

Welsh Liberal
Democrats



Democratiaid
Rhyddfrydol Cymru

Policy Motions Passed

Newport Spring Conference 2014

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Future for Further Education

(2014-P01)

National Policy Committee

Conference Notes

1. The importance of further education, as a method by which individuals can realise their potential, and to tackling poverty, creating wealth, and ending discrimination.
2. That there were 312,450 enrolments on learning programmes in the further education sector in the 2010/11 academic year, of which 77% were delivered by FE colleges.
3. That adult learners form the vast majority of learners at FE institutions, but are also the age group that are decreasing the most.
4. That 70% of the workforce who will be active in 2020 have already completed their compulsory education, demonstrating the importance of up-skilling.
5. That the further education sector in Wales has faced a number of challenges and changes in recent years including cuts in funding and a new funding formula, mergers between FE colleges, pressures on the viability of small sixth form units, and the development of regional consortia.

Conference Believes

1. That further education is a crucial means by which individuals from 14 to adulthood can realise their full potential as part of a stronger economy in a fairer society.
2. In parity of esteem and provision between vocational and academic education, and between 16-19 and adult learners.
3. That education should fit around the needs of learners and further education should allow learners to learn flexibility and dip in and out of education.
4. In the importance of widening participation through social inclusion and respecting diversity, of raising the aspirations of communities and of learners, and of overcoming barriers to remaining in or returning to learning.
5. That the further education sector should have the flexibility and operational freedom to respond to local and regional challenges, increase standards and serve the needs of all their stakeholders.
6. That teachers and lecturers should be supported by government to enable them to provide their learners with the best possible education.

Conference Endorses:

1. The Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Paper *Future for Further Education*, as a statement of Welsh Liberal Democrat policy for the further education sector.

Conference Calls For:

1. Greater advice and information to be provided for learners and businesses on the availability and quality of further education courses, including joint prospectuses and open days developed by regional consortia, and separate scores for vocational and academic education in school bandings and level 2 criteria.
2. More flexible approaches to learning to be supported through the development of a Credit Accumulation and Transfer Framework to make it easier for FE learners to transfer between

courses and pause their studies, with a personal learning cloud to store and retrieve details of accumulated credit.

3. The creation of a Welsh National Cyber College / Coleg Seiber Cymraeg to commission, develop and accredit digital and online further education courses, working with and through existing FE providers.
4. The capacity and standards of teachers and lecturers in further education to be strengthened through the introduction of an up-to-date Teacher's Qualification Framework and the piloting of a new scheme for industry secondments.
5. A cross-party commission to be established to examine the funding and organization of adult education and lifelong learning in Wales and to make recommendations that will ensure that the sector is effective in addressing the country's skills requirements and in promoting social mobility.
6. The widening of participation in further education to be supported by earmarking Community First funding to facilitate access to further education in Community First clusters.
7. The provision of Welsh medium education to be strengthened by expanding the remit of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to include the FE sector, to support collaboration between FE colleges, and between the FE and HE sectors, in the development and provision of Welsh medium teaching and learning materials.
8. More support to be provided to learners with Additional Learning Needs or who have other languages than English or Welsh as their first language in further education, including by developing grant schemes for teachers who wish to specialise in teaching learners with Additional Learning Needs, as have been launched in England.
9. A review of post-16 qualifications and curricula in Wales, including the delivery and appropriateness of the minimum subject provision mandated by the Learner Skills Measure, and the value, structure and delivery of the Welsh Baccalaureate, and the feasibility of adoption of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme as the standard qualification in Wales.
10. A pilot scheme for Village Colleges, to help expand provision in rural areas and support sustainable rural sixth forms.

Flooding and Coastal Defence: Strengthening Future Resilience

National Policy Committee

Original text:

Conference Notes:

1. The extensive damage and disruption caused in Wales by successive storms and floods during the winter of 2013-14.
2. That severe flood events have been experienced in many parts of south, mid and north Wales over the last five years as the consequence of increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather patterns.
3. The exceptional effort of the emergency services; local authority, Natural Resource Wales and utility company employees; lifeboat crews and mountain rescue teams, and other local volunteers, in responding to storm and flood events.
4. That flood and coastal defences, and the retrofitting of individual properties with protection measures, have proved effective in protecting many properties and minimising serious casualties from storms and flooding.
5. That repairs to storm and flood damage to coastal defences and transport and seashore infrastructure will cost local authorities millions of pounds at a time when core funding to local government from the Welsh Government has been cut.

Conference Believes:

1. That the increased frequency and intensity of severe storms and flooding is a product of climate change and the risk of serious damage and disruption is likely to continue over future decades.
2. That there is an urgent need to review the approach to flood risk planning and management in Wales, including the Welsh Government's Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk.
3. That greater emphasis needs to be placed on the use of natural resources and innovative land management techniques to alleviate flood risk.
4. That responsible agencies, including Natural Resources Wales and local authorities, need to be provided with adequate resources to ensure that they are able to continue to provide an appropriate level of flood risk monitoring and management.
5. That there should be greater engagement of local communities in planning for flood and coastal defences, monitoring risks and developing and implementing appropriate responses.

Conference Calls For:

1. The Welsh Government to provide additional funding to local authorities to cover the cost of repairs and remedial work to infrastructure following the storms and floods of winter 2013-14, and to apply for support to the European Solidarity Fund as appropriate.
2. The Welsh Government to match in Wales the commitments of financial assistance to households and businesses affected by storms and flooding in England made by the Coalition Government in Westminster.
3. Schemes to alleviate flood risk through innovative land management – including planting trees and vegetation to slow run-off, restoring wetland areas, and creating safe flood reservoirs – to be promoted and funded through the Wales Rural Development Programme.
4. Improvements to increase the resilience of the transport infrastructure in south, west and north Wales to flooding and storms to be supported by EU Convergence Funding.
5. The Welsh Government to open negotiations with insurance companies and water companies to seek investment in flood alleviation and defence schemes as precautions that will reduce the cost to these companies of future flood events.
6. Planning policy guidance to be amended to place greater emphasis on the assessment of flood risk in planning applications, including not only the risk of flooding to proposed

developments but also the impact of developments on flood risk elsewhere, and to promote the incorporation of flood alleviation measures into new developments.

7. The pragmatic interpretation of planning and heritage guidelines to permit the retrofitting of flood and storm defence measures, such as shutters and flood gates, to high risk properties.
8. Policy on river clearing in Wales to be urgently reviewed to ensure that rivers are being effectively managed to minimize flood risk.
9. The dual use of new coastal and river renewable energy generation schemes to provide flood defence in addition to renewable energy generation.
10. Funding for new flood and coastal defence schemes, and for the flood risk responsibilities of Natural Resources Wales, to be protected from further cuts.
11. Assistance to be provided to households and landowners in areas that cannot be cost-effectively protected with large-scale flood or coastal defences to support the retrofitting of individual properties with flood protection measures, or to help facilitate relocation.
12. The engagement of local communities in strategic planning for flood and coastal defence, monitoring flood risks and emergency planning for storm and flood events, including promoting the establishment of volunteer local flood defence associations.

Amendment 1:

Clwyd West

Insert at end of Conference Notes:

6. That during the storm which hit Wales on 12th February 2014, winds up to 109 mph were recorded and the BBC reported that at the storm's peak there were 90,000 homes were without power.
7. That under BT's The Phone Book's *Emergency Numbers* section only the numbers for the National Gas Emergency Service and the Environment Agency are present, with emergency numbers for electricity and water provided in those respective sections.

Insert at the end of Conference Believes:

6. That BT's The Phone Book should list National Electricity and Water Emergency Service telephone numbers alongside the Emergency Numbers given for the National Gas Emergency Service and Natural Resources Wales/Environment Agency.

Insert at the end of Conference Calls For:

13. The Welsh Government to open negotiations with directory publishers, and electricity and water companies to provide National Electricity and Water Emergency Service telephone numbers alongside the Emergency Numbers given for the National Gas Emergency Service and the Natural Resources Wales/Environment Agency.

Amendment 1: passed

Motion as amended: passed

Final text as accepted by Conference:

Conference Notes:

1. The extensive damage and disruption caused in Wales by successive storms and floods during the winter of 2013-14.
2. That severe flood events have been experienced in many parts of south, mid and north Wales over the last five years as the consequence of increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather patterns.
3. The exceptional effort of the emergency services; local authority, Natural Resource Wales and utility company employees; lifeboat crews and mountain rescue teams, and other local volunteers, in responding to storm and flood events.
4. That flood and coastal defences, and the retrofitting of individual properties with protection measures, have proved effective in protecting many properties and minimising serious casualties from storms and flooding.
5. That repairs to storm and flood damage to coastal defences and transport and seashore infrastructure will cost local authorities millions of pounds at a time when core funding to local government from the Welsh Government has been cut.
6. That during the storm which hit Wales on 12th February 2014, winds up to 109 mph were recorded and the BBC reported that at the storm's peak there were 90,000 homes were without power.
7. That under BT's The Phone Book's *Emergency Numbers* section only the numbers for the National Gas Emergency Service and the Environment Agency are present, with emergency numbers for electricity and water provided in those respective sections.

Conference Believes:

1. That the increased frequency and intensity of severe storms and flooding is a product of climate change and the risk of serious damage and disruption is likely to continue over future decades.
2. That there is an urgent need to review the approach to flood risk planning and management in Wales, including the Welsh Government's Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk.
3. That greater emphasis needs to be placed on the use of natural resources and innovative land management techniques to alleviate flood risk.
4. That responsible agencies, including Natural Resources Wales and local authorities, need to be provided with adequate resources to ensure that they are able to continue to provide an appropriate level of flood risk monitoring and management.
5. That there should be greater engagement of local communities in planning for flood and coastal defences, monitoring risks and developing and implementing appropriate responses.
6. That BT's The Phone Book should list National Electricity and Water Emergency Service telephone numbers alongside the Emergency Numbers given for the National Gas Emergency Service and Natural Resources Wales/Environment Agency.

Conference Calls For:

1. The Welsh Government to provide additional funding to local authorities to cover the cost of repairs and remedial work to infrastructure following the storms and floods of winter 2013-14, and to apply for support to the European Solidarity Fund as appropriate.
2. The Welsh Government to match in Wales the commitments of financial assistance to households and businesses affected by storms and flooding in England made by the Coalition Government in Westminster
3. Schemes to alleviate flood risk through innovative land management – including planting trees and vegetation to slow run-off, restoring wetland areas, and creating safe flood reservoirs – to be promoted and funded through the Wales Rural Development Programme.

4. Improvements to increase the resilience of the transport infrastructure in south, west and north Wales to flooding and storms to be supported by EU Convergence Funding.
5. The Welsh Government to open negotiations with insurance companies and water companies to seek investment in flood alleviation and defence schemes as precautions that will reduce the cost to these companies of future flood events.
6. Planning policy guidance to be amended to place greater emphasis on the assessment of flood risk in planning applications, including not only the risk of flooding to proposed developments but also the impact of developments on flood risk elsewhere, and to promote the incorporation of flood alleviation measures into new developments.
7. The pragmatic interpretation of planning and heritage guidelines to permit the retrofitting of flood and storm defence measures, such as shutters and flood gates, to high risk properties.
8. Policy on river clearing in Wales to be urgently reviewed to ensure that rivers are being effectively managed to minimize flood risk.
9. The dual use of new coastal and river renewable energy generation schemes to provide flood defence in addition to renewable energy generation.
10. Funding for new flood and coastal defence schemes, and for the flood risk responsibilities of Natural Resources Wales, to be protected from further cuts.
11. Assistance to be provided to households and landowners in areas that cannot be cost-effectively protected with large-scale flood or coastal defences to support the retrofitting of individual properties with flood protection measures, or to help facilitate relocation.
12. The engagement of local communities in strategic planning for flood and coastal defence, monitoring flood risks and emergency planning for storm and flood events, including promoting the establishment of volunteer local flood defence associations.
13. The Welsh Government to open negotiations with directory publishers, and electricity and water companies to provide National Electricity and Water Emergency Service telephone numbers alongside the Emergency Numbers given for the National Gas Emergency Service and the Natural Resources Wales/Environment Agency.

Topical Motion: A Commitment to Devolution

National Policy Committee

Conference notes:

1. The publication of the Commission on Devolution in Wales' second report on 3 March 2014;
2. The introduction of the Wales Bill on 20 March 2014;
3. Liberal Democrats' long-standing commitment to the principles of devolution and federalism; and
4. Our party's record of achieving progress - without Liberal Democrats in Coalition Government in Westminster, the Commission would never have been established.

Conference believes that:

1. Decisions which affect Wales should be made in Wales;
2. The recommendations of the Commission offer a unique and genuine opportunity to redefine Wales' devolution settlement;
3. A clear and stable devolution settlement will better serve the people of Wales;
4. Further devolution needs to be coupled with a stronger and more accountable democracy; and
5. By 2021, the National Assembly should operate under a reserved powers model.

Conference calls for the 2015 Liberal Democrat and 2016 Welsh Liberal Democrat Manifestos to include policies to enable:

1. More effective relations between the Welsh and UK legislatures and governments;
2. Replacing the existing conferred powers model with a reserved powers model;
3. Transferring powers from the UK Parliament to the National Assembly including but not limited to transport, S4C, teachers' pay, sewerage, energy consents, youth justice, policing and in the longer term other justice powers; and
4. Strengthening the capacity of the National Assembly to scrutinise legislation and hold the Welsh Government to account – for which proposals should be brought to Autumn Conference 2014 in the *Democratic Reform* policy paper.

Powering Wales' Future

(2014-P02)

National Policy Committee

Conference Believes:

1. In a sustainable and low-carbon future for Wales' energy supply.
2. That our reliance on increasingly expensive fossil fuels is constraining our economy, comprising our future security and polluting our environment.
3. That we must act to reduce Wales' reliance on damaging fossil fuels, secure the future of low-carbon alternatives for decades to come, and become more energy efficient as individuals and as a country.
4. That the Welsh Liberal Democrats must aim to be the most ambitious and greenest of the major Welsh political parties.
5. That the contribution of fossil fuels to Wales' electric generation grid should steadily decrease and be replaced by low-carbon and renewable alternatives, leading to fossil fuel power plants requiring appropriate carbon capture and storage technology or heat recovery plans post-2030.
6. That Wales should aim to produce enough renewable and low-carbon energy to cover our own needs and provide export potential by 2050.

Conference Notes:

1. That Wales is a net exporter of electrical energy, but that fossil fuels make up around three quarters of energy production in Wales.
2. That gas is the dominant source of energy in Wales, responsible for almost half of energy generated in Wales.
3. That Wales has significant scope for wind (onshore and offshore), wave, tidal, solar, and hydro power generation.
4. That Wales presently has a generating capacity of around 11GW, which should rise to 15GW in 2020.
5. That to achieve the 2020 target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent below the 1990 base year, emissions in Wales will need to be reduced by a further 25 percentage points from base year emissions within ten years.
6. That powers over energy policy are only partially devolved to the Welsh Assembly, with devolved policy covering around 70% of total Welsh greenhouse gas emissions.
7. That nuclear power is reserved to Westminster and the Federal Liberal Democrat party has adopted a position of allowing existing nuclear power stations to run to the end of their operating lives, and accepting that new, nuclear power stations could play a limited role in electricity supply, provided concerns about safety, disposal of radioactive waste and cost (including decommissioning) are adequately addressed and without allowing any public subsidy for new build.

Conference Endorses

1. The Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Paper *Powering Wales' Future*, as a paper designed to build a roadmap for Wales' energy future and outline how the Welsh Liberal Democrats would deliver this future in Government.

Conference Calls For:

1. Planning reforms to enable a greater number of small scale community renewables to be completed, including ensuring that such projects are considered with a presumption in favour of development and that the existing Ynni'r Fro programme is expanded so it is more able to deliver necessary advice and support to developers;

2. Support the spread of community energy co-operatives, by providing model legal and business frameworks, and breaking down barriers to connection to appropriate networks and sale or purchase at a competitive price;
3. Ensuring that communities across Wales gain greater benefits from the investments which are made in their areas, by expanding community benefit funds to a regional basis which will mean residents along the transportation and grid corridors are also able to benefit from the economic benefits which come with renewables, and developing a public and transparent official registry of community benefit funds in Wales;
4. The reinstatement of the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, the model of Resource Efficient Scotland to be investigated for Wales in order to disseminate advice on fuel energy efficiency, and exploration of the feasibility of a nation-wide energy co-operative;
5. Moves to reduce consumer electricity demand, improve home efficiency and stabilise the daily demand curve, such as improved advice and education, outlawing the letting of inefficient D-G rated buildings over an appropriate timescale, and supporting industry in becoming more energy efficient;
6. Maximising the economic benefits of renewables by working with developers and educational institutions to expand supply chains and centres of excellence for the next generation of engineers and apprentices including support for research into battery storage technology;
7. The establishment of a suitable number of Marine Energy Hubs to provide a safe environment to manufacturing and test emergent marine renewable technologies before deployment, to enable us to establish Wales as a world leader in marine renewables;
8. A review of Technical Advice Note 8 [TAN8] so that it can be updated to meet current technological requirements and so that new Strategic Search Area options could be explored to encourage new projects and reduce the existing concentration on Mid-Wales;
9. Encouraging the use of offshore wind resources by offering incentives to companies to only install the highest generating equipment;
10. The development of new pumped storage sites in suitable locations, identified by working with energy developers;
11. Planning permission for fracking operations, including test drilling, to be denied until and unless safety and environmental protection can be guaranteed to the highest standards.
12. Biomass generation to be limited to use for heat technologies as opposed to electricity generation.

IN Europe, IN Work

National Policy Committee

Conference Believes:

1. Welsh Liberal Democrats want Wales to stay in the EU because we are fighting for a stronger economy – 160,000 Welsh jobs are dependent on our continued membership of the EU and over 10,000 Welsh companies trade with other EU member states and so benefit from the single market.
2. Liberal Democrats are working to defend thousands of Welsh jobs, create thousands more and put thousands of pounds back in people's pockets by making it easier for companies to export and slashing red tape for small businesses - the average Welsh household is £3,300 a year better off as a result of the growth in the UK's trade within the EU's single market.
3. Overall, Wales is a net beneficiary of EU membership – receiving over £144 million per year more in EU grants alone than its taxpayers contribute to the EU budget and with the value of increased trade among the additional benefits.
4. Liberal Democrats want safer communities, which requires our police forces to have access to key EU crime-fighting tools.
5. Welsh Liberal Democrats are fighting for a greener future by working with EU countries to combat climate change, create green jobs and reduce pollution.
6. The Welsh Liberal Democrats are the party of 'in' –In Europe, In Work.

Conference Further Believes:

1. The Conservative Party and UKIP are putting millions of British jobs and billions of pounds of investment at risk by undermining our membership of the EU;
2. Labour can't be trusted with the economy at home or abroad - their reckless spending and failure to regulate the banks crippled Britain's economy while their MEPs support measures that would impose huge burdens on British businesses.
3. Plaid Cymru's plan for independence puts our place in Europe at risk, and threatens the advantageous EU membership terms that Wales enjoys as part of a strong United Kingdom.

Conference Welcomes:

1. the record of Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament and Westminster in delivering:
 - a. **Jobs** – for example through the conclusion of successful trade deals (with even larger deals now under negotiation), EU funding that has created over 200,000 new UK jobs including funding for research and technology, and the creation of a single EU Patent system.
 - b. **Safer Communities** – for example through fighting off Conservative and UKIP attempts to withdraw the UK from the EU Arrest warrant, new EU laws to help British victims of crime in other EU Countries, and stronger EU co-operation to fight human trafficking.
 - c. **A Greener Future** – for example through an agreement for the EU low carbon roadmap that paves the way towards a low carbon economy, a radical overhaul of the Common Fisheries Policy to ban most discards (throwing dead fish back into the sea), EU energy efficiency laws that will unlock investment in energy saving technologies, and major reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy that will help cut emissions and protect our countryside.

Conference Resolves:

1. That the Welsh Liberal Democrat Manifesto for the 2014 European Elections should set out a strong future policy agenda, building on these priorities and the policies adopted set out in

federal policy paper 113, Prosperous, Sustainable and Secure by Liberal Democrat Federal Conference (September 2013), that supports:

- a. **Creating more jobs** by further opening up the EU's internal market, supporting new EU trade agreements with other trading countries, cutting red tape and 'thinking small', reducing unnecessary EU regulatory costs which particularly hit smaller businesses, promoting innovation in science and manufacturing and getting Welsh ideas to market faster, and supporting the European Investment Bank (EIB) initiative to develop European project bonds in order to speed up vital infrastructure development.
- b. **Fighting cross-border crime and defending rights** by pressing for the European Union missing child alert system to be implemented quickly, setting up a European Union database of unidentified bodies to help families searching for missing loved ones, supporting the work of the new European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), and working to secure speedy implementation of the European Commission's new proposal on fighting money laundering, pushing for a European Union-wide proportionality test in the use of the European Arrest, and supporting the full implementation of 'Eurobail' to allow British citizens to serve their bail back in the UK.
- c. **Protecting the environment and creating green growth** by committing to reduce the EU's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030, urgently strengthening the EU Emissions Trading System mechanism, pushing for more international grid connections between European countries to ensure we can meet our climate change goals faster and at a lower cost, promoting better European energy labelling, and encouraging sustainable consumption in European Union member states, including by arguing for the European Union to support the target of halting net deforestation worldwide by 2020.
- d. **Building a safer, stronger financial system** by ensuring better quality of regulation in order to protect the economy, businesses and jobs, fighting for fairer rules that will clamp down on manipulation of energy and financial markets as exposed by the LIBOR scandal and Brent Oil fixing investigation, ensuring fairer mortgage repayments and fuel prices for consumers, supporting alternatives to bank financing for small and medium sized companies, and pressing for new rules that will force large companies to disclose the countries where they pay their taxes.
- e. **Getting a better, fairer deal for consumers** by campaigning to abolish mobile phone roaming charges once and for all, supporting higher standards of food inspections across the European Union with better country of origin food labelling, supporting greater protection of holidaymakers' rights to compensation if their holiday company goes bust, and making it easier for consumers to gain adequate compensation when people suffer losses due to malpractice, though new rules that will make it easier for consumers to take cases together, reduce the number of court cases and cut costs for the claimants.
- f. **Building a more sustainable future** for rural communities and businesses by supporting continued reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (which now provides £350 per year to Wales), pressing for more devolution in agricultural policy, ensuring continued support for rural communities, particularly upland and less favoured areas, and a mid-term review in 2017; and promoting a more sustainable fishing industry in the UK, with the expansion of European Marine Sites, a 100% ban on the discard of edible and other usable fish and tougher enforcement of European Union fishing rules by all member states
- g. **Helping to build a safer and more democratic world** through a more effective European Union foreign policy, building more security and democracy in the European neighbourhood, deeper defence co-operation in Europe, with European Defence Agency, in co-operation with NATO, playing a central role in helping states

to pool and share military capabilities, and better co-ordination of development assistance provided by European member states and by the European Union itself.

- h. **Promoting fairness and opportunity** by encouraging government and universities to fully publicise the opportunities available for young people in the UK to take advantage of EU schemes for studying and working abroad, and supporting fair rules to underpin free movement of workers, such as the proposal from the European Commission to extend the period from three to six months that the home country pays benefits for their citizens while they are resident in another European Union country
- i. **Reforming the European Union** by campaigning to end the waste of having two meeting places for the European Parliament, supporting an audit of existing European Union agencies and institutions to find ways to rationalise and find savings, and calling for a guarantee in the next European Union treaty that both Euro area and non-Euro area member states have a full voice in the regulation and application of the single market.

Mental Health Provision in Wales

IR Cymru

Original text of motion:

Conference Notes:

1. One in four will experience mental health difficulty in the course of a year.
2. Despite funding for mental health services increasing by more than £1.5 billion since 1999, those experiencing mental health problems continue to suffer unacceptable discrimination in terms of access to services and treatment.
3. That the current treatment of mental ill health is ineffective, and results in high readmission rates.
4. Poor mental health severely impacts upon educational attainment, and poor mental health at a young age can result in increased risk of acute infections, illness, increased self-harming behaviours, suicidal ideation, and suicide.
5. The financial costs of the adverse effects of mental illness to the national economy in Wales stood at £7.2 billion a year in 2010.
6. The work of the Liberal Democrats in Coalition Government in England has resulted in new access and waiting time standards to be introduced in 2015, age appropriate and effective co-ordination between services, and support for employers and employees in ensuring provisions to support individuals with mental health difficulties, ensuring an active working lifestyle.

Conference Believes:

1. There currently exists an inequity in treatment between patients with physical health needs and those with mental health needs.
2. There is a shortage of psychological therapists, which results in the common use of drugs to treat mental ill health; as a result the notion of patient choice does not in effect extend to mental health services.
3. Support for employees in returning to work and students returning to education should become the norm with employers and education providers. Mental health training and provision should first start in the workplace or educational institution.
4. The stigma and discrimination of poor mental health often has a negative impact as great as than that of the illness itself.
5. That LHBs should publish readmission statistics, to help inform trends that currently exist in the patient discharging system.
6. That waiting times for mental health treatment should be the same as all other treatment (nine weeks), as stated by the Welsh Government.

Conference Calls Upon:

1. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to develop a policy on the future of mental health service delivery in Wales.
2. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to call on the Welsh Government to deliver a mental health strategy to radically improve treatment and access to mental health services, including tackling waiting times across Wales through a rigorous review of all LHB provision.
3. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to call on the Welsh Government to establish a national framework to ensure continuity of treatment for young people transitioning from adolescent to adult services, including a streamlined information sharing system between providers.
4. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to call on the Welsh Government to develop a strategy for the provision of mental health services in local communities, and development of a programme for rolling out mental health support in the workplace, similar to that used to monitor physical health such as blood cholesterol, weight, and blood sugar levels.

5. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to call on the Welsh Government to ensure provision of extra capacity in mental health intensive care and forensic units to divert people in need of treatment away from prison and to assist those already in prison.

Drafting amendments from Policy Committee accepted by Rhys Taylor, Policy Officer IRC.

- 1) Delete the word "readmission" in Conference Notes 3 and replace with "reoccurrence".
- 2) In Conference Calls Upon 2-4 delete "The Welsh Liberal Democrats to call on".

Amendment 1:

Clwyd West

Insert at the end of Conference Notes:

7. That undue waiting times between provisional diagnoses and their formal confirmation can be excessive and lead to delays in receipt of payment of Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and other benefits and grants.

Insert at the end of Conference Calls Upon:

6. The Welsh Government to provide for the automatic right to be referred to the nearest available consultant for conditions not current provided for in the relevant LHB or in Wales.
7. The UK Government to make provision for claims and allowances, benefits and grants to be backdated to the date of the provisional diagnoses if confirmed.

Amendment 1: passed

Motion as amended: passed

Final text as accepted by Conference:

Conference Notes:

1. One in four will experience mental health difficulty in the course of a year.
2. Despite funding for mental health services increasing by more than £1.5 billion since 1999, those experiencing mental health problems continue to suffer unacceptable discrimination in terms of access to services and treatment.
3. That the current treatment of mental ill health is ineffective, and results in high reoccurrence rates.
4. Poor mental health severely impacts upon educational attainment, and poor mental health at a young age can result in increased risk of acute infections, illness, increased self-harming behaviours, suicidal ideation, and suicide.
5. The financial costs of the adverse effects of mental illness to the national economy in Wales stood at £7.2 billion a year in 2010.
6. The work of the Liberal Democrats in Coalition Government in England has resulted in new access and waiting time standards to be introduced in 2015, age appropriate and effective co-ordination between services, and support for employers and employees in ensuring provisions to support individuals with mental health difficulties, ensuring an active working lifestyle.
7. That undue waiting times between provisional diagnoses and their formal confirmation can be excessive and lead to delays in receipt of payment of Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and other benefits and grants.

Conference Believes:

1. There currently exists an inequity in treatment between patients with physical health needs and those with mental health needs.
2. There is a shortage of psychological therapists, which results in the common use of drugs to treat mental ill health; as a result the notion of patient choice does not in effect extend to mental health services.
3. Support for employees in returning to work and students returning to education should become the norm with employers and education providers. Mental health training and provision should first start in the workplace or educational institution.
4. The stigma and discrimination of poor mental health often has a negative impact as great as than that of the illness itself.
5. That LHBs should publish readmission statistics, to help inform trends that currently exist in the patient discharging system.
6. That waiting times for mental health treatment should be the same as all other treatment (nine weeks), as stated by the Welsh Government.
7. That undue waiting times between provisional diagnoses and their formal confirmation can be excessive and lead to delays in receipt of payment of Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and other benefits and grants.

Conference Calls Upon:

1. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to develop a policy on the future of mental health service delivery in Wales.
2. The Welsh Government to deliver a mental health strategy to radically improve treatment and access to mental health services, including tackling waiting times across Wales through a rigorous review of all LHB provision.

3. The Welsh Government to establish a national framework to ensure continuity of treatment for young people transitioning from adolescent to adult services, including a streamlined information sharing system between providers.
4. The Welsh Government to develop a strategy for the provision of mental health services in local communities, and development of a programme for rolling out mental health support in the workplace, similar to that used to monitor physical health such as blood cholesterol, weight, and blood sugar levels.
5. The Welsh Government to ensure provision of extra capacity in mental health intensive care and forensic units to divert people in need of treatment away from prison and to assist those already in prison.
6. The Welsh Government to provide for the automatic right to be referred to the nearest available consultant for conditions not currently provided for in the relevant LHB or in Wales.
7. The UK Government to make provision for claims and allowances, benefits and grants to be backdated to the date of the provisional diagnoses if confirmed.

Emergency Motion: E-Cigarettes

Newport

Conference Notes:

1. In the Telegraph on the 6th of April, Maxine Firth points out that the National Assembly for Wales published a white paper including a proposal to ban smoking of e-cigarettes in enclosed public spaces as it 'normalised' smoking.

Conference Believes:

1. Electronic Cigarettes are an aid in helping people quit using traditional cigarettes.
2. That an individual's free choice should be protected, unless evidence is produced to show that harm is done to others.
3. That there is no evidence as yet that electronic cigarettes normalise smoking traditional cigarettes.

Conference calls for:

1. An individual's free right to use electronic cigarettes where they like to be protected, unless there is evidence to suggest harm is being done to others.