

YF Exec Meeting

Tue 9 February, 7pm

Present: Nicki Adeleke, Leon Alleyne-McLaughlin, Milo Barnett, Laura Cunliffe-Hall, Tobi Dada, Cecilia Eve, Louie Marlow, Jack Parker, Victoria Parrett, James Potts, Emma Stevenson, Mark Whittaker, Hollie Wickens, Panny Antoniou, Tina Bhartwas, Helen Clarke, Amy Dwyer, Thomas Fawns, Hannah Fuchs, Elliot Green, Aimee Hall, Molly Hartill, Tom Hunter, Tom Laing, Henry Mendoza, Owen Michael, Albie Mills, Matthew Oulton, Holly Smith, Chris Wongsosaputro, Daniel Wood

1. Introductions & Apologies

Apologies from Amber Khan, Matthew Suddart, Owen Stratford.

2. Approval of [minutes](#)

The minutes were approved with no objections or amendments.

3. Update on actions from last meeting

Will be covered in the relevant officers' updates.

4. Co-option of Podcast & Videos Editor

Louie Marlow, the current role holder, won a clear victory and will continue in the role.

Louie was asked about progress on gaining access to the YouTube account - Louie said he'd been in contact with exec members from last year without much success.

AP - Mark W will try to ask Adam or Carolina.

5. Network and Advocacy Group Officers' Updates

Panny & Hannah, International

Panny gave an update on their event at the Fabian New Year Conference, where they had some great speakers. They have a roundtable discussion coming soon with a dissident from Myanmar.

Hannah said that Hunter is contacting people from YES to speak to their members soon.

Tom Laing, Disability

He'll be having a meeting with their Vice Chair soon on what their plans will be for the year. They're interested in pitching a pamphlet on disability access in the Labour Party and Fabian Society, but that will come after they hold their launch event. They'd also like to do some work around disability and mental health.

Henry, BAME

They're beginning to get back into the swing of things, supporting the Economy and Finance Network on getting a more diverse set of writers for their pamphlet. They're interested in doing an event on Black participation in the Fabian Society and in Labour.

Holly, LGBTQIA+

It's currently LGBT History Month and they've held a few really good events for that, including one with Angela Eagle and a watch party for Pride. Their Women's Officer Carla is holding a panel event on the fertility movement and lesbians' work on access to IVF in the UK, and they've had a good meeting with Louie on a podcast episode to mark the month. Trans Day of Visibility also takes place this month, so they're looking to hold an event on being a good ally.

Matthew Oulton, Economy & Finance

Their steering committee met last night, mainly discussing the pamphlet, which is coming on well. Funding has stalled a little, they haven't heard back from many of the groups they've contacted.

They're holding a YF Academy event soon on behavioural economics.

Mark W - he knows they're trying to get funding from the LGA Labour Group too but that's stalled a bit. They've been impressed with YF's work in the past so we should keep working on it.

Chris W asked Mark W if YF funding will be dependent on the network securing their own funding too. Mark W outlined that YF has very limited finances at the moment. In the past we've covered design costs (usually £100), but no other costs such as a print run. This is similar to how the Fabian Society operates.

Molly, Communications

They're a very new team at the moment, they had their first exec meeting ten days ago, with another coming soon to finalise their plans. They hope to hold a social launch event to expand the network.

Their potential projects are around thinking sessions and roundtables, with a theme of building a narrative to 2024, hopefully collaborating with other networks.

Tom Fawns, Law

They had a great kick-off event, and are holding a joint event with Scottish YF soon.

They're making good progress on their pamphlet proposal with the Society of Labour Lawyers.

Dan, Arts & Culture

They're settling in at the moment, trying to figure out their plans for the year.

Amy, Education

They had their first exec meeting last week, sorting out their priorities for this year. They're holding an event soon with the APPG for Political Literacy with Lord McNicol, and another on LGBT+ education in the curriculum. They'd also like to work with the Disability Advocacy Group and the Devolution and Local Government Network.

Jack Parker, Networks Coordinator

There are a lot of fairly new officers, so he asks that everyone can make sure that their events go into the shared rota as soon as possible, so

Laura can help publicise them. He's noticed that some events have been added at the last minute, which also creates the risk of clashes that we try to avoid. He also asks that events are added to the website.

6. National and Regional Officers' Updates

Albie, Scotland

They have an event with the Law Network soon. They're also planning to do a blog article around the Scottish Labour leadership election, and a podcast on what the party can do before the Holyrood elections. Their March Red Aye discussion will be with Cllr Eva Murray and Kezia Dugdale on COP26. Funding for their pamphlet has been tricky, but Unison Labour Link may help.

Helen, North West

She and Tom Laing are writing to all female councillors in their region to do some work on Ask Her to Stand. They'll put together an events and themes calendar for the rest of the year soon, focusing in part in political education.

Milo, North East

Nothing much to report, looking at some plans for the local elections.

Tina, East of England

Had positive feedback on their rural policy event at Fabian New Year conference.

They met with Nicki, YF Women's Officer to discuss improving representation.

Tom Plater is working on their regions draft for the E&F pamphlet, hoping to get more members involved too.

They have a podcast episode on Labour reconnecting with diverse areas in the East.

Their AGM is coming up on Thursday 11th Feb.

Aimee, South West

They had a really successful launch event with their regional mayoral candidate, with lots of audience participation and Twitter engagement. They have another event coming soon on rebuilding the South West with the TUC,

Owen Michael, National Coordinator

Things are going well now, Aimee suggested to him the idea of creating a regional forum for sharing best practice that he'd like to look into.

7. Young members' safeguarding and data protection

The Labour Party online training for exec members to complete has been sent out, and Leon will now be working with Jack and Owen to make sure Network, Group, and National and Regional chairs and secretaries complete it within the next month and a half.

a. Network and Group access to member data

He'd like to explore the possibility of restricting access to certain personal data Nationbuilder to chairs and secretaries only. There was a discussion on this, with the concern raised by some members

that communications officers and others use Nationbuilder to send out emails to their members.

b. DBS checks for officers

Leon also raised the possibility of accessing DBS checks for all YF officers. In the discussion, some members thought we'd be entitled to free checks while others were unsure we'd fulfill the criteria.

AP - Hollie, Mark W and Leon to look at whether membership data can be restricted within Nationbuilder, and what the exact criteria are around need and eligibility for free DBS checks.

8. Decision: Whether to add a waiver to the constitutional clause that 'Members may not serve on more than 2 devolved group (Networks, Advocacy Groups and National/Regional Groups) steering committees' - Tom Laing

Mark W explained that Tom's reason for this proposal was to help fix the gender imbalance, as some women had stood down from some committees in order to serve on others. The original intention behind the clause was to prevent empire building, distribute opportunities widely and prevent members taking on more administrative burden than they can handle; but he is very open to discussing this waiver.

Albie thought it could be helpful for smaller groups such as Scotland, and asked how it would work in practice.

Vic spoke against the proposal. She argued that three or more jobs at once is too much responsibility and would lead to people stretching themselves. Members can get involved in YF without holding a title. Hollie agreed with everything Vic said, and added that she worried this would lead to a small group of women on multiple execs as a token woman without the time or space to actually do anything.

Owen said he was undecided, while worrying that the waiver could lead to factionalism coming back within YF. Vic and Hollie's points had made him more opposed to the proposal, and he didn't like the idea of making changes to the constitution away from AGM.

Jack P said that network steering meetings could be open to everyone, and execs don't need to be massive. Execs ought to be the core organisers of activity, with steering meetings available for more members to get involved. He also thought the waiver could get quite subjective, without strong criteria on who he approves and who he doesn't.

Mark W moved it to a vote, and no exec members were in favour. Mark W also said we should continue to work on diversifying our membership, including through several networks' and groups' work with YF Exec to co-opt more officers who are not cisgender men to improve gender balance.

9. Decision: Appointing additional Honorary Vice Presidents outside London

a. Suggestions received: Rachel Reeves and/or Taiwo Owatemi

Liam Byrne was happy to accept our request to become an honorary Vice President, but that leaves us with a slight gender imbalance. At the last meeting we agreed to vote on co-opting another woman, with the suggestions made of Taiwo Owatemi and Rachel Reeves. Both MPs have strong Young Fabian links. The exec voted to co-opt both, and Mark W will get in touch with them both.

10. Decision: Formation of [East Midlands YF Group](#)

Owen said he'd been contacted by a member with this proposal, and feels it makes sense to go ahead.

Mark W said the constitution states the exec will usually approve new group proposals unless there's a good reason otherwise. The exec voted and the proposal for the new group was accepted.

11. Decision: Whether to increase the limit of four 2020/21 pamphlets decided by the exec at the start of the year.

Mark W explained that the initial limit was decided due to our poor financial situation at the start of the year, but thanks to James P's work on recovering some of our funding from the Fabian Society, we may now have more room.

Cecilia said she was happy for us still to have a limit, and asked if we knew how many we'd have funding for.

James P said there were still issues with accessing the bank account, and a lot of our funding will need to go to a print run for Antics, but he thinks we do have space to increase the limit.

Mark W said 8 as a limit was his thinking.

Hollie said we should wait until we have a clearer picture of our finances before deciding to increase the limit, to avoid over-committing.

Albie noted that pamphlets take a long time to put together, and maybe we should focus on fewer with more time.

Cecilia said that she wanted to encourage new networks to use their momentum, and to perhaps do early fundraising work in the pamphlet process. She trusts networks to run themselves, and thinks if they're capable of writing a pamphlet they're capable of fundraising as they go along.

Mark W reiterated the point that enthusiasm is good, but pamphlets aren't the only way for networks to be active and put out good writing. Short pieces can also be effective. He suggested that the exec increase the limit now, and decide what the limit will be when we have a clearer picture of our finances. He added that as well as finances, YF Exec need to make sure we're able to give pamphlets all the non-financial support (e.g. advice, coordination, comms, editorial, networking etc) needed.

12. Pamphlet pitch: [A New Law/New Leadership on Law](#) (Law Network in partnership with Society for Labour Lawyers)

The rationale is to increase the focus on and criticism of the legal system in recent years, which hasn't been done recently by any YF or Fabian

publications. There will also be the benefit of building stronger relations with another socialist society by collaborating on this.

They will have matched funding, confirmed already, from the Society for Labour Lawyers and Junior Labour Lawyers.

13. Pamphlet pitch: [Reforming the Curriculum for 21st Century Britain](#) (Education Network)

They think it's an incredibly important issue that most people have experience of. They've spoken to Kate Green and Wes Streeting about the idea and they were very supportive - they could help identify funding streams and also write a foreword.

14. Pamphlet pitch: [Britain's Foreign Policy Priorities for the Future: Themes and Scenarios](#) (International Network)

They're hoping to have three chapters, keeping the topics as wide as possible.

All three pamphlets were approved by the exec.

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

Has been covered in the course of the meeting. Cecilia and Nicki are planning activities for International Women's Day, Mon 8 March.

16. Chair's Update

He's been working on co-opting the Podcast & Videos Editor, resolving the incident at the Criminal Justice AGM, and been working with Tobi on the YF Academy.

17. Vice Chair's Update

They're hoping to hold a YF Women's roundtable on 8th March to mark International Women's Day. This will be for all YF women to attend and speak about what they do in YF, their other interests, and whether they're standing for anything. It will be a good opportunity for women to network and understand who does what where.

In other news, Cecilia said she'd had a good time at a BSAYS event and had got an article published including the YF name in iGlobalNews. She held an international event with FEPS a while ago and co-chaired another with Tina on rural affairs.

18. Secretary's Update

Hollie has had some capacity issues in the past month, and asked for agenda items to be submitted sooner in advance of meetings to make it easier for everyone to read relevant documents. She also asked if Networks, Groups and National and Regional groups could provide short written reports in future that they could speak to.

19. Treasurer's Update

Friends of the Young Fabians (FOYF): The website has now been updated to reflect the simpler structure and those affected have been contacted. JP has personally signed up and would encourage others to do so if they can. The next phase is to look at promoting/relaunching FOYF

Fabians Finance & General Purposes Committee: JP attended and they agreed to give us the discrepancy in the grant he inherited, which amounts to over £1200.

Metro Mayors report is hoping to be launched in early March.

Finalising plans with the new DLG committee

JP also was quizmaster at the recent YF Quiz.

a. Bank account update

Still don't have access but has sent off the relevant forms to Lloyds again after an error on their end. Hopes to have access soon.

20. Antics Update

Fate of that is tied up with our finances, waiting to hear more.

21. [Women's Officer Update](#)

Nicki had nothing to add from the written update she'd sent in advance.

22. Other Officers' Updates

Milo - not much to report, he's started a template application for lottery funding but he can't complete it until we can give a picture of our finances. He's also collected a list of alumni and found some very promising names.

Laura - has lots going on, been focusing on IWD and Antics, and also working with Jack on getting events added to the rota sooner.

Louie - thanked the exec for co-opting him again for another year. Lots of great stuff coming up that's been mentioned in the meeting already. Has been looking at podcast analytics and has now got it on to the iTunes rankings. Would like to start looking at funding and sponsorships, and he's really interested in increasing the listenership.

Vic - She held a really good social, she was happy with the attendance and thanks James for his work as quizmaster. She'd like to do more socials, but the schedule is looking very busy at the moment. She'd like to also work with the networks and help them organise some socials.

23. Pamphlet Updates

Covered during the meeting.

24. AOB