a more diverse and inclusive YL.

I have met separately with both our staff member (Tom Hughes), and Harvey Jones as Chair, to discuss plans for the year and areas where I can be given support to carry out my term. In particular, a big focus for me this year is improving gender diversity within YL, and I have already discussed this with both Becca and Harvey, in relation to policy, conference and internal elections.

YL is fortunate to have a seat on the LGBT+ Lib Dems executive, and I am pleased to announce that me, Harvey and Rebecca have agreed for me to take up this seat as one of the ADS Officers. Charley Hasted has confirmed this and I am looking forward to continuing the strong relationship between both AOs.

As this is my first term on the Executive, I have also made sure to put my own wellbeing first and ensured that I bed into the role properly during this month. To note one example I had immense anxiety attending the handover, partially due to the anxiety of attending my first meeting, but also due to the nearby presence of far-right protestors and my personal safety as a trans woman. I would like to extend my thanks to supportive individuals around me, such as Ulysse, who kept an eye out for me that day, and of course Becca for giving me encouragement from a distance.

Racial Equity, Diversity and Liberation Officer - Timi Jibogu

No report received

Non-Portfolio Officer - Harvey Thomas-Benton

I have set up a spreadsheet for the exec, which includes a project tracker, and a place for committee minutes. It is good to see exec officers using it. I want to remind officers to keep using it, and please reach out for my help if you need another pair of hands on your project.

Alongside my role as NPO, I have continued my roles as LGBA+ Rep and a member of policy committee. I have also supported the policy officer on the LGBTQ+ consultation within Policy Committee. I have also begun a conversation with Scarlet, the Trans Rep, on what we should do for LGBTQ+ history month.

English Young Liberals Chair - Josh Lucas Mitte

TL;DR

- Acronym buster: **(E)YL** = (English) Young Liberals, **RCs** = EYL's Regional Chairs
- Prioritised a steady handover, and greater EYL presence at regional conferences and internal elections.
- Ulysse Abbate has taken over the EC rep vacancy that arose after Josh Mitte became EYL Chair. Joe Norris (former chair) and Caitlin Richardson (acting chair) have left to take politically restricted jobs, we thank them for their hard work in YL over the years.
- EYL elections for the 2025 term have concluded, with many already taking upon their new roles due to vacancies. There are ongoing by-elections for the positions of Vice-Chair Membership Engagement and Yorkshire & Humber Regional Chair.
- EYL increased its presence at regional conferences in various ways, incl. North East, North West, Yorkshire & Humber, South East, East of England and London.
- Met with members of the current Future Councillors cohort while at Kickstart.

Introduction

I was elected as EYL Chair for 2025, but took over the role on 26th October as it was vacant. My priority this past month has been ensuring a good transition to the new executive, as while term officially starts 1st Jan, 4 of our positions were already vacant, and a further 5 members have decided to handover earlier. I have focused on improving EYL's presence at regional conferences, working with RCs, and encouraging greater involvement with internal regional elections.

Changes to the Exec

Since the last EYL meeting, Joe Norris, my predecessor, resigned to take a politically restricted job with the Bristol Lib Dem Council group. Caitlin Richardson, Vice-Chair for Membership Engagement, was appointed Acting

Chair until the conclusion of our elections, and will resign altogether before the end of the month to also begin a politically restricted job. We thank them both for their years of active involvement in the party and YL, and wish them the best in their new roles. As I have taken over as EYL Chair, this opened up a vacancy with our EYL EC Reps. At YL's recent elections we elected our 2025 EC reps, with the most voted member in the ballot, Ulysse Abbate, filling the vacancy for the remainder of current term. Ulysse was also appointed by the EYL executive as my substitute for the ECE meeting on November 2nd. Further changes on the next item.

EYL Elections for 2025

EYL terms start on January 1st, but many have started earlier as vacancies were, or have since become, available (marked with *). I am happy to report that we have gone from 0 women as Regional Chairs to 3, along with at least 3 ethnic minorities. There is still more work to do, as stated on my manifesto: x.com/joshmitte/status/1846497899540017392

2025 English Young Liberals Executive

- *Chair - **Josh Lucas Mitte**
- *Vice Chair for Elections & Campaigns - **Adam Durbaba**
- Vice Chair for Membership Engagement - *Re-open nominations*
- *Policy and Regional Engagement Officer - **Tim Macy**
- Regional Chairs:
 - *North East - **Prem Raghvani**
 - North West - **Tom Penketh**
 - Yorkshire and the Humber - *Vacant* (following the resignation of George Sykes)
 - *West Midlands - **Ben O'Callaghan**
 - East Midlands - **Oscar Renton**
 - East of England - **Scarlet Threadgold**
 - *South East - **Sharan Virk**
 - *London - **Sam Cumber**
 - *South Central - **Brandon Masih**
 - *Western Counties - **Taylor Wilson-Quon**
 - Devon & Cornwall - **Lottie Wilson**
- Events Representative - **Tom Jordan**

English Council Representatives: ***Ulysse Abbate, Lucas North, Timi Jibogu, Bex Scott, Tara Foster**

We are currently holding by-elections for the positions of Vice Chair of Membership Engagement and Yorkshire & the Humber Regional Chair.

Regional Conferences

Thank you to all RCs (former and incoming) who have facilitated a stronger EYL presence at their regional conferences. Regional conferences allow us to reach members who may be unaware of YL and the opportunities we provide. RCs may expand on this in their respective reports for the next EYL Exec meeting (scheduled for Sun 1st December)

- In East of England, EYL held a panel discussion, training and a stall, with a large turnout.
- In London, EYL held a lunch social and proposed and passed a motion on transport
- In the North East, North West, South East, Yorkshire & Humber and Western Counties, EYL had stalls and promoted a parliamentary petition on youth mobility rights (spearheaded by YL).

YLers mentioned costs being a barrier, especially for conferences without concessionary fees (£50 in Devon and Cornwall) or high costs even with this (£40 concession for Western Counties, v. £50 normal). I created a spreadsheet to compare regional conferences' arrangements, to help incoming RCs (and any YLers in regional execs) see how they can push for improvements for the next set. A more detailed version is available, please enquiry for access to it, but I made a simpler version for sharing more widely: [2024 Regional Conferences geeksheet](#) - *data either from event pages or as reported to me by regional members, so forgive any potential inaccuracies (and do inform me about any corrections).*

Regional Elections

With various internal regional elections having quite a few unopposed positions in the past, and many of EYL's members having great abilities and offering different, and often diverse, perspectives - the EYL exec encouraged members to get more involved with our Regional and English party bodies, with a greater presence in places like London and East of England, where YLers contributed to making this set of elections more contested - always healthy for democracy.

Future Councillors

At Kickstart (I attended as part of my local party), I met with some of our current cohort of Future Councillors who were being mentored by Glynn Preston from ALDC. Most of the current cohort plan to stand in May 2025, and it was helpful to hear their feedback on the training they received, experience with the party and level of awareness of YL's activities.

Small Point of information

Like many of you, I volunteer for the party in various capacities. The month since my election has been particularly busy due to the early start clashing with pre-arranged commitments (and a generally busier Lib Dem month). As I've not

been able to do as much as hoped, for transparency and understanding, I thought it'd be worth sharing my main activities for this report.

London Conference subcommittee	Weekly, usually Thursdays 7.30pm - 8.30pm
YL Exec Handover Meeting	26th October, 10am - 4pm
Pre-LYMEC Meeting	27th October, 2.30pm - 5pm
EYL Exec Meeting	2nd November, 8pm - 9pm
Pre-ILFRY GA	5th November, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
YL Elections Committee Meeting	5th November, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Meeting with YL Staff member	11th November, 2pm - 3pm
Meeting with Western Counties RC	11th November, 3pm - 3.30pm
LYMEC Congress	7th - 9th November
IFLRY Assembly	15th - 18th November
Kickstart	22nd - 24th November
YL Federal Resources Committee*	25th November, 7pm - 8pm
Local Party AGM	27th November, from 7pm
YL Executive Meeting*	28th November, 7pm - 8pm

**will happen after the submission of this report but before English Council meets on 30th November*

Welsh Young Liberals Chair - Sam Wilson

Conference:

WYL was present at the Welsh Party conference, while our policy officer was unable to submit a WYL policy, he did manage to submit a policy himself by his LP. This was supported by all WYL members. AGM We successfully held our AGM, overcoming some setbacks, and persevering through some challenges. I will continue to develop our team here in Wales over the course of my term and will work hard to ensure that we increase the levels of diversity on the Welsh Exec, as well as encourage people to join with the passion and drive needed for it to work. We are faced with many challenges here in Wales and the current executive is committed to working together to solve them. Some of these challenges were outlined in the AGM meeting. I'd like to have a conversation with the diversity committee team to discuss how we can address many of the issues we face, as well as bring the BDO and the MDO into conversations we have as an exec, but

also with the campaigns we run as an exec to engage our university branches and individual members.

diolch yn fawr iawn
Thank you.

Scottish Young Liberals Chair - Leo Dempster Report received late

this month I have attended Scottish conference and built good relationships with members which will allow SYL members to be more involved in SLD projects.

I have begun the process of introducing all new exec members to their roles and will continue to do so with the remaining roles to be appointed.

SYL has held Co-Options, the results of which will be determined shortly.

We have begun planning for our fundraising goals and our 2025 AGM to be held at Inverness conference.

Young Liberals Development Officer (Staff Member) - Tom Hughes

Since starting this job in September under the previous exec, I have made good headway into getting to grips with my role. My line manager, Jon Aylwin, acknowledged that the circumstances under which I had started this job were less than ideal due to being required to 'hit the ground running' with immediate internal elections, a lack of handover resources and delays in being set up with IT equipment and accounts to access digital resources. This was primarily due to the timing of me starting my employment and the departure of the previous YL Development Officer.

I have made efforts to catch up with the current status of the organisation and to get to know as many of the new exec members as I can. There are still several who I have not yet had the chance to have informal one-to-one meetings with, but I hope to be able to catch them in the coming weeks if they are available.

Elections

The internal elections took up a great deal of my time in my first month as staff member. Although there were some technical issues involved with ballots, I believe it would be reasonable to say that the elections went off without too many problems.

Dave Crowther (YL Returning Officer) and I discussed a number of issues which propped up as a result of contradictory or vague language in the YL Constitution,

and the Election and Co-Option Regulations. We intend to produce a report on the election to highlight where problems occurred and provide recommendations on what can be done to prevent them from reoccurring in future.

One of the major technical problems was getting set up on mi-voice in order to actually run the ballot. Access to mi-voice was resolved the day before voting opened, and Rachel Minshull from HQ provided essential support to getting voting codes generated and sending out ballot emails to YL members. For the foreseeable future, the HQ elections team will need to be involved with the generation and distribution of ballots.

Another issue which Dave Crowther and I were aware of at the time was the controversial and unclear 'Community Voting' which was encouraged for electing members of the diversity committee (including the Racial Equity, Diversity and Liberation Officer). I am looking into options to be able to run these contests in a clearer and more appropriate manner for future elections.

Training

I have received various sessions of training relevant to my role since starting, including HQ mandatory training, familiarisation with HQ and fire warden training, and I have undertaken an external safeguarding course booked by HQ and provided by the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS).

As well as these formalised training courses, I have also been familiarising myself with the various resources used by YL/HQ, including Lighthouse, Fleet and MailJet. There is still more that I need to get to grips with, including updating mailing lists on MailJet, and using Canva.

Objectives

Following discussions with Jon Aylwin, he and Harvey Jones have drawn up a set of objectives for me over the coming quarter. These are:

1. Locking down key processes, including production of a best practice safeguarding guide for local parties and reviewing the YL internal complaints procedure.
2. Begin developing a plan for the 2025 Freshers' period.
3. Work with YL Exec and Party Training Manager on an annual training plan for YL Members and Local Parties. Also to work on personal development training for YL Exec members.
4. Develop a programme for regular YL Action Days for 2025 Local Elections, with a specific focus on supporting newly elected MPs and YL candidates.
5. Servicing YL Exec Meetings and requests from Exec members.

I have begun preliminary planning on these objectives. I intend to be in regular contact with certain exec members in regards to certain objectives. To this end, I have already discussed a training working group with Will Tennison as MDO as well as several other exec members, and will be looking to discuss action days and the freshers' campaign with Alex Gallagher as Elections Officer and Chang Liu as BDO.

Appeals

I have added a section to the YL Website for information regarding past appeals to be published. I am currently trying to consolidate information about a previous appeal case from before my time working for the party to get that added to the page as well.

Safeguarding

I am doing my best to stay on top of any potential safeguarding issues and aim to support YL exec members in putting preventative measures in place wherever required. I have been in contact with the Party Head of People for advice on handling safeguarding issues as they have cropped up.

Final remarks

I would like to thank all the exec members, both current and from the previous exec, for their patience as I have been getting to grips with this role. I would particularly like to express my thanks to former YL Chair Janey Little, current YL Chair Harvey Jones, Events Officer Lucas North, and Comms Officer Sarah Anderson for their help with getting me set up in several key areas and in a position to be able to crack on with delivering support to YL as per the requirements of my job.