

## **YF Exec Meeting**

**Wednesday 14 December, 7:30pm**

**Fabian Society HQ, 61 Petty France, London SW1H 9EU** (Zoom Meeting ID: 814 2376 1173, Passcode 594034;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81423761173?pwd=a1lKdmVpNUY4dm9SQzd1QktYZFNPUT09>)

### **1. Introductions & Apologies**

Round of introductions, with Owen and Clark welcomed to the Exec.

Present: James Potts, Jimmy Sergi, Leon Alleyne-McLaughlin, Cathleen Clarke, Ellie Anderson, Clark Beken, Panny Antoniou, George Fairhurst, Amy Dwyer, Owen Bell.

Apologies: Hollie Wickens, Lauren Davison, Tina Bhartwas, Emma Becirovic

### **2. Network and Advocacy Group Officers' Updates**

Cathleen: Working on AGM season in January, will coordinate with George.

EA asked about whether AGMs are online, hybrid or in-person, and if we would help fund members to get to anything in-person. JP and CC agreed that AGMs will be online.

#### **U19s Advocacy Group**

Ralph Ali: Chair Ralph Ali elected Under 18s Rep of Young Labour. Not much to report before AGM in January.

#### **Communications Network**

Owen Bell: Event being planned on young people in local government.

#### **Environment Network**

Clark Beken: Winding down as AGM comes closer, but pamphlet is being worked on in background, looking at April/May release.

#### **Housing and Infrastructure**

Panny Antoniou: Levelling Up pamphlet, submissions have been open for 3 weeks and 20 have been received.

#### **LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Group**

Owen Michael: Blog posts and Poland event on hold for next steering committee after AGM.

### 3. National and Regional Officers' Updates

George: Has spoken to individual regional groups, so knows where they all are up to. 4 AGMs a week, during weekdays, for the first few weeks of the year. Groups will have 2 weeks to confirm that they are happy with AGM dates which have been drafted. East of England has expressed interest in merging with another group, which will be explored. Scottish YFs have been especially active.

#### South East

Ralph Ali: Not currently a group but lots of interest. Happy to help set one up. GF will follow up, and will also look at previously proposed idea of university groups, especially Oxford which has lots of active members.

#### Scotland

Al: Blog posts upcoming but no female writers yet and only one active female member in group. Guest contributors reached out to, including Scottish Labour's Shadow Education spokesperson.

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

Fabian New Year Conference on 21st January. PA suggested a YES slot alongside a YF slot at this. Other key dates coming up in calendar, so would be good to have blog call-outs as things arise.

### 5. Decision: Readoption of policies

JP encouraged all Exec members to read and ensure understanding of policies, to ensure that any disagreements are handled respectfully.

LA will have a walkthrough of safeguarding policies and actions that need to be taken in January. Encouraged Exec to readopt policies.

- a. [Safeguarding](#)
- b. [Code of Conduct](#)
- c. [Safe Space](#)
- d. Fabian policies

Policies all unanimously readopted.

### 6. Data Protection - JP

Important for networks to be reminded of obligations on data protection, which GF and CC will do after AGMs.

### 7. Discussion: Members' Survey - JP

Has not been done for a while, although Fabian Society do use membership surveys. Important to understand what members are looking for. JP has drafted a survey based on what was discussed at Strategy Meeting. Will circulate via

email for Exec members to be able to offer feedback. Target to send in early January. Survey to run for 3 or 4 weeks.

PA raised issue of survey being infiltrated by non-members if promoted on social media. May be better to promote by email so we can maintain anonymity while ensuring that respondents are members.

OB asked how data can be analysed. JP suggested SurveyMonkey as best platform to use for this.

#### 8. Discussion: 2022/23 priorities

AD is starting a mentoring scheme. Also wants to promote more social events to engage membership.

PA submitting motions at next YES Bureau, including to integrate the new Labour Students as YES members. Also working on Outreach, including with Compass, sister parties, Hansard Society and more.

GF looking at local election strategy, with no elections in London meaning lots of members can help in other regions. Also looking to make sure socials are inclusive to Under 18 members, starting with a trip to an ice hockey match in January.

EA suggested bilingual material when Welsh YF is up and running.

JS wants to publish Antics regularly, ensure that YF is not too London-centric, and continue to improve provisions for Under 18 members.

EA wants to engage more with members, and fundraise. Sponsors for boat parties being considered, which should mean we have a successful boat party. In private sector, so clearance may need to be sought next month as an Exec, which JP will follow up before next month. Could need to raise membership fees, but JP said that Fabian Society decide this. New Under-25 concessionaire membership rate should bring in more members. Slight decrease in FOYF membership in recent months. Difficult to see how FOYF can appeal to people who age out in its current form, so a rebrand may be something to consider.

CB running Meet the Exec series soon and wants steering committees of networks and groups to write about their priorities for the year. Need to increase the number of women on the blog, up from 25 out of around 150 this year. Emma suggested a target of at least one woman writing for the blog per week. Events about political writing could also encourage less experienced writers to get involved on the blog. JP also raised importance on reacting to current events on the blog.

LA wants to expand definitions of different forms of discrimination, such as transphobia, which is being worked on alongside LGBTQIA+ members.

Antisemitism and Islamophobia definitions already adopted. Safeguarding training to follow in January.

Andy Harrop - General Secretary of the Fabian Society

Priorities include making Antics more regular again, so all young members receive it every quarter. Second priority is membership, which has been aided by increasing the age of the concessionaire membership rate to 25. YF membership has dipped over the last three years, at a faster rate than older age groups. Lots of activity so offer is not a problem, but reaching more people to communicate this is important. New Year Conference in January has lots of Shadow Cabinet members including Rachel Reeves and Ed Miliband. 2022 Conference saw less room space for YF due to commercial partners, so 2023 Conference can be planned earlier to improve YF offering. Possibility of small-scale sponsored events, to take advantage of increased fundraising possibilities surrounding the Labour Party due to changes in national politics. Fabian Exec laid out one aim of winning next election, which we can help most through policy development. Also political development as a priority, including supporting Fabians who have been selected as Labour parliamentary candidates. Important to ensure conduct remains acceptable. Two main problems have been relationships between officers breaking down, and inappropriate conduct involving members. Collective responsibility to ensure safeguarding, particularly with under 18s and vulnerable adults, alongside preventing discriminatory/bullying behaviour.

#### 9. Discussion: Fundraising Officer - PA

PA has proposed after discussing with AD and EA. Links in with lots of roles. Money that can be accessed including private companies, trade unions, other socialist societies.

EA is onboard with this role, which she would be able to input into in terms of priorities.

JP raised Fundraising Officer has existed in the past, but fundraising is also part of the job of Treasurer and other officers, so may not make sense to separate into its own role.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

#### 10. Chair's Update

Some of the below officer updates skipped as had already been covered earlier in agenda and meeting was running over.

- 11. Vice Chair's Update
- 12. Secretary's Update
- 13. Treasurer's Update
- 14. Antics Update

Handover with Amber next week. Aiming for March for first Antics issue. JP has sent 18/19 editions which we will look to for inspiration. Theme for next edition to be decided soon, idea of 'Broken Britain' and impact of austerity suggested by Hollie.

The logo for Young Fabians, featuring the words "YOUNG" and "FABIANS" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters stacked vertically on a dark red rectangular background.

**YOUNG  
FABIANS**

15. Women's Officer's Update

16. Other Officers' Updates

17. AOB

Leon suggested also co-opting Owen Michael, who was left off ballot initially when sent to members. Could be in a role to support George as Deputy National Coordinator. Carried unanimously.