

Since Winter Conference in Sheffield, so much has happened! Supporting the EYL Exec and in particular the Regional Chairs during the General Election has been my primary activity, while continuing to represent EYL on the Federal YL Exec and on English Party meetings.

As always, you can find a full rundown of the activities of EYL by viewing the reports and minutes of Executive meetings on our website, [here](#).

EYL AGM

I am looking forward to hosting the EYL AGM on the Friday of Summer Conference, which shall have taken place by the time I present this report at Executive Scrutiny. In the AGM, we have a few housekeeping CAs, and the re-appointment of Honorary Officers. I am pleased to report that we are inviting the return of Louise Harris as our Honorary President, and both Prue Bray and Kian Hearnshaw as our Honorary Vice-Presidents - but I am thrilled to announce that YL's MP, Joshua Reynolds, is being appointed as the third and final Honorary Vice-President of EYL.

Open Co-Options

At the time of writing, co-options are currently being voted upon by the EYL Executive to fill the vacancy of Events Committee Representative, and two vacancies for English Council Representative. These shall be announced prior to the opening of conference.

English Party

In terms of English Party activities, I have continued to attend meetings of the English Council, English Council Executive, and English Finance and Administration Committee. Here, I have supported the team in England and advocated in the interest of our organisation and members. I'd like to once again congratulate YL's own Lucas North for their election to Chair of the Party in England for the remainder of the term, following the sad resignation of Alison Rouse. Alison has been a brilliant ally of YL and personal friend, and has done amazing work during her time as Chair. She'll be sorely missed!

I'd like to note that the EYL Executive has applied for funding for a project from the Party in England, focusing on social media advertising in order to drive membership recruitment. I look forward to delivering more updates on this as this develops.

YL

In terms of YL, I have continued to attend meetings of the Federal Executive, giving a couple of apologies where I haven't been able to attend. Most recently, I have been involved in discussions around the re-hiring of the YL Staff Member, both on the Exec and in my capacity on FRC. It is with regret that the position has been readvertised with no changes to the job description nor the line management. It is my strong belief that fundamental changes to the administration of the Staff Member are needed in order to maximise the value-for-money and benefits - in the interest of EYL, the membership of YL, and the resources of the wider Party. Despite over a year of myself and other Executive Members airing concerns, I am incredibly disappointed to see the Federal Chair act unilaterally and - in my personal view - with complete disregard for the interests of the membership. For a long time, I aired my concerns while supporting the Federal Chair to take the steps they wished to take in regards to the future administration of the Staff Member, in their own time and on their terms. I now realise that this support was misplaced, as they have failed to act on a single concern raised by the Federal Executive, despite operating upon a pretence of being open and facilitating discussion. As Chair of the English Young Liberals, I am responsible for negotiating and ensuring the maintenance of the grant awarded by the Party in England. In 2024, this totals £22k, with £12k reserved for the costs of the YL staff member - more than 50% of the cost to YL. Hence, the expenditure related to and the administration of the staff member is a key concern to myself. With large budgetary challenges, and massive shortfalls threatening the economic viability of the organisation, we need to be more frugal than ever, in order to continue to support our activities at present, and to deliver more for our members in future. With the decisions made about the rehiring of the staff member, I have grave concerns about the financial impact this has on future YL Executives, and would like to apologise to the membership for failing to hold the Federal Chair to account effectively.