



**Minutes of EYL Executive Meeting
Held on 28/5/2021 via Zoom**

In attendance

WT - William Tench - English Chair
AB - Adam Belcher - Yorkshire and Humber Chair
SC - Sam Cumber - London Chair
PG - Patrick Gilbert - West Midlands Chair
JV - James Vivian - South Central Chair
KM - Katharine Macy - Federal Accessibility, Diversity and Standards Officer

Apologies

Taylor Donoughue-Smith - North West Chair
Kieron Franks - East of England Chair
Oliver Jones-Lyons - North East Chair

Apologies were also received from Elizabeth Bernard and Arthur Wu, federal officers with a permanent invite to speak at EYL Meetings for the 2021 term.

Absent

Loukas Christou - East Midlands Chair
Luke Jeffery - Devon and Cornwall Chair
Fergus Ustianowski - Vice Chair & Western Counties Chair

Chairs Reports

SC - Has had two meetings of Regional YL Exec since last meeting. During Local Elections held an action day in Enfield and a mini action day in Islington. Planning for physical events - for example, potentially a picnic as an icebreaker in the run-up to YL conference.

JV - [Submitted written report](#)

PG - Had action day in Bromsgrove, planning for action day in Chesham and Amersham. Looking at possibility of a new 'North Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield' branch, or potential Birmingham wide branch.

AB - Helped campaign in Sheffield in local elections. Spoke to YL candidates in Leeds who felt they hadn't got enough support from the local party so have started discussions on a potential Leeds YL branch. Sheffield University Branch is at risk of lapsing at the end of the year so plans to have conversations on moving to a city wide model. Attended York University branch event.

Vacant State Representatives to Federal Committees

WT - There are two vacant English Representative roles due to Fergus Ustianowski becoming Campaigns Officer and Yan Malinowski's resignation. Asks if anyone would like to put their name forward for Campaigns or Diversity Committee. Says that Oliver Jones-Lyons has stated interest in the Campaigns Committee vacancy.

Executive votes unanimously that Oliver Jones-Lyons will be England's Representative to the Federal Campaigns Committee.

WT - Will advertise the Diversity Committee vacancy to members not present in the meeting and fill the position through an email vote.

Co-option Feedback

WT - Notes recent South Central co-option and ongoing co-option in South East. Asks what could be improved and what worked in the process.

SC - Candidates gave different length applications with different information. Might be worth asking more prescriptive questions to learn more about each candidate and get a better comparison.

PG - Suggests engagement in process could be improved by a Zoom meeting to discuss candidates.

WT - Agrees, noting Federal Executive had meetings following interview stages in their co-options and that it was very helpful to talk about the candidates.

Executive agrees to trial meeting before voting opens for South East co-option.

JV - Suggests that handover process could be improved, allowing Regional Chairs to hit the ground running sooner.

SC - Suggests that Regional Chairs have a handover document that they continuously add to, which they can give to successors.

WT - Asks for feedback on increasing diversity in applicants. States that they have spoken to KM and had the South Central co-option advertised in diversity Facebook groups but did not seem to have an impact.

PG - Having a good handover process will allow us to more accurately claim that 'no experience is necessary' when advertising for vacancies - increasing the pool of people who can put themselves forward.

KM - Engaging with the Regional Chairs who have resigned to promote and advertise the co-option could potentially increase the number and diversity of applicants.

PG - Regional Executives are a good way to get people experience, and increase their chances of thinking they're able to put themselves forward.

WT - Notes that a poll in Young Liberal Forum found that the number one reason why women and gender non-conforming people did not run in last YL elections was that they believed they had a lack of experience.

KM - Articulates that diverse communities are less likely to 'do things by half', so will put their name forward if they know they can make a difference. Notes the potential of regional chairs which is often un-tapped into, recommends that regional chairs should use the second half of their terms to engage more with their membership.

Campaigns

WT - Notes feedback from local election action days has been covered by Chairs reports. Argues the importance of travelling to help campaign in Chesham and Amersham, and encouraging members from regions - especially those close to the constituency - to go too.

JV - Met with Fergus Ustianowski and James Arrowsmith, action days are the 5th of June and an action weekend on the 11th and 12th of June. Has spoken to branch chairs in the region to encourage them and their branches to travel to campaign.

PG - West Midlands Young Liberals planning to go as a contingent on 11th of June.

Discussions were had about the content of the Liberal Democrat campaign in Chesham and Amersham.

Any Other Business

WT - Will have discussion through Slack about future frequency of meetings, to include missing regional chairs.

Meeting ends at 18.50