



ENGLISH YOUNG LIBERALS

Executive Meeting – May 2024 – Reports

English Young Liberals Chair

TL;DR:

- Caitlin Richardson was co-opted as the Vice-Chair for Membership Engagement, and will be the EYL Rep to federal YL Communication and Campaigns Committee.
- Huw James resigned as EYL Events Rep and English Council Rep - huge thank you to Huw for all he's done for YL over the years.
- Campaigning in the locals happened!

Changes to the Exec

I'd like to welcome Caitlin Richardson to the team, who was co-opted as the Vice-Chair for Membership Engagement following the resignation of Rowan Fitton, who left to focus on his work as co-editor of the international liberal youth publication, Libertas. We wish Rowan all the best with his work! Caitlin will play a key role in the organisation this year, which will include supporting YL Regional Chairs with engaging their members, and being our representative to federal YL Communications and Campaigns Committee. With her communication experience from YL, she will be a fantastic asset!

A huge thank you goes to Huw James who stepped down as EYL Events Rep and English Council Rep. Huw has done so much for YL and EYL over the years, and we wish him all the best! Co-options to fill these roles will be opening shortly.

Campaigning

It was that time of year again! Up and down the country, young liberals were out campaigning - and getting elected! Each year, YL supports young candidates through its own funding programme (Young and Winning), and in partnership with ALDC through the Future Councillors scheme. These programmes give young people the support, training and funding they need in order to be elected and represent their communities.

To make sure that we can continue to support our young candidates, please do consider donating to YL! [You can donate today here.](#)

Joe Norris

Vice-Chair for Elections and Campaigns

No report received.

Rebecca Procter

Vice-Chair for Membership Engagement

I was co-opted into the role just a few weeks ago so I don't yet have too much to report, though hopefully that will change for next month's meeting! I have been given access to the EYL Twitter account, and following this weekend's meeting I will be arranging any necessary follow-up one-to-ones that might be needed for me to progress with my aims for the role. I have also joined Slack and will be representing EYL at the next meeting of the YL Comms & Campaigns Committee. Through this committee I have also been given access to Canva, which I will be using going forwards for our social media campaigns. I'd like to give a quick thank you to the EYL Exec for choosing to put their faith in me for this important role, I'm excited to get more stuck in!

In the interest of openness, as I don't have much to report, I will paste below my aims for the role upon which I was co-opted by the EYL Exec. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions regarding the below.

- Using my previous experience whilst working closely with Joe & Harvey to ensure EYL's external communication and engagement activities remain professional and in alignment with the objectives of the organisation
- Within the first month in the role, I plan to develop a strategy for membership engagement, including social media posting and regular updates for members*
- Liaising with the federal Campaigns and Communications Committee to ensure that EYL's engagement strategy is aligned with that of the federal organisation
- I will work closely with Rebecca and Joe to ensure that going into the General Election we are sending campaigners to the right place at the right times, using regular updates to keep members informed of what's happening in their area
- Support Will in the promotion and development of membership training at Summer Conference

* Due to some personal circumstances I have started work on this but haven't been able to complete it yet. I am aiming to do so within the next 2 weeks.

Caitlin Richardson

Policy and Regional Engagement Officer

No report received.

James Bliss

Events Committee Representative

Position vacant.

Devon and Cornwall YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Todd Olive

East Midlands YL Regional Chair

Local Election Standouts

We won a second seat in Glebe ward, Lincoln bringing our total to 5 and leading the opposition

In Hinkley we gained a seat in Burbage in a by election, a great result in our parliamentary seat

Our second best PCC result was in Northamptonshire, winning 25% of the vote

Campaigning

My main focus until the GE will be in Hinckley and Bosworth. There is campaigning every weekend and I intend on organising an action day every month with the local party

Other Plans

I am currently not being invited to Regional Exec meeting. I have contact them to fix this

Josh Nightingale

East of England YL Regional Chair

Main Party Regional Exec

Nothing to Report

YL Regional Exec

I will be chairing an Exec meeting this Sunday at noon, I will update the report with the minutes when finished.

Regional Conferences

Nothing to Report

Action Days

We have a Federal Action Day planned in Harpenden on the 7th of July. I am finalising dates for other Action Days across the Region this summer, and I am hoping to reach all target seats at least twice before the Election is called.

Membership Engagement

Our Whatsapp Group has expanded significantly, thanks to word of mouth and the phone-banking activities I engaged in prior to our last Action Day in Chelmsford. Alongside my new Mem-Eng office, I plan on undertaking a phone-bankathon several times next month to fill in our regional engagement gaps.

Socials

Nothing to Report

Tom Jordan

London YL Regional Chair

I have begun a new job with the party in one of our promising seats outside of London, so my physical presence will be smaller from June until the election, though my YL regional committee has been very supportive and I am sure they will be able to help with the campaign days. The London regional exec meetings are hybrid and I will continue to attend online.

Socials

The visit to parliament was a success and attracted many new faces. Parliament has a unique selling point but I hope to run a couple socials over the summer to get more YLers acquainted with other YLers from across London. I very much welcome that the next YL conference will be in our region, London in the summer is great, even more so when Taylor Swift is around (this is your warning to get your train tickets early).

London Regional Elections

Campaigns

We held three action days in the build up to the elections

1. In St Helier West, where we went from third to only 6 votes from winning
2. In Hackney, supporting Rebecca Jones
3. In Blackheath, supporting 3 YL PPCs and 2 YL London Assembly candidates

Additionally, I did a 'mini tour' supporting local parties who had by-elections in addition to the London elections, all of whom were very appreciative. These local parties also became more actively aware of Regional YL Chair and put a face to the name, their thanks extended to YL.

I met with *Partnership for Young London* and attempted to put them in touch with Rob Blackie, emphasising the need to connect with new youth networks as the BYC closes down. Not sure if they ended up meeting, Rob had a busy schedule, though I cc'ed in Hina Bokhari and Rebecca Jones in hope we can work together in the future. The organisation also focuses on care-experienced children and leavers, so I highlighted Ed Davey's work, how YL contributed to it, and suggested I will be happy to help them get in touch with him post-locals.

Result

I put out a call for counting agents in the London YL group chat, as the London elections had an abundance of positions (48 for just my constituency of 2 boroughs) it was a good training opportunity, and generally a nice experience.

We had a good result, saving our deposit and becoming thirds in the mayoral, as well as winning the South West constituency (SW) in the London Assembly. Personally, I had a load of great feedback on Rob's housing position from younger folk. A lot of diversity outreach was also done in Hounslow (SW) which I am sure was crucial in gaining votes from not just the Conservatives but Labour too, with the region hoping to build on that success in the long term - worth noting one of YL's PPC is in Hounslow. Disappointingly, we didn't get a third Assembly Member, and I expressed my opinions as to what we could have done better in the feedback form Rob Blackie shared. Feel free to add your own thoughts about the campaign here: <https://forms.gle/bnuoEoT6CZBphig69>

Josh Lucas Mitte

North East YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Thom Campion

North West YL Regional Chair

The main thing I have been working on has been an Action Day in Hazel Grove which has been pencilled in for the 27th July.

I have also attended NW exec where I provided updates about branch development. I am about to work with members of the exec regarding recruitment of younger members.

Tom Sutton

South Central YL Regional Chair

It was good to see so many Young Liberals get involved both nationally and within the region for the locals this year, as well as seeing several Young Liberals elected: we give our congratulations to all those Young Liberals who have campaigned hard and got elected, as well as those who did not win this time but put a fantastic effort in, including Cllrs Thomas Finn (Gosport), Thomas Gravatt (Southampton), Theo Jupp (Oxford), and others joining an existing YL cohort of regional YL councillors. Prad Bains also had a fantastic campaign to be Hants & IOW PCC, and Prad (Hamble Valley), Theo Jupp (Oxford East), Henry Wright (Reading Central), Joshua Reynolds (Maidenhead) and Charlie Murphy (Portsmouth South) are all running fantastic parliamentary campaigns. Many of these local campaigners joined us in Winchester on the day after the count for Ed Davey's visit, stunt and celebration.

Over the last few months leading into the locals we've held a number of SCYL action days which have been well attended, including Winchester, Swaythling, Oxford and Eastleigh, with Lib Dem candidates elected in all of these areas. As we look towards the summer leading to the General Election, I am now beginning to make plans for a number of regional action days. The plan for these is to similarly be on a monthly basis, with current areas planned being Winchester, OxWab and Wokingham. The strategy for this is holding these in target seats which have a number of Young Liberals locally and which are easily accessible ie by public transport. Further to these I'm hoping to help out on an individual basis in constituencies.

Nathan Eve

South East YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Tom Nevill

West Midlands YL Regional Chair

No report received.

Tim Macy

Western Counties YL Regional Chair

Nothing to report.

Zeb Mackintosh

Yorkshire and the Humber YL Regional Chair

- Have got regional connect and lighthouse access
- Y&H is in desperate need of candidates the following seats are unfilled
 - Bradford South; Bradford West; Brigg and Immingham; Ilkley and Keighley; Hull North and Cottingham; Rawmarsh and Conisbrough; Scunthorpe.
 - Regional Candidates Chair has emailed all approved candidates twice and phoned all previous candidates
 - Contacted 12 YL members of whom 7 have agreed to go for approval, waiting list is long though so I've stressed they may not be able to stand until after the next election
- Federal YL (thanks Janey) have arranged a Harrogate action day on the 25th August

George Sykes