

Welsh Liberal
Democrats



Democratiaid
Rhyddfrydol Cymru

Motions Passed
Welsh Liberal Democrat
Spring Conference,
5th – 7th Feb 2016, Cardiff

POLICY MOTIONS

PM1: Policing in Wales

Submitted By: Montgomeryshire Liberal Democrats

Original Motion

Conference welcomes the decision of National Executive Committee to stand candidates in the Police Commissioner elections in May 2016, while reaffirming our policy to abolish Police Commissioners.

Conference notes:

- 1) That the staff costs of the four Welsh Police Commissioner's Offices totalled £2,816,000 in 2014
- 2) That despite the Conservative Government's announcement in the current spending review, the pressures on police budgets will continue to increase.
- 3) That inadequate funding for other public services, particularly mental health, social care and youth services, adds to demands on police resources.

Conference endorses the Liberal Democrat Federal Policy Paper *Doing What Works to Cut Crime*, adopted in 2014. In particular conference welcomes the policies it contains-

- to introduce a new preventative health based approach to tackle the problems caused by drug abuse;
- to increase the accountability of the police;
- to promote the rehabilitation of offenders;
- to tackle the new threats of cyber crime.
- to promote restorative justice which places the victim at the heart of rehabilitation.

Conference Believes:

- 1) That the bedrock for effective public accountability in the Police Service rests in the relationship between neighbourhood policing teams and the communities they serve.
- 2) Crime policy must be based on evidence of what works
- 3) Preventing crime requires close co-operation between the police, other public services and local communities.
- 4) Effective engagement with minority communities, including black and ethnic minorities, the LGBT community and people with disabilities is vital to ensure that the police service operates for all people without prejudice.

Conference calls for:

1. The Westminster Government to devolve responsibility for policing from the Home Office to the Welsh Assembly to enable the Welsh Government to abolish Police Commissioners.
2. The Welsh government to conduct a wholesale strategic review of the policing in Wales to identify the most appropriate structure for the efficient delivery of command, specialist operational capabilities and back office functions for the Police and the most effective means of democratic accountability at local, regional and national level through elected councillors and assembly members.

3. Conference calls on the two most expensive Police Commissioners in Wales, Dyfed-Powys and Gwent, to cut the staff costs of their offices to no more than £1 per person per year, releasing nearly £250,000 to each to invest in front line policing.

Conference calls on all four Police and Crime Commissioners

1. To adopt a presumption in favour of shared back office costs, specialist services and assets, where that will provide better value for money, while retaining the strong links between the police and the communities they serve.
2. To promote as a priority the development of more effective accountability for policing at a neighbourhood level and at local government level
3. Devolve appropriate decisions downwards to local commanders in consultation with local councillors.
4. To share resources with local authorities to provide effective community safety teams.
5. To tackle failings identified by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in all four forces both in the recruitment of police officers from black and minority ethnic groups and in preparedness for dealing with honour crimes and female genital mutilation.

Decisions of Conference

The motion was passed by Conference, as amended.

PM2: A Manifesto for 2016

Submitted by: National Policy Committee

Original Motion

Conference looks forward to this year's elections to the National Assembly, recognising the influential role played by our AMs and determined to win seats across Wales.

['Holding motion' to be supplemented by a full text not later than 28 January.]

Amendments to the Motion

Amendment 1 - now forms the substantive motion.

Delete all and replace with:

Conference looks forward to this year's elections to the National Assembly, recognising the influential role played by our AMs and determined to win seats across Wales.

Conference Believes that:

1. Welsh Liberal Democrats have the deepest roots of any Welsh political party, having been in the front line of progressive and radical reform for over 150 years.
2. Seventeen years of a Welsh Labour Government has not delivered prosperity for Wales' individuals and communities and has left our healthcare, education and other public services in drastic need of support and reform.
3. Wales can only reach its potential by making the most of Wales' strengths such as our culture, our resources, and most of all, our people, and by good governance by a government that values transparency and scrutiny.
4. At a time of tight budgets, Wales needs innovative thinking to improve public services to meet the needs of patients, pupils and parents and achieve social justice.
5. Wales must take advantage of being a relatively small country to build stronger connections between all the elements in its public and private sectors, such as by better connecting industry with higher and further education, health with social care, bus and rail transport with economic potential and people's daily needs.
6. We must redouble our efforts to get the basics right, reinvigorate our economy, and make sure that devolution delivers for individuals and local communities in all corners of Wales.
7. The main challenges facing the next Welsh Government will be:
 - a. Building effective and people-centred public services such as the NHS during budget pressures,
 - b. Growing our economy for the benefit of all, and
 - c. Giving everyone in society the opportunity to get on in life, for themselves and their families.

Conference resolves to present the Welsh electorate with a vision to revitalise Wales with policies such as:

1. Strengthening our economy, closing the productivity gap, and encouraging entrepreneurship and growth by;
 - a. Delivering a balanced, integrated, export-led economic strategy, taking advantage of our links outside Wales, particularly to the EU;
 - b. Establishing a Welsh Development bank to bring together finance and support for small businesses seeking to grow; developing export markets for Welsh businesses; and drawing in funding for major infrastructure projects
 - c. Building a highly skilled modern workforce by supporting in-work training and retargeting Jobs Growth Wales to create tens of thousands of new apprenticeship places;
 - d. Cutting burdensome red tape to enable businesses to thrive.

- e. Stimulating a vibrant and diverse high street through a national learning network to share best practice, tackling empty properties and making town centres more accessible.
 - f. Improving mobile coverage, including 4G, and digital inclusion across Wales;
 - g. Bolstering efficient and accessible public transport and infrastructure across Wales.
 - h. Devolving more powers to local areas such as City Regions.
2. Delivering a modern and effective tax system by:
 - a. Cutting taxes for the many, not the few, by reducing the 20p rate to 19p when new powers make this possible and when public expenditure is increasing.
 - b. Cutting council tax when the owner improves a property's energy efficiency
 - c. Reviewing Business Rates to help companies by removing rates on plant and machinery; establishing 50% relief on business rates bills for new occupants of retail premises that have been empty for a year or more; and devolving business rates to local authorities.
 3. Ensuring the NHS is effective and sustainable by:
 - a. Centring care on dignity, compassion and choice for individuals in a clean, safe and well-managed environment.
 - b. Ensuring safe levels of nurse staffing across the Welsh NHS;
 - c. Guaranteeing patients the best treatment, in the right place, at the right time, including improving access to GPs;
 - d. Ending mental health discrimination and improving support for people with additional learning needs.
 - e. Improving access to medicines.
 - f. Ensuring that NHS oversight is independent of Government,
 - g. Establishing an NHS Commission to set out a long-term future for our health and social care.
 4. Developing an education system which empowers children and students and helps them flourish throughout life by:
 - a. Creating a high quality and affordable early years education and childcare system that secures the best outcomes for children and their families;
 - b. Reducing infant class sizes to 25;
 - c. Providing flexibility and freedom for teachers to lead, and granting high performing schools extra flexibility and powers;
 - d. Increasing funding through the Welsh Pupil Premium;
 - e. Ensuring fair access to further and higher education.
 5. Tackling the housing crisis and ensuring everyone has access to good quality housing at an affordable price by:
 - a. Doubling the number of affordable homes built over the next five years to 20,000 by 2021;
 - b. Putting in place schemes to help people get on the housing ladder; and
 - c. Protecting and empowering tenants, especially those who are vulnerable.
 6. Protecting our natural environment and enhancing our renewable energy resources by
 - a. Introducing targets for 100% of electricity demand to be met from renewable sources by 2025 and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
 - b. Supporting community energy projects
 - c. Tackling flooding and restoring our biodiversity.
 7. Reforming the way we do politics, devolving power to the lowest practical level, and ensuring accountability at all levels by:
 - a. Empowering communities by reinvigorating local democracy
 - b. Protecting vital community assets through a Community Right to Bid.
 - c. Restoring trust in politics by enabling constituents to recall their AMs, introducing independent oversight of the Ministerial Code, and opposing rises in AM pay out of line with the public sector.

- d. Making elections fairer and introducing votes at 16; and
 - e. Campaigning for more powers for Wales and a fair devolution settlement.
8. Supporting rural communities by:
- a. Promoting affordable rural housing;
 - b. Improving access to healthcare, especially in Mid Wales, and focusing recruitment on rural GP surgeries;
 - c. Maintaining local banking and other community facilities;
 - d. Ensuring stability in the farming industry by reducing bureaucracy; supporting young farmers, and introducing a dedicated scheme for Areas of Natural Constraint.
 - e. Connecting rural Wales by improving transport links and modernising the digital infrastructure.
9. Working to remove barriers so everybody can get ahead in life, and leading efforts to promote equality for all of Wales' diverse communities.
10. Ensuring everyone has the right to speak Welsh in their daily life and can access good quality Welsh education and public services.
11. Promoting a vision of a self-confident nation within the United Kingdom and Europe, united in making the most of its human and material resources, seeking export opportunities and investment, providing effective services for its people and compassionate as a Nation of Sanctuary helping those from elsewhere who are in need.

Please note that this motion was a *holding motion* to which one amendment has been submitted by the Policy Committee. As it was submitted *by the proposers of the motion*, it now forms the substantive motion. No vote was needed on this amendment and it should be treated as if it is the original motion. The movers of the motion asked for line 2) a) to be removed.

Decisions of Conference

The motion was passed by Conference, as amended.

Motion As Passed:

A Manifesto For 2016

Conference looks forward to this year's elections to the National Assembly, recognising the influential role played by our AMs and determined to win seats across Wales.

Conference Believes that:

1. Welsh Liberal Democrats have the deepest roots of any Welsh political party, having been in the front line of progressive and radical reform for over 150 years.
2. Seventeen years of a Welsh Labour Government has not delivered prosperity for Wales' individuals and communities and has left our healthcare, education and other public services in drastic need of support and reform.
3. Wales can only reach its potential by making the most of Wales' strengths such as our culture, our resources, and most of all, our people, and by good governance by a government that values transparency and scrutiny.
4. At a time of tight budgets, Wales needs innovative thinking to improve public services to meet the needs of patients, pupils and parents and achieve social justice.
5. Wales must take advantage of being a relatively small country to build stronger connections between all the elements in its public and private sectors, such as by better connecting industry with higher and further education, health with social care, bus and rail transport with economic potential and people's daily needs.
6. We must redouble our efforts to get the basics right, reinvigorate our economy, and make sure that devolution delivers for individuals and local communities in all corners of Wales.
7. The main challenges facing the next Welsh Government will be:
 - d. Building effective and people-centred public services such as the NHS during budget pressures,
 - e. Growing our economy for the benefit of all, and
 - f. Giving everyone in society the opportunity to get on in life, for themselves and their families.

Conference resolves to present the Welsh electorate with a vision to revitalise Wales with policies such as:

1. Strengthening our economy, closing the productivity gap, and encouraging entrepreneurship and growth by;
 - a. Delivering a balanced, integrated, export-led economic strategy, taking advantage of our links outside Wales, particularly to the EU;
 - b. Establishing a Welsh Development bank to bring together finance and support for small businesses seeking to grow; developing export markets for Welsh businesses; and drawing in funding for major infrastructure projects
 - c. Building a highly skilled modern workforce by supporting in-work training and retargeting Jobs Growth Wales to create tens of thousands of new apprenticeship places;
 - d. Cutting burdensome red tape to enable businesses to thrive.
 - e. Stimulating a vibrant and diverse high street through a national learning network to share best practice, tackling empty properties and making town centres more accessible.
 - f. Improving mobile coverage, including 4G, and digital inclusion across Wales;
 - g. Bolstering efficient and accessible public transport and infrastructure across Wales.
 - h. Devolving more powers to local areas such as City Regions.
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 - a. Cutting council tax when the owner improves a property's energy efficiency
 - b. Reviewing Business Rates to help companies by removing rates on plant and machinery; establishing 50% relief on business rates bills for new occupants of retail premises that have been empty for a year or more; and devolving business rates to local authorities.

3. Ensuring the NHS is effective and sustainable by:
 - a. Centring care on dignity, compassion and choice for individuals in a clean, safe and well-managed environment.
 - b. Ensuring safe levels of nurse staffing across the Welsh NHS;
 - c. Guaranteeing patients the best treatment, in the right place, at the right time, including improving access to GPs;
 - d. Ending mental health discrimination and improving support for people with additional learning needs.
 - e. Improving access to medicines.
 - f. Ensuring that NHS oversight is independent of Government,
 - g. Establishing an NHS Commission to set out a long-term future for our health and social care.
4. Developing an education system which empowers children and students and helps them flourish throughout life by:
 - a. Creating a high quality and affordable early years education and childcare system that secures the best outcomes for children and their families;
 - b. Reducing infant class sizes to 25;
 - c. Providing flexibility and freedom for teachers to lead, and granting high performing schools extra flexibility and powers;
 - d. Increasing funding through the Welsh Pupil Premium;
 - e. Ensuring fair access to further and higher education.
5. Tackling the housing crisis and ensuring everyone has access to good quality housing at an affordable price by:
 - a. Doubling the number of affordable homes built over the next five years to 20,000 by 2021;
 - b. Putting in place schemes to help people get on the housing ladder; and
 - c. Protecting and empowering tenants, especially those who are vulnerable.
6. Protecting our natural environment and enhancing our renewable energy resources by:
 - a. Introducing targets for 100% of electricity demand to be met from renewable sources by 2025 and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
 - b. Supporting community energy projects
 - c. Tackling flooding and restoring our biodiversity.
7. Reforming the way we do politics, devolving power to the lowest practical level, and ensuring accountability at all levels by:
 - a. Empowering communities by reinvigorating local democracy
 - b. Protecting vital community assets through a Community Right to Bid.
 - c. Restoring trust in politics by enabling constituents to recall their AMs, introducing independent oversight of the Ministerial Code, and opposing rises in AM pay out of line with the public sector.
 - d. Making elections fairer and introducing votes at 16; and
 - e. Campaigning for more powers for Wales and a fair devolution settlement.
8. Supporting rural communities by:
 - a. Promoting affordable rural housing;
 - b. Improving access to healthcare, especially in Mid Wales, and focusing recruitment on rural GP surgeries;
 - c. Maintaining local banking and other community facilities;
 - d. Ensuring stability in the farming industry by reducing bureaucracy; supporting young farmers, and introducing a dedicated scheme for Areas of Natural Constraint.
 - e. Connecting rural Wales by improving transport links and modernising the digital infrastructure.
9. Working to remove barriers so everybody can get ahead in life, and leading efforts to promote equality for all of Wales' diverse communities.

10. Ensuring everyone has the right to speak Welsh in their daily life and can access good quality Welsh education and public services.
11. Promoting a vision of a self-confident nation within the United Kingdom and Europe, united in making the most of its human and material resources, seeking export opportunities and investment, providing effective services for its people and compassionate as a Nation of Sanctuary helping those from elsewhere who are in need.

PM3: Mitigating the Impact of Flooding in Wales

Submitted by: 23 Members

Original Motion

Conference notes:

1. The significant high-energy rainfall events that have had a major impact across the North of Wales and England in December 2015
2. The current trend towards more frequent extreme weather events is consistent with that expected in a warming world.
3. The events in 2015 again exceeded previous recorded levels in many river catchments.
4. That existing guidance in development in the flood plain has been overridden within the planning process.
5. That flood management can only be successfully achieved at a whole catchment level.
6. That short catchment rivers are more prone to catastrophic flooding for which there is little or no time for communities to respond.
7. The significant overlap between areas affected by flooding and the licences granted for shale gas exploration.

Conference believes:

1. That the current modelling of 100 year returns events is no longer appropriate for use as a risk management tool in respect of river flooding.
2. The current planning guidance has failed to prevent inappropriate development in the flood plain.
3. That the current approach to flood prevention is piecemeal and only moves the problem elsewhere in the catchment.
4. That partnership working with the farming, shooting and forestry community is essential to the management of future flood risk.
5. That insurance companies have a duty to promote renovation work that is designed to reduce the impact of subsequent events.
6. That the failure to properly manage surface water runoff in new development has increased the risk of flooding in some areas.
7. The pollution risk presented by shale gas exploration in flood risk areas should be mitigated.
8. That post flooding renovation of properties at risk of flooding should improve the resilience of the property to a repeat event.
9. That natural courses of river and flood plain development should be retained and recreated wherever possible.

Conference calls for

1. The Welsh Government to replace existing planning guidance with respect to development in the flood plain with a new robust strategy.
2. All future risk modelling be based on a "known record level extent model" for flood management.
3. The Welsh Government to introduce new Planning Design Notes and Building Regulations to improve the resilience of properties identified as being at risk of flooding and reduce the impact of surface water run off.
4. The Welsh Government to develop whole-catchment plans for Welsh rivers designed to reduce the flow rates of water through the catchment.
5. The Government in both Cardiff and Westminster to make grants available to householders in flood risk areas who want to put in place improvements to their properties that improve the resilience of the property to future flood events.
6. The Government in Westminster to work with the insurance industry to produce new renovation guidelines designed to increase the resilience of properties in the face of repeated flood events.

7. Local Authorities to immediately remove all housing allocations on areas identified to be at risk of flooding from their development plans except where planning permission has already been granted and work commenced.
8. The Government in Westminster to introduce a presumption against siting well heads for fracking in areas identified as falling within a flood risk zone.
9. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to actively participate in any review of flood management including making a submission for policy changes based on this debate.
10. The introduction of lowland farm management plans which promote the development of water meadows and the use of lower grade agricultural land for flood control measures.

Decisions of Conference

The motion was passed by Conference, unamended.

PM4: A Good Start in Life for Every Child

Submitted by: National Assembly for Wales Group

Original Motion

Conference welcomes that:

- i. In 2014, the Welsh Liberal Democrats secured £4.6million to introduce the Early Years Pupil Premium for three and four-year-olds, to help ensure every child gets the care and attention they need when they are very young.
- ii. In government in Westminster, Liberal Democrats:
 - a. led the introduction of shared parental leave, giving working parents in Wales greater flexibility with childcare arrangements and recognising the importance of time parents spend with their child;
 - b. fought for the introduction of tax-free childcare which will save working parents up to £2000 on childcare costs per year for each child under 12;
 - c. prioritised investment in early years education and childcare, by increasing the free entitlement in England for all three and four year olds to 15 hours per week and extending this to the most disadvantaged 40% of 2 year olds.

Conference notes that:

- A. The current system of childcare and free early years education in Wales is far less effective than in England, with inconsistent provision across the country, high costs and a lack of flexibility to adapt to parents' work circumstances.
- B. The current provision of free childcare and early years education in Wales is less generous than in England, with only 10 hours per week for three and four year olds and 12.5 hours for children aged two in Flying Start areas.
- C. The Liberal Democrat 2015 Manifesto committed to an increase to 20 hours' free childcare a week for all parents with children aged from two to four-years, and all working parents from the end of paid parental leave (nine months) to two years.
- D. The Sutton Trust highlights that while early years provision has significant potential to narrow the attainment gap and improve developmental outcomes for children, good quality provision is essential to meet these aims.

Conference believes that:

- a) Every child deserves a great start in life.
- b) Wales must have a comprehensive system of early years support focused on the needs of children and their families in order to help every child to achieve their potential.
- c) High quality early years education is vital in determining a child's life chances, especially in improving life chances for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- d) Accessible and affordable childcare is an important means of enabling parents to return to work if they wish and can help improve a child's social skills and reduce child poverty.

Conference calls for:

- 1) An increase in the Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grant each year to reach £1000 per child by the end of the next Assembly.
- 2) The extension of free childcare provision to working parents from the end of paid parental leave and increased provision of free childcare and early years education for children from age two to four, with greater flexibility to adapt to work circumstances.
- 3) The introduction of a new Qualified Early Years Teacher qualification and increased promotion of Apprenticeships in Early Years and Childcare, to help enhance the specialist skills of the workforce and ensure high quality in provision.

Decisions of Conference

The motion was passed by Conference, unamended.

PM5: Winning in Europe

Submitted by: National Policy Committee

Original Motion

Conference recognises that the creation of the European Union has led to peace, prosperity, democracy and security for the peoples of Europe.

Conference believes that winning a decisive victory for '*Remain a member of the European Union*' in the referendum on the UK's membership is essential because our position as one of the EU's largest member states gives us:

- i. greater political and economic influence in the world;
- ii. free access to our principal export market – the world's largest single market of over 500 million consumers – together with a major role in shaping its rules;
- iii. the ability to tackle more effectively shared problems, such as climate change, declining biodiversity, unsustainable fishing, and cross-border crime; and
- iv. a wide range of future opportunities as the EU continues to develop, focusing on those actions which are most effective if undertaken at the EU level.

Conference draws attention to especially important aspects for Wales:

- A. At least 150,000 jobs in Welsh firms depend on exporting to the EU and more than 50,000 jobs are in firms from other Member States located in Wales, so all are linked to the Single Market, as are many in global firms based in Wales.
- B. Wales is a net beneficiary from the EU Budget, receiving more in EU grants – from structural funds, regular payments to Welsh farmers and fishing industry, and grants to Welsh universities and students – than its taxpayers contribute to the EU budget, with the financial value of increased trade among the additional benefits.
- C. UK withdrawal from the EU could lead to Scotland withdrawing from the UK and so unbalance the Union.

Conference emphasises that our party has always combined its recognition of the essential role of EU membership with a constant drive to make EU institutions and decision-making more democratic, effective, efficient and transparent, which places us in a strong position to present a clear and convincing case to voters.

Conference calls upon all Liberal Democrats to play an active role in our Party's own campaigning and in the wider *STRONGER IN* campaign.

Conference urges the other major parties in Wales to join with us in a coordinated effort within the *STRONGER IN* campaign, involving members of all parties, businesses, trade unions, civil society organisations and other groups.

Conference hopes that the campaign will achieve much wider public recognition that:

- a) the EU provides our best hope for building a more peaceful world, constructed on firm foundations of shared democracy, human rights and openness;
- b) the EU continues to reform, intensifying its focus on job creation through sustainable economic growth, boosting trade, and getting rid of unnecessary regulations – an agenda which demands that the UK continues to play a leading role;
- c) EU research programmes are crucial to the success of British universities and UK science, promoting innovation and competitiveness in the UK economy and laying the foundations for

faster advances in medicine, low-carbon energy, new materials, food security and other fields of cutting-edge science; and enabling speedier development into viable products with real commercial potential;

- d) the EU and our membership provides the UK with the best chance of tackling climate change and biodiversity loss, while creating green jobs in potentially world-leading industries, especially through the development of low-carbon and energy-saving technologies
- e) EU membership – and the large scale of the EU single market – gives the UK a voice in setting environmental, consumer safety, animal welfare and other standards which govern European trade and are often adopted globally, enabling expanded and more sustainable worldwide trade;
- f) EU membership guarantees a wide range of workplace, consumer and citizens' rights, including free movement, employment rights and other protections enjoyed by an estimated 2 million British citizens living in other EU countries, as well as those in the UK;
- g) EU membership enables UK law enforcement agencies to work collaboratively across borders and so respond to the growing threat of organised crime in areas such as human trafficking, drugs and other smuggling, counterfeit products, wildlife trafficking and money laundering;
- h) our young people are increasingly benefitting from the opportunities EU membership gives of academic learning and industrial training in other EU countries, enriching their lives and capacities, and enlarging Europe's great pool of shared knowledge;
- i) the UK's participation in the EU's extensive international development programmes and humanitarian assistance budgets represents a recognition of our common humanity, as well as our global inter-dependence.

Conference wholeheartedly declares its ambition for Britain to stop glancing at the exit door and fulfil the leading role in our continent which our size, history and strengths offer to us.

Decisions of Conference

The motion was passed by Conference, unamended.

PM6: Let's Talk About Sex

Submitted by: Cardiff and the Vale Liberal Democrats, IR Cymru, and 17 members

Original Motion

Conference notes that:

- A. Basic sex education is currently offered from age 11 in Welsh schools, and parents or legal guardians can exclude their children from any part of it
- B. Access to sexual health clinics in Wales is poor, particularly in rural areas, due to location, restricted opening hours or a lack of capacity
- C. Some sexual health clinics in England offer same-day testing/results services, while no similar provision exists in Wales
- D. There are strict confidentiality practices surrounding sexual health clinics, and the sharing of patient records with GPs and other health professionals
- E. Research by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health found a correlation between teenage pregnancy rates and increased deprivation in Wales
- F. Free HIV home testing kits, provided by the Terrence Higgins Trust and funded by the NHS, are available in England; while no similar provision exists in Wales
- G. Stigma and misinformation surrounding the true nature of HIV and its effects is still widespread
- H. Clinical trials of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) medication have shown significant success in preventing the transmission and contraction of HIV
- I. The Welsh Government recently decided to extend human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination to men who have sex with men (MSM) through sexual health clinics

Conference believes that:

- I. Every child in Wales should receive good quality sex and relationships education (SRE), which is vital in improving sexual health, eradicating stigma and ending sexual violence
- II. The issues of consent, sexuality and gender identity are not dealt with by the current SRE curriculum in enough depth, nor early enough in a child's education
- III. Every person in Wales should have easy access to timely, non-judgemental sexual health and family planning services, regardless of personal characteristics or circumstances
- IV. The severe restrictions placed on sharing patient records between sexual health clinics and other parts of the NHS can be problematic, and in some cases can harm patient care
- V. A proactive, rather than reactive, approach to sexual health is more likely to decrease rates of STIs
- VI. Persistently higher HIV diagnosis rates among MSM and the continued stigmatisation of people who are HIV-positive mark a failure of public health policy, and that the mistakes made in dealing with HIV must be learned from
- VII. In order to fully protect MSM from HPV and its associated cancers, boys should be vaccinated against it on the same basis as their female peers

Conference calls for:

1. The creation of a stronger and more inclusive SRE curriculum in Wales which properly deals with issues of gender identity, sexuality, consent and healthy relationships at the earliest appropriate age
2. The removal of a parent's or legal guardian's right to exclude their child from any part of SRE in any school in Wales

3. Local authorities to set aside specific funds allowing schools to invite expert speakers from specialist third sector bodies, ensuring that no school is hampered by a lack of knowledge of SRE issues among its teaching staff
4. Wales' HPV vaccination programme to be extended to cover all adolescent boys on the same basis as their female peers
5. A pilot programme offering STI testing at the same time as other regular health checks, upon admittance to hospital, in pharmacies, GPs' surgeries and other community locations across Wales
6. An increase in the availability and efficiency of sexual health and family planning services, particularly in deprived and rural areas, by:
 - a) extending opening hours of existing clinics,
 - b) establishing new clinics where demand exists, and
 - c) offering same-day results services where possible
7. Businesses to offer STI testing as part of occupational health events
8. A review into the confidentiality of patient records in Welsh sexual health clinics to ensure that health professionals who need patient records are able to access them, while maintaining a patient's right to opt out of such sharing
9. NHS Wales to fund HIV home-testing kits similar to existing provision in England
10. A public health information campaign explaining the true nature of HIV and its transmission, diagnosis and treatment, in order to reduce the stigma attached to the virus and reduce transmission rates
11. PrEP to be made available by the AWMSG to those at high risk of contracting HIV

Amendments to the Motion

Amendment 1:

Submitted by IR Cymru

Insert as new sub-point in Conference calls for 6:

Improving access to affordable emergency contraception

Decisions of Conference

Amendment 1 – Passed

Motion passed as amended

Motion as Passed

Conference notes that:

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- C. Some sexual health clinics in England offer same-day testing/results services, while no similar provision exists in Wales
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Conference believes that:

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- II. The issues of consent, sexuality and gender identity are not dealt with by the current SRE curriculum in enough depth, nor early enough in a child's education
- III. Every person in Wales should have easy access to timely, non-judgemental sexual health and family planning services, regardless of personal characteristics or circumstances
- IV. The severe restrictions placed on sharing patient records between sexual health clinics and other parts of the NHS can be problematic, and in some cases can harm patient care
- V. A proactive, rather than reactive, approach to sexual health is more likely to decrease rates of STIs
- VI. Persistently higher HIV diagnosis rates among MSM and the continued stigmatisation of people who are HIV-positive mark a failure of public health policy, and that the mistakes made in dealing with HIV must be learned from
- VII. In order to fully protect MSM from HPV and its associated cancers, boys should be vaccinated against it on the same basis as their female peers

Conference calls for:

1. The creation of a stronger and more inclusive SRE curriculum in Wales which properly deals with issues of gender identity, sexuality, consent and healthy relationships at the earliest appropriate age
2. The removal of a parent's or legal guardian's right to exclude their child from any part of SRE in any school in Wales
3. Local authorities to set aside specific funds allowing schools to invite expert speakers from specialist third sector bodies, ensuring that no school is hampered by a lack of knowledge of SRE issues among its teaching staff
4. Wales' HPV vaccination programme to be extended to cover all adolescent boys on the same basis as their female peers
5. A pilot programme offering STI testing at the same time as other regular health checks, upon admittance to hospital, in pharmacies, GPs' surgeries and other community locations across Wales
6. An increase in the availability and efficiency of sexual health and family planning services, particularly in deprived and rural areas, by:
 - a) Improving access to affordable emergency contraception;
 - b) extending opening hours of existing clinics,
 - c) establishing new clinics where demand exists, and
 - d) offering same-day results services where possible
7. Businesses to offer STI testing as part of occupational health events
8. A review into the confidentiality of patient records in Welsh sexual health clinics to ensure that health professionals who need patient records are able to access them, while maintaining a patient's right to opt out of such sharing
9. NHS Wales to fund HIV home-testing kits similar to existing provision in England
10. A public health information campaign explaining the true nature of HIV and its transmission, diagnosis and treatment, in order to reduce the stigma attached to the virus and reduce transmission rates
11. PrEP to be made available by the AWMSG to those at high risk of contracting HIV