

YF Exec Meeting

Tue 12 January, 7pm (Zoom Meeting ID: 817 1613 9534; Passcode: 694236; <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81716139534?pwd=akRNVFQ0dXR0OHVFU3hnS2FqWkExUT09>)

Present: Nicki Adeleke, Leon Alleyne-McLaughlin, Milo Barnett, Laura Cunliffe-Hall, Tobi Dada, Cecilia Eve, Amber Khan, Louie Marlow, Owen Michael, Victoria Parrett, Jack Parker, James Potts, Emma Stevenson, Mark Whittaker, Hollie Wickens, Panny Antoniou, Tina Bhartwas, Leo Gerza, Aimée Hall, Marie Hill, Nathan Hodson, Henry Mendoza, Albie Mills, Matthew Oulton, Holly Smith, Leopold Rupf, Amarvir Singh-Bal, Mark Storm, Chris Wongsosaputro.

1. Introductions & Apologies

Apologies received from Matthew Suddart.

Albie gave an early update on the Scottish Young Fabians - their pamphlet is coming soon and they will be holding an event at the Fabian Society's New Year Conference. They're continuing their monthly Red Aye discussion series, and are hosting a fundraising quiz with Ian Murray MP on the 4th February.

Albie left the meeting

2. Approval of [minutes](#)

Mark W moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting, which the exec accepted.

3. Update on actions from last meeting

There were no actions from the previous meeting to update on.

4. Co-option of Podcast & Videos Editor

Mark W explained that Louie had been kept on as Content Producer to ensure YF was still putting out content at the start of the new year. Under the constitution the exec does have to run a new process.

Mark W proposed turning the role into a Podcast & Video Editor. Once this is agreed, the exec would start an open process, and anonymously rank the candidates based on a criteria TBC.

Louie is able to run again if he wishes, and there was a reminder to everyone that exec members cannot be Network chairs or secretaries.

The exec approved Mark's proposal

AP: Mark W to draft a role description and criteria

5. Network and Advocacy Group Officers' Updates

Mark S, Technology, Defence, and Cybersecurity Network

The Network had their AGM last week, which went well, with lots of new policy officers elected.

They're launching their AI21 campaign, on the effects of AI on the public. They're seeking funding for this - Mark S has a few calls lined up but would like to hear anyone's ideas for potential sources.

Panny, International Network

They have lots of upcoming events, including a fringe event at NY Conference

Panny, Devolution and Local Government Network

The Metro Mayors report is coming soon - James P said it came back from the designers yesterday. There are a few more tweaks to make, and he's meeting the Network tomorrow to plan launch details.

Amarvir and Chris, Economy and Finance Network

They wrote a piece for the blog on Labour's Battle for Economic Credibility, and held a successful podcast episode with various Regional Group chairs on Labour and the heartlands.

They are holding a big event soon with various female MPs from across England on whether Labour has left behind the heartlands, which Chris was pleased about in particular because the Network is hoping to get more women involved this year.

In February, they will be hosting a webinar on Behavioural Economics and releasing their first macro update of the year.

Marie, Environment Network

The Network's focus this year will be on COP20.

They are collaborating on an event at NY Conference, and they're hoping to work with Luke Pollard.

They will also be potentially holding an event with the Health Network on pollution and its costs to the NHS.

They want to make a particular effort to get more people based outside London to get involved.

Milo, Health Network

The new Network chair Stephen couldn't make it tonight as he's working, and they've had a couple of IT-related teething issues that they're aiming to sort.

Holly, LGBTQIA Advocacy Group

They'd like to try and release a pamphlet this year, dependent on funding, on health issues and the LGBT+ community. They should be able to share more details on this at the end of the month.

February is Pride Month, and they'll be holding two, maybe three events.

One will be a watch party of the film Pride, and one will be a discussion on women in queer history, particularly the 80s. They're working with Nicki to see if FWN would be interested in attending this.

The proposed pamphlet would only be open to people from the LGBT+ community to contribute, but the Group's events are open to all

Henry, BAME Advocacy Group

They had their AGM recently, but since then Henry's capacity has been limited due to starting a new job. The Group is hoping to plan some events soon

Jack, Networks Coordinator

He has no major updates - some Networks still have their AGMs upcoming so there are no updates from them this month.

6. National and Regional Officers' Updates

Nathan, West Midlands

They're having a blog takeover on Friday, an event soon with the Criminal Justice Network on Police and Crime Commissioners, and a series of podcasts with Louie.

Aimée, South West

Their first event, a Q&A with their Labour Metro Mayor candidate, is coming soon.

They have a Rural Officer, who will be working with the East of England Young Fabians on their NY Conference event

Tina, East of England

They recently had a meeting on the Covid recovery which went really well, and it's good to be getting into more policy detail as a group beyond the initial set-up.

Their NY Conference event is coming up, in collaboration with the South West Young Fabians and the Environment Network. They're hoping this is the start of a greater focus on rural affairs.

Their AGM is coming up, and they're hoping to do a podcast episode on the future of the group before then.

Jack asked Mark W about the process for setting up new Regional Groups after a member had expressed an interest to him. Mark W said we have an existing process, and if we direct interested members to him he can help them draw up a proposal.

Owen, National Coordinator

He's been making progress setting up the AGMs, he has dates for most of them now.

Mark W asked Owen to let him know the dates so the exec can publicise to members.

7. Discussion: [Calendar](#) for the next two months

Mark W explained that the main events coming up are the Fabian Society's New Year Conference and Burns Night.

Some sad anniversaries are coming up: the UK's first Covid cases and the anniversary of Brexit - he suggested we could publish blog posts on these if anyone was interested.

February as already mentioned is Pride month, where Holly and the LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Group have great plans, and Chinese New Year.

8. Discussion: External partnerships/rerelations

Milo spoke about the alumni database he's created - he has around 250 names so far, and thinks it would be useful for expanding Friends of the Young Fabians and the History Project.

Chris said that the Economy & Finance Network is seeking external sponsors, and is happy to share contacts with other YF Networks and Groups seeking funding sources.

Mark W mentioned that as an organisation we are looking for more sponsorship opportunities so we can approve more pamphlets.

9. Discussion: Appointing Liam Byrne MP as an additional Honorary Vice President

The exec is able to appoint new Honorary Presidents without an AGM. We already have an existing and impressive group of Honorary Presidents and Vice Presidents, but there is a lack of English & non-London based members.

The West Midlands Young Fabians recently held an event with Liam Byrne, where he showed himself to be a keen fan of our work. He already has a long history of YF involvement.

Mark W proposed asking him to be an additional Honorary Vice President. Nicki agreed with the principle, but worried about disrupting the gender balance of the existing group and asked if we could also consider asking another female Honorary Vice President.

Mark W suggested the exec vote on whether we should ask Liam Byrne, and exec members should think of women to propose at the next exec meeting.

The exec approved - **AP: Mark W to ask Liam Byrne if he'd become an Honorary Vice President of the Young Fabians.**

10. Discussion: [Friends of the Young Fabians](#)

James explained that the existing Friends of the Young Fabians scheme had been created as a regular giving scheme, to give YF a regular income alongside other funding sources. The scheme had not been successful, due to the lack of a real launch and too high a financial ask for few extra benefits.

James proposed reforming the scheme, with a simplified two bands of giving with more rewards for those who join. It would be targeted to all Fabians and key stakeholders.

Amarvir asked whether James and Milo could give regular updates on how many people had signed up, and agreed that it was a good idea to slim down the existing scheme.

James said he would be happy to include Friends of the Young Fabians in his standing agenda update. His aim is for the scheme to raise enough to cover YF's standing monthly costs, for example the Zoom subscription.

The exec approved the proposal.

11. Discussion: YF Academy

Tobi said he was happy with the suggestions he'd received for sessions. He wants to introduce the Academy at the end of the month, as a good

time in particular to take advantage of the new members NY Conference brings in. He'd like representatives from the Networks, Advocacy Groups and Regional/National Groups to attend, to be ready to answer questions from members.

12. Pamphlet proposal: [An economic lens to reclaiming the heartlands: 100 years since Labour's first government](#) (Economy and Finance Network)

Amarvir outlined the rationale for the pamphlet, and explained the key areas it would cover. The Network hopes to secure funding for a print run, and they have made a detailed publicity plan for the pamphlet's lifecycle. Mark W reminded everyone that the pamphlet would also need the approval of the senior section. He'd mentioned it to them before and they seemed positive, so it shouldn't be an issue.

James asked for an actual figure that the Network were working to.

Amarvir said they'd do it all themselves, for example design work, if there was no funding. Chris estimated £1-2k to cover design and materials.

James said that this figure was very ambitious, and that for context previous YF pamphlets have cost around £250. He said the Network should be ambitious if they want to, but to bear in mind how many groups wish to produce pamphlets and the impact that has on available funding.

Milo stated that small donations are easier to ask for than large donations.

Mark W said that the only fixed cost is usually the design. YF's regular designer charges £100 per pamphlet. A print run then tends to cost £100-£200.

The exec approved the Network's pamphlet proposal.

AP - Mark W to take the proposal to the senior section.

13. Chair's Update

Mark W has been working on outreach, and appeared recently on the Debated podcast. He's attending the Co-Operative Party's youth board next week.

He's been working on the Recovery for Young People theme - he, Emma and Amy met Seema Malhotra and Wes Streeting and had a productive conversation around this, especially regarding apprenticeships. He's hoping the new Education Network picks this up.

He's been attending as many Network AGMs as possible and is preparing for NY Conference.

14. Vice Chair's Update

Cecilia has been working with Nicki on their pamphlet, with a preliminary deadline for first drafts set. She's made contact with an Austrian thinktank to look at future collaboration, and has written for a few external publications.

15. Secretary's Update

Hollie has had limited capacity this month, but she's been continuing to support the exec. She made a plea for everyone to use their YF emails rather than their personal ones, as she cannot grant access to YF documents every time someone asks. If anyone is having issues with their

email they should get in touch. She also asked if everyone could try and limit YF business on WhatsApp to before 11pm, as the exec discussed at the start of the year.

16. Treasurer's Update

a. Board Resolution

James is still working on gaining access to the bank account, and needs a Board Resolution from the exec to present to Lloyds to enable this.

The exec passed a resolution for James as Treasurer to access the YF bank account.

Worked on the Friends of the Young Fabians paper.

Updated the Payments Processor on the website.

Meeting with John Rafferty from the Fabians tomorrow to discuss financial issues, including the sponsorship for network pamphlets.

James will be attending the Fabians Finance and General Purposes Committee at the end of January where he will be asking for an issue with our grant to be rectified. He will feed back in February.

James has also been reaching out about sponsorship from external sources such as the LGA and trade unions.

17. Antics Update

Finances play a massive part in planning for Antics, but Amber has been receiving help from James with chasing the senior section, so she's confident we will be able to release an issue.

Amber has been getting artists and writers to contribute, doing a lot of background work so that we're ready to hit the ground running as soon as we get the green light funding-wise.

18. Women's Officer Update

Will chase Sara from FWN re support for pamphlet

Had a productive Zoom call with LBGTQIA+ group re encouraging women involvement and supporting them. They suggested an intersectionality survey, said this is something we're looking into.

Planning to get in touch with committees from other networks/advocacy groups/regional groups on how to support them/increase women involvement

Had a phone call with Emma re involving more women in the blog; agreed that by connecting with different groups, we can build networks and encourage them to get them to write. Also will advertise that the blog pieces need not be lengthy or too in-depth policy, so time commitment won't be too much of an issue.

Plans for IWD; blog takeover with focus on intersectionality and the theme of Choose to Challenge. Plan to link with advocacy groups to facilitate this.

Will contact Louie re podcasts with focus on women

19. Other Officers' Updates

a. Safeguarding Training and Documentation update

Leon announced that a safeguarding complaint had been raised. He reminded everyone of the specific safeguarding inbox for members to raise concerns to, and there is now a template reporting form.

He has found a Labour safeguarding e-learning programme - it takes one hour and is free for Labour members.

The exec voted in favour of Leon's proposal that all exec members and Network chairs and secretaries complete this training.

AP - All exec members and Network chairs and secretaries to complete the training once Leon has distributed the details.

Leon noted that lots of WhatsApp group links have been shared for anyone to join - he would rather contact details for group admins were shared instead, so admins can perform a basic level of vetting.

Laura said that her work this month had been the same as usual, maintaining the social media feeds. She asked for anyone to get in touch if they want things publishing.

Jack said that the housing pamphlet has received a few more articles back and there are a few extended deadlines for contributors.

Emma attended a meeting with Seema Malhotra and Wes Streeting, along with Mark W and Amy. She's working with Nicki on plans for International Women's Day - she'll write these up and present them to the next exec meeting.

She's hoping to start receiving regular contributions from the advocacy groups, looking at one piece from each monthly. She really wants to improve the diversity of contributors to the blog.

20. Pamphlet Updates

Pamphlet updates had been covered in the course of the meeting.

21. AOB

Cecilia asked whether Tuesdays were the usual day for meetings, Mark W replied that they are.