

NEC YOUTH REP REPORT: MARCH/APRIL 2013

BEX BAILEY

NEC MEETING, 19th March

I attended my first full NEC meeting in March. We heard a report from Iain McNicol, the party's General Secretary, who told us about election preparations, progress with selections of parliamentary candidates, the next trainee organiser scheme, community organising and fundraising. It was great to hear Iain reiterate his support for all-women's shortlists and I welcome the news that we now have an apprentice working in the General Secretary's office – best of luck to Monique!

We had a local elections campaign update from Tom Watson and a report from Ed Balls, which focused on the Budget. Angela Eagle gave us an update on the National Policy Forum's work and 'Your Britain' and Jon Cruddas talked about the policy review. If you want to contribute your policy ideas to the policy-making process, you can do so on the 'Your Britain' website [here](#). Glenis Willmott reported back on the European Parliamentary Labour Party's work, including their work on the Youth Jobs Guarantee Scheme. We also had an update on the work of the Local Government Association Labour Group and an international report.

Ed Miliband gave a report which included the Leveson inquiry, the Budget, his recent speech in Bedford, the People's Policy Forum and the upcoming local elections. Harriet Harman spoke to us about the Leveson inquiry and European elections.

YOUNG LABOUR NATIONAL COMMITTEE AWAY DAY, 13th April

This was a great chance for the committee to get to know each other and plan our work for the next two years. This is the first time a Young Labour National Committee has had an event like this and it was hugely successful and productive, so it would be great to continue having them for future committees.

Thanks to Iain McNicol, who took the time to come and talk to us at the start of the day. It was good to be able to let him know our views and ask him questions. We talked about our interaction with the Young European Socialists and delegations to their events; it's great that we've achieved some movement on this issue, with 10 people now being able to attend from both the Young Labour and Labour Students committees and spare places being opened up to the wider membership, but it's important that we work to make these events more accessible while ensuring they're safe for all attendees. Simon Darvill, Jack Storry and I will keep working on this. We also discussed community organising, support for young councillors and candidates, the possibility of committee expenses, potential future events for Young Labour and the policy-making process.

The committee then discussed the priorities for Young Labour over the next two years and came up with individual work plans based on what we each wanted to achieve in our roles.

MEETING WITH IAIN MCNICOL, LABOUR'S GENERAL SECRETARY, 17th April

Simon Darvill, Chair of Young Labour, and I met with Iain McNicol earlier this month. We discussed the creation and development of Young Labour groups around the country, and how regional offices can support them and help to improve communications. We

also talked about community organising, engaging with first time voters and making campaign days more accessible to young members.

YOUNG LABOUR CAMPAIGN WEEKEND, 27th / 28th April

Thank you so much to all the Young Labour, Labour Students and young trade unionists who were out campaigning during our campaign weekend! It was fantastic to have so many people out talking to voters across the country and I know that our youth movement's incredible contributions to election campaigns are really appreciated! We had campaign days in the East Midlands, the North West, Scotland, the South East (which was held jointly with London Young Labour), the South West, Wales, the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber, so thank you to all the regional representatives who helped to organise those. We're hoping to have lots more Young Labour and Labour Students campaign weekends, so keep an eye out for future events!



LOCAL ELECTIONS, 2nd May

Well done to everyone who stood as a Labour candidate and everyone who contributed to the election campaigns. It was fantastic to have so many young candidates standing and so many young people out campaigning! Congratulations to all those that were elected, including Mhairi Threlfall from the Young Labour National Committee, and commiserations to those that missed out – I know that your work was really appreciated regardless of the result. Labour Students also put in a tremendous amount of work, as ever, campaigning in Doncaster, along with Rachel Hodson from the Young Labour National Committee and Sally Jameson from the East Midlands Young Labour Committee. It's fantastic that Doncaster now has a Labour mayor in Ros Jones to stand up for those being hit hardest by the Tory-led government.

OTHER EVENTS I'VE ATTENDED



General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) Youth Conference (9th and 10th March) – I met young trade unionists from many trade unions and contributed to the organisation's youth manifesto.

TUC Young Members Conference (23rd and 24th March) – it was fantastic to meet so many young trade unionists and discuss how to get more young people joining and participating in trade unions, as well as passing policy.

Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey (Nottingham South) by-election (4th April) – I went to help out on polling day and am really pleased to say that Labour's candidate, Sam Webster, won the by-election!



Kingswell (Gedling) by-election campaigning (6th April) – I joined a large number of young members out campaigning in this by-election, which I'm pleased to say we won! Congratulations to David Ellis, Gedling Borough Council's newest Labour councillor!



Fulwood (Sheffield Hallam) by-election campaigning (6th April) – it was a pleasure to go out campaigning for Young Labour's Olivia Blake in this by-election. It was always going to be a tough one but the hard work put in by local young members was fantastic!

NUS Conference – Congratulations to all the successful Labour Students candidates: Joe Vinson (Vice President-Elect Further Education), Dom Anderson (Vice President-Elect Society and Citizenship) and Ben Dilks (Block of 15). Commiserations to Victoria Winterton who was an excellent candidate and who I know will continue to work really hard as a sabbatical officer at Hull University and achieve amazing things for students there. Well done also to all the Labour Students who put in an incredible amount of work to help get our candidates elected.

GET IN TOUCH!

If you have any questions, please get in touch by emailing bexbailey6@hotmail.com or tweeting @bexbailey6.

Good luck to everyone who has exams and coursework deadlines!

Bex Bailey

NEC Youth and Students Representative