

Spring Conference 2025

Eden Court

4th & 5th of April



Scottish Liberal Democrats

**Conference
Agenda**



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Conference Agenda - Spring 2025 2

**Welcome to this year's
Spring Conference in
Inverness!**

Venue

**Eden Court , Inverness,
IV3 5SA**

**Conference Dinner
Hotel**

**Royal Highland Hotel,
Inverness.**

**Need to get in touch
with the team at
conference?**

**Look for a red lanyard
for conference
committee or staff**

Or Email

**hq@scotlibdems.org.uk
or direct**

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Hamilton MSP and Paul
McGarry 4**

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Welcome Message

**Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Leader of
the Scottish Liberal Democrats**



Welcome to Inverness! It is great to be in the Highlands for conference for the first time since 2018. A lot has changed since then, a Scottish Parliament election and two General Elections, not least the best result for Liberals in Britain in the last 100 years –returning Charles Kennedy’s old seat back to the Liberal Democrats with local champion, Angus MacDonald MP, at the heart of it.

We come together at the pivotal moment for our party, the 2026 Scottish Parliament elections are looming and selections across the country have already started. It brings me such excitement that we have such a depth of talent and more members than usual wanting to stand as candidates and represent their local area. We are showing that the Liberal Democrats are ready to take the next election by storm.

We have a lot of interesting features over the next two days. Debates over Children’s Social Care, our links with Europe, and world-class drugs services, to name a few. We are also hearing from some of our esteemed parliamentarians including Sir Ed Davey MP and Wendy Chamberlain MP, but also our rising star from the Highlands, David Green, who is going to make a great MSP for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross when he is elected in May 2026.

I love occasions like these, where we can bring together members from across the country, celebrate our most recent successes, and plan for the future in the hope that there will be a lot more Liberal Democrats representing their local areas the next time we meet in Inverness.

Enjoy Conference!

Paul McGarry

Conference Convenor



Welcome to our 2025 Conference in Inverness!

I am so delighted to be back in Inverness, this was the venue for the first conference I came to as part of the committee, I am delighted that we are back and once again in a held Lib Dem constituency.

I'm excited to say we have an incredible line-up of speakers and motions this year. I'm delighted that Christine Jardine, our Scotland and Women and Equalities spokesperson, will be one of our key speakers, we will also hear from our Chief Whip, Wendy Chamberlain, so let's remember to be on our best behaviour!

Additionally, I'm thrilled that David Green, one of our future MSPs will be speaking to us. David was part of that first conference committee and I am so pleased to have him address us.

Last year in Hamilton, we saw just how impactful our gatherings can be, supporting the local community and energising our members. Now in Inverness, the sense of optimism is stronger than ever ahead of next years Scottish elections.

As your Conference Convener, I look forward to the lively debates, conversations around the venue and what I am certain will be an excellent conference for us.

Enjoy the conference, and thank you for being here. Let's make Inverness 2025 an event to remember!

Paul

Conference Convener



Agenda Information

- A welcome to conference session will be held in the La-Scala Cinema for those members who are new or need a refresh on how conference works and, most importantly, how to speak and vote on motions.

- Session: Welcome to Conference
Time: 0930
Location: La Scala Cinema
- For all members

Structure of Debate for Motions and Business Motions

Proposer of the motion speaks

▼

Proposers of any amendments speak in turn

▼

Speakers called on all sides of the debate with the chair seeking to ensure balance

▼

Summators of amendments speak in turn

▼

The summator of the motion speaks

▼

The chair takes votes for and against the amendments and separate votes (if any) in turn

▼

A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole

Agenda Information cont.

Key Terms:

- **Interventions:** concise (one minute) speeches made from the roaming microphone(s) on the floor of the auditorium.
- **Amendments:** all motions except emergency motions are open to amendment; amendments accepted will be published in Conference Daily.
- **Reference Back:** a proposal to refer a motion or amendment to a named body of the Party for further consideration.
- **Voting:** decisions on most motions and all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting (2/3 majority for constitutional amendments). To vote, voting members must show their voting badge whilst seated on the ground floor of the auditorium.
- **Separate votes:** a vote to delete or retain the specified words or section of a motion or amendment.
- **Counted vote:** the chair of the session may decide that a vote needs to be counted.

Communications with the chair and aide: the chair and aide team can be contacted at conference – solely for formal communication on procedural motions and points of order, via the Speakers Desk.



Agenda Itinerary and Index

Thursday 3rd

Emergency submission deadline 3rd of April at 5pm.

Any motions received after this time will not be considered.

Friday 4th

AGENDA
INFORMATION

0930 - 1000		First time @ Conference Session
		Morning Session 1000 - 1215
1000 - 1010		Welcome to Conference
	SC1	Restoration of the Bus Partnership Fund
	EM	Emergency Motions Session 1
	SC2	Protecting Access to Banking Services
1115		Speech - Wendy Chamberlain MP [Policy Committee] Creating world-class drug services for Scotland by 2030
	SC3	
1205 - 1215		Health and Social Care Launch
1215 - 1330		Lunch and Fringe Events
		Afternoon Session 1330 - 1710
	SC4	Transformation of Children's Social Care
1415		Speech - David Green
	MM	Mini Motion Session
		Speech - Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats
1520		
	EM	Emergency Motion Session 2
		Closed Session - Members Only.
1610		Budget Discussion

All conference sessions, except fringe meetings, will take place in the One Touch Theatre on the ground floor, past the cinemas.

Saturday 5th

Morning Session 0925 - 1205

- 0925 AGM
- BM1 Standing Orders
- 1025 Spokesperson Report
- SC5 Improving Scotland's Link with Europe
- 1120 Speech - Christine Jardine MP
- SC6 Providing support to young carer's through a young carer's lead
- 1205 - 1410 Lunch and Fringe Events

Afternoon Session 1410 - 1700

- SC7 Protecting Young People from the Harms of Vaping
- 1445 Fundraiser
- 1455 Speech - Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats
- MM Mini Motion Session
- SC8 Trump & the UK's Place in the World
- 1700 Conference Close



Friday 4th

1000 - 1010 **Welcome to Conference**

SC1 - Restoration of the Bus Partnership Fund

Submitted by the Association of Scottish Liberal Democrat Councillors

Summator: Peter Barret

Mover: Sally Pattle

FRIDAY

1. Conference notes that the Bus Partnership Fund was:
 2. 1. Initially confirmed to be worth £400 million in grants to local authorities and bus operators when introduced in 2022.
 3. 2. To enable the development of local bus investment partnerships that would deliver sustainable public transport alternatives to private car use across Scotland.
 4. 3. Trumpeted by the Scottish Government as part of a raft of measures to help the country achieve net zero by 2045, with specific reference to the Scottish Government's commitment to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in car usage by 2030.
 5. 4. Intended as an effective measure for reducing congestion in urban areas, particularly during peak commute hours.
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 - 12.
13. Conference further notes that:
 14. 1. In 2023, barely a year after coming into operation, the Bus Partnership Fund was 'suspended' having only distributed £21 million worth of grant funding.
 15. 2. Since 2022, Scotland has seen a dramatic drop in both operational bus routes and timetables, particularly during evenings and weekends.
 16. 3. Local authority funding has been continually reduced and ring-fenced in recent years, forcing the removal of route subsidies. This has led to the private bus companies that were deregulated by the SNP Scottish Government cutting non-profitable services.
 17. 4. The SNP Scottish Government is scrapping the Bus Partnership Fund to replace it with a 'Bus Infrastructure Fund', worth only tiny fraction of the original scheme. It is now worth only £10 million, as part of a merged 'Support for Active and Sustainable Travel' funding stream.
 18. 5. In December 2024, Transport Scotland revealed that a 'Travel Demand Management Options Study' had been commissioned in which several models of road user charging were explored.
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SC1 - Restoration of the Bus Partnership Fund Cont.

33. 6. A recent Audit Scotland report on the car use reduction
34. strategy said, “A lack of leadership has resulted in
35. minimal progress against the demanding policy
36. intention. It is not clear if the Scottish Government
37. remains committed to the target as key documents
38. remain in draft form, there is no costed delivery plan or
39. measurable milestones, and arrangements for
40. monitoring and scrutinising progress are insufficient.”

41. Conference believes that:

42. 1. If the car usage reduction target is to be met, bus routes and
43. timetables must not only be protected from cuts, but cuts but
44. expanded.
45. 2. Sustainable public transport is an equal partner to, but
46. distinct from, infrastructure for walking, wheeling and
47. cycling. The two policy areas should not be grouped under a
48. single funding stream.
49. 3. Road user charging, in which drivers pay per mile driven,
50. unfairly penalises drivers as many do not have any
51. alternative but to use their cars to commute to school or
work.

52. Conference therefore calls for the Scottish Government to:

53. 1. Immediately restore the Bus Partnership Fund with the initial
54. funding commitment so that local authorities and bus
55. operators can start the vital work needed to develop long-
56. term, sustainable bus networks.
57. 2. Restore the distinct funding streams for sustainable
58. transport and active travel infrastructure.
59. 3. Instruct Transport Scotland that road user charging must not
60. be used to meet National Transport Strategy goals and that
61. no further consideration should be given to any such policy.
62. 4. Provide additional funding to local authorities for the
63. establishment of community bus services.
64.





Friday 4th

SC2 - Protecting Access to Banking Services

Submitted by Member Signatories

Summator: Jamie Stone Mover: David Green

FRIDAY

1. Conference notes that:

2. 1. Lloyds, Halifax, and Bank of Scotland will close 61, 61 and 14 sites respectively between May this year and March 2026. The UK-wide closures will bring the Lloyds brand down to 386 branches, Halifax down to 281 and Bank of Scotland to 90.
- 3.
- 4.
5. 2. According to the consumer group Which?, more than 6,000 sites across the UK have closed since 2015. That equates to more than 60% of the UK's banking network, at a rate of around 53 closures every month.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
9. 3. In the Highlands, closures in Wick and Kyle in 2025 will see the loss of the last bank in town. The recent closure in Golspie means the county of Sutherland is without a bank, a trend seen across the country.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

13. Conference believes that:

14. 1. Financial services support can be a lifeline for those who need it most, particularly during an ongoing cost of living crisis, and every citizen has a right to access safe and secure banking services.
- 15.
- 16.
17. 2. While the country increasingly moves towards the digital age, the impact of bank closures increase the threat of isolation amongst older generations, people with disabilities and those without internet access.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
21. 3. Reducing bank branches has a disproportionate impact on rural communities where public transport is increasingly limited and town centres are struggling with declining retail and limited private sector investment.
- 22.
- 23.
24. 4. The Federation of Small Businesses is right to warn of the impact of bank closures on small businesses, not least the loss of face-to-face interaction and a reduced ability to manage cash flow.
- 25.
- 26.
27. 5. The establishment of Banking Hubs - owned by the not-for-profit company Cash Access UK and funded by nine high street banks to provide easy access to face-to-face cash and banking - are welcome innovations, but agrees with Age UK that it is unacceptable for there to be long delays between the last bank branch closing and a banking hub opening
- 28.
- 29.
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- 31.
- 32.
- 33.

SC2 - Protecting Access to Banking Services Cont.

34. 6. Conference calls on the Scottish Government to help
35. protect communities from bank closures by exempting t t
36. the “last bank in town” from business rates.
37.
38. Conference further calls on the UK Government to:
39. 1. Accelerate the establishment of Banking Hubs to ensure the
40. banking services they provide are accessible before any
41. community suffers a bank closure.
42. 2. Instruct the high street banks that if they do not adequately
43. fund the Banking Hub network, then it will be paid for by a levy
44. on bank profits.
45. 3. Commission an independent review on the effectiveness of the
46. regulatory functions of the Financial Conduct Authority with
47. regards to protections of cash deposit and withdrawal services.

**11:15 : Speaker - Wendy
Chamberlain MP for
North East Fife & Chief
Whip**





Friday 4th

SC3 - Creating world-class drug services for Scotland by 2030

Submitted by: Policy Committee

Summator: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Mover: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

FRIDAY

1. Conference notes that:
 2. 1. Scotland has by far the highest drug-related death rate in Europe, with 1,172 people dying in 2023 alone.
 3. 2. The 2024 Liberal Democrat manifesto’s commitment to treat Scotland’s drug deaths crisis as a public health emergency, and devolve powers for tailored solutions where necessary.
 4. 3. The party’s continued commitment to measures that will improve public safety, including the rollout of naloxone, drug checking facilities, heroin assisted treatment, and diverting people caught in possession of drugs for personal use away from prison.
 5. 4. The first safer drugs consumption facility opened in Glasgow in January 2025, allowing people to take substances under the supervision of clinicians in a safe and clean space.
 6. 5. Research by the Scottish Liberal Democrats showed at least 1,500 babies have been born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome since 2017 – showing signs of drug addiction because of their mothers taking legal or illegal drugs during pregnancy.
 7. 6. Scottish Liberal Democrat MSPs successfully secured further investment in drug and neonatal services totalling £2.6m, with a special focus on creating new services to help babies who are born addicted to drugs.
 8. 7. The People’s Panel on Reducing Drug Harm and Deaths in Scotland, commissioned by three Scottish Parliament committees, reported on 21 January 2025 that it was “shocked to learn about the lack of urgency and implementation, given the scale of the crisis, and asks the Scottish Government to provide longer term funding.”
28. Conference believes that:
 29. 1. Everything possible must be done to stop people dying.
 30. 2. There is now broader political support for some of the measures which the Scottish Liberal Democrats have long campaigned for, but that action continues to be too slow.
 31. 3. Safer drugs consumption facilities are proven to prevent fatal overdoses and present new pathways for treatment and recovery, and that these life-saving services must not be limited to one part of Scotland.
 - 32.
 - 33.
 - 34.
 - 35.
 - 36.
 - 37.

SC3 - Creating world-class drug services for Scotland by 2030 cont.

38. 4. Every child deserves a good start in life, and few have
39. it harder than babies born addicted to drugs.
40. 5. Families need to be kept together during treatment and
41. recovery through accessible women-specific services,
42. both in the community and residential.
43. 6. Drug laws need to back up the provision of safe and
44. evidence-based harm reduction services, while
45. robustly tackling organised crime which profits from the
46. misery of communities.
47. 7. Life-saving services shouldn't constantly have to worry
48. about their funding because this lack of stability has an
49. impact on staff and service users.
50. 8. After lagging behind other countries for years, all parts
51. of Scotland should have fast access to world-class
52. drug services by 2030.

53. Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

54. 1. Begin the roll out of a Scotland-wide network of safer drugs
55. consumption facilities, continually learning from Glasgow's
56. experience while recognising that there is an inherent risk to
57. life created by waiting three years for the full conclusions of
58. that pilot before progressing with other facilities.
59. 2. Rapidly deliver new Mother and Child Recovery Houses -
60. residential rehabilitation beds for mothers and babies
61. affected by substance abuse - and new intensive
62. community-based perinatal services, using the funding
63. secured by Scottish Liberal Democrats.
64. 3. Introduce a long-term multi-year funding model for all drugs
65. services, to give them the certainty they need to be able to
66. invest in facilities, recruit staff, build up relationships with
67. service users, boost access to care and open up new
68. pathways to education and employment for people in
69. recovery.
70. 4. Take forward the recommendation of the People's Panel on
71. reducing drug harm and deaths in Scotland for "a well-
72. publicised single point of access for specialised advice and
73. support relating to alcohol and drug problems (like NHS 111,
74. Childline or Samaritans)", providing support and advice to
75. people who use drugs and their loved ones, reducing the
76. fear of criminalisation or stigma, and providing the option for
77. NHS 111 and 999 services to redirect people where
78. appropriate



Friday 4th

1215 - 1330 Lunch and Fringe Events

Explore our fringe events in the fringe event directory.

SC4 - Transformation of Children's Social Care

Submitted by: Membership Signatories

Summator: Duncan Dunlop

Mover: Hayley Bennie

FRIDAY

1. Conference notes that:
 2. 1. Care experienced people have the worst outcomes from any section of Scottish society across all social wellbeing indicators, for instance:
 3. 2. They are six times more likely to be excluded from school than their non-care experienced peers, and are twice as likely to have no educational qualifications.
 4. 3. At least 25% of prisoners are care experienced, a more than ten-fold over-representation relative to the general population.
 5. 4. Children living in the 10% most deprived areas are 20 times more likely to become care experienced than those in the 10% least deprived areas.
 6. 5. Over a third of children in care have a significant mental health issue, and they are twice as likely to have poor general health.
 7. 6. They are twice as likely to have experienced adult homelessness and three times as likely not to have a full-time job at 26.
 8. 7. Recent University of Glasgow research has highlighted that care experienced people have a 5.5 times higher rate of premature death, despite the fact that they are not born physiologically different from the rest of the population.
 9. 8. The care system costs £1 billion per annum to deliver, while the consequences of the poorer life outcomes for care experienced people have a combined further public cost of at least £1.2 billion per annum.
 10. 9. The Promise Scotland was established in 2021 to facilitate change within the care system. However, its policy remit has not provided the detailed implementation roadmap necessary for achieving transformative change on the ground.
11. 29. Conference believes that:
 12. 1. The Scottish Government's approach to care reform has lacked urgency and cohesion, resulting in a failure to achieve meaningful transformation and protect the rights of care experienced people.
 13. 2. The Scottish Government must prioritise the development of a comprehensive roadmap with clear actions and timescales if the transformation of care is to be fully realised.
14. 30.
15. 31.
16. 32.
17. 33.
18. 34.
19. 35.
20. 36.
21. 37.

SC4 - Transformation of Children's Social Care cont.

38. 3. Every child deserves to feel loved and to belong, and
 39. the best environment for establishing and sustaining
 40. lifelong loving relationships is within supportive families
 41. in their community.
42. 4. Actively engaged and supportive communities are
 43. essential for helping vulnerable families and children
 44. thrive, requiring public education to promote
 45. understanding and responsive local solutions.
46. 5. Accessible community spaces offering skilled, non-
 47. judgemental support and resources are essential for
 48. helping children thrive.
49. 6. Institutional care has poor outcomes and is expensive,
 50. so should only be used for short term therapeutic
 51. support to enable children to form and maintain loving
 52. relationships.
53. 7. Transparent and comprehensive data on the life
 54. chances of care experienced children is crucial to hold
 55. the state accountable in its role as their corporate
 56. parent.
57. 8. Society has a moral duty to recognise the enduring
 58. impact of a care experience and to ensure access to
 59. lifelong additional support for care experienced people.
60. 9. Current UK equalities legislation fails to protect care
 61. experienced people, who experience significant stigma
 62. and discrimination as a result.

63. Conference calls on the Scottish Government and the Education,
 64. Children and Young People Committee to expedite and
 65. strengthen the Promise Bill by:

66. 1. Producing a comprehensive Promise Roadmap outlining a
 67. time-bound action plan for realising each aspiration of The
 68. Promise, clearly identifying the responsible agencies and
 69. detailing the specific actions they must undertake.
70. 2. Amending existing legislation and guidance to reflect the
 71. principle that children should only be placed in institutional
 72. care for rehabilitative therapy that enables them to form and
 73. maintain lifelong relationships outwith that setting.

74. Conference further calls on the Scottish Government to:

75. 1. Launch a public awareness campaign to educate
 76. communities about the challenges faced by families in need
 77. and inspire local support for these families as vital sources
 78. of love and stability for their children.
79. 2. Immediately instruct Education Scotland to begin reporting
 80. the number of care experienced children who are excluded
 81. or placed on part-time timetables in their inspections.
82. 3. Annually publish the age-related mortality rate of care
 83. experienced people at a local authority level.



Friday 4th

SC4 - Transformation of Children's Social Care Cont.

84. Conference additionally calls on:
85. COSLA to develop a best practice framework for the delivery of non-
86. stigmatising, universally accessible early help services in every
87. community.
88. the UK Government to bring forward amendments to equalities
89. legislation such that care experience is recognised as a protected
90. characteristic.

1415: Speech - David Green, Candidate for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross



Mini Motion Session 1

You can find selected mini motions in the daily bulletin at the front desk.

FRIDAY

**WINNING
HERE**





Friday 4th

**1520: Speech - Sir Ed Davey,
Leader of the Liberal Democrats**



FRIDAY

Emergency Motion Session 2

**Emergency motions can be found in your daily
bulletin**

1610 - Closed Policy Discussion

This session is for members only

Saturday 5th

0925 - 1025 **AGM - Standing Orders**

This document can be found as a separate print out at the welcome desk.

BM1 - Standing Orders

Submitted by: Conference Committee

Summator: Paul McGarry

Mover: Ross Stalker

Spokesperson's Report

Reports can be found printed at the front desk

SATURDAY





Saturday 5th

SC5 - Improving Scotland's Link with Europe

Submitted by: Member Signatories

Mover: Ray Georgeson

Summator: Paul Kennedy

1. Conference notes that:
 2. 1. After the rest of the UK, Scotland's largest trading partner is the
 3. European Union.
 4. 2. Currently, the majority of goods being traded between Scotland
 5. and Europe must travel via the Rest of the UK, and via ports such
 6. as Newcastle, Hull, Harwich and Dover.
 7. 3. Currently, the only direct vehicle ferry link between Scotland and
 8. mainland Europe is from Aberdeen to Norway, though one
 9. previously operated between Rosyth and Zeebrugge. There is no
 10. direct passenger ferry connection with Europe. There are
 11. welcome reports of a possible new service from Rosyth to
 12. Dunkirk, with three sailings per week, but as yet this is not a
 13. concrete proposal.
 14. 4. Tourism from European visitors contributes strongly to the
 15. Scottish economy. For example, visitors to Scotland from the
 16. Netherlands in 2023 spent £165 million.
 17. 5. The UK's withdrawal from the Single Market and Customs Union
 18. has negatively affected trade between Scotland and mainland
 19. Europe.
 20. 6. With increased customs checks being necessitated by post-
 21. Brexit regulations, haulage companies increasingly face delays
 22. when transporting goods to the EU.
23. Conference believes that:
 24. 1. Scotland's businesses should be able to trade goods and
 25. services easily with our European neighbours.
 26. 2. Post-Brexit customs delays at UK ports may increase losses of
 27. perishable goods like fresh fish or dairy products.
 28. 3. If we are committed to reducing the carbon footprint of goods and
 29. services, providing a more direct link to mainland Europe is
 30. essential.
 31. 4. To reduce the carbon footprint of tourism to Scotland, we should
 32. providing air travel for transport by tourists.
 33. 5. Scotland and the UK should be seeking closer links with Europe
 34. as a large local trading partner and should be looking to smooth
 35. the flow of goods, services and tourism.
36. Conference calls for:
 37. 1. The Scottish Government to work with ferry companies to
 38. establish new passenger and cargo ferry routes between
 39. Scotland and mainland Europe. Preparations for this route
 40. should include the creation of an improved port facility with
 41. facilities to assist in meeting new EU trading regulations.
 42. 2. The UK Government, in the establishment of Great British
 43. Railways, and the construction of HS2, to explore options for the
 44. creation of a 'Regional Eurostar' direct rail service between
 45. Scotland and mainland Europe via the Channel Tunnel, removing
 46. the need to change trains in London.

SATURDAY

1120 - 1135: Speaker - Christine Jardine MP, Edinburgh West

Spokesperson on Women and Equalities



SC6: Providing Support to Young Carers Through a Young Carers' Lead

Submitted by Member Signatories

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain

Summator: Amanda Clark

1. Conferences notes that:
 2. 1. The Carers Trust Scotland estimate that 1 in 5 children in a
 3. classroom has a caring role, but the actual recorded number
 4. of young carers in school is much lower.
 5. 2. The most recent Carers Census showed that, where
 6. information was available, for only 55% of those surveyed
 7. with Young Carer Statements or Adult Carer Support Plans,
 8. these were complete. 38% reported an incomplete plan or
 9. statement.
 10. 3. Whilst absence rates from school for young carers has
 11. previously been recorded in England, it is not in Scotland.
 12. This makes it difficult to examine how young carers are
 13. coping within educational settings and to determine what
 14. action may need to be taken to help them.
 15. 4. Sir Ed Davey, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, has already
 16. written to the Prime Minister calling for the creation of this
 17. role in England, highlighting that often young carers struggle
 18. at school to balance education and their caring
 19. responsibilities.
20. Conferences believes that:
 21. 1. Young carers do an incredibly important job which they
 22. deserve more support for. Too often, they are forgotten and
 23. ignored.
 24. 2. Education and school should not be seen as difficult for
 25. young carers to attend, or as yet another obstacle in their
 26. lives. It should provide them with tools for the future, the
 27. opportunity to engage with their peers and, for some, a
 28. respite from their caring responsibilities.



Saturday 5th

SC6: Providing Support to Young Carers Through a Young Carers' Lead Cont.

29. 3. Teachers and education staff work incredibly hard to
 30. support all the children and young people in education but
 31. they must have the appropriate tools to help provide
 32. support to young carers.
 33.

34. Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

35.
 36. 1. Work with local authorities to create the position of 'Young Carers'
 37. Lead' in every school and college in Scotland, which can provide
 38. support to those young carers currently in education and advice
 39. or training to teachers on how to best support pupils who are
 40. young carers.
 41. 2. Review the data it holds on the number of young carers in
 42. education settings and to undertake work to ensure this data is
 43. accurate.
 44. 3. Work with local authorities and the Scottish Young Carers
 45. Services Alliance, as well as other relevant organisations, to
 46. ensure that young carers across Scotland are aware of and can
 47. access all forms of support and pathways that are available to
 48. them.

SATURDAY

1215 - 1330

Lunch and Fringe Events

Explore our fringe events in the [fringe event directory](#)

WINNING HERE



SC7: Protecting Young People from the Harms of Vaping

Submitted by Member Signatories

Mover: Noah McGarry Summator: Susan Murray

1. Conference notes that:
 2. The popularity of vaping among young people is increasing.
 3. Statistics from ASH Scotland indicate that 10% of 13-15 year olds
 4. have already tried vaping.
 5. Many vapes feature cartoon-like animations in their designs, and
 6. the style of vape shops often resembles sweet shops.
 7. The sale of single-use vapes will be banned from 1 June, but this
 8. does not affect availability of devices with inexpensive refill pods,
 9. which are marketed in a similar way.
 10. While initially intended as a tool for smoking cessation, vapes
 11. have become a trendy gateway to nicotine addiction, particularly
 12. among young people.
 13. There is growing concern among teachers and parents that
 14. vaping is becoming normalised among teenagers, despite the
 15. legal restriction prohibiting sales to those under 18.
 16. Unlike tobacco, for which all forms of advertising, even on
 17. packaging, are effectively banned, vaping is widely promoted,
 18. particularly through social media and influencer marketing aimed
 19. at young audiences.
20. Conference believes that:
 21. Vapes should be solely a tool for smoking cessation and not be
 22. marketed in a way that encourages vaping among non-smokers,
 23. especially young people.
 24. While a welcome step, the ban on disposable vapes primarily
 25. addresses environmental concerns and does not tackle the
 26. underlying causes of youth vaping.
 27. The promotion of vaping products, regardless of type, should be
 28. subject to the same stringent advertising and labelling
 29. restrictions as tobacco.
 30. Further research is needed to fully understand the health effects
 31. of vaping, particularly on young people.
 32. Given their particular appeal to children and the lack of evidence
 33. that they are significantly better for smoking cessation, flavoured
 34. vapes should not be allowed.
 35. Policy on vaping must consider both the environmental impact
 36. and the consequences for public health beyond just its potential
 37. as a smoking cessation tool.
 38. Conference calls on the Scottish and UK Governments to:
 39. Restrict vape advertising in line with restrictions on tobacco
 40. products, particularly social media marketing and influencer
 41. promotions.
 42. Establish stricter regulations of vape labelling and retail



Saturday 5th

SC7: Protecting Young People from the Harms of Vaping Cont.

43. environments to prevent the use of designs and flavours that appeal
44. to children and young people.
45. Conference further calls on the Scottish Government to:
 46. Deliver more effective enforcement of existing age restrictions on
 47. vape sales, clamping down on retailers who sell to underage
 48. individuals.
 49. Revamp the public health campaigns for educating young people
 50. about the risks of vaping and nicotine addiction.
 51. Develop a national strategy for tackling youth vaping, in collaboration
 52. with schools, health professionals, and youth organisations.

SATURDAY

Fundraiser

1355 - 1425: Speaker - Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats



Mini Motion Session

Selected mini motions can be found on your daily bulletin

SATURDAY





Saturday 5th

SC8 - Trump and the UK's place in the world

Submitted by Member Signatories

Mover: Christine Jardine MP Summator: Alistair Carmichael MP

1. Conference notes that:

2. 1. In the weeks since his inauguration, President Trump has made
3. a range of alarming statements on the territorial integrity of
4. Greenland, Canada and Panama, and claims the US will "take
5. over" and "own" Gaza.
6. 2. President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris
7. international climate change agreement.
8. 3. A number of executive orders have been signed by President
9. Trump in the early days of his administration which are harmful to
10. the LGBTQ+ community and women are fearful of further
11. restrictions on their reproductive rights following the Supreme
12. Court's decision to overturn Roe vs Wade.
13. 4. A trade war with China has been initiated with 10% tariffs on all
14. Chinese imports to the US, with the continued threat of tariffs
15. being imposed on Canada, Mexico and the EU. President Trump
16. has not ruled out also implementing tariffs on the UK and we
17. must be aware of the impact that any tariffs would have on the UK
18. economy.

19. Conference believes that:

20. 1. At this time, it is more important than ever to show leadership and
21. stand up for the core liberal values of equality, democracy, human
22. rights and the rule of law, both at home and around the world.
23. 2. As one of our closest trading partners, we must work closely with
24. our European allies to protect our economy, defend European
25. security and give us the ability to deal with President Trump from
26. a position of strength, not weakness.
27. 3. The UK must support democracies around the world and
28. champion international institutions including the United Nations
29. and NATO.
30. 4. President Trump has shown how unpredictable he is, and a trade
31. war will hurt our economy and push up prices even if the UK is
32. not directly targeted.
- 33.

34. Conference calls for the UK Government to:

35. 1. Negotiate a brand new UK-EU Customs union and negotiate a
36. youth mobility scheme, boosting our economy, removing barriers
37. and strengthening our hand with President Trump.
38. 2. Hold a summit with the Commonwealth nations with the aim of
39. discussing a joint response to threats of tariffs that would deepen
40. the global trade war.

SC8 - Trump and the UK's place in the world cont.

41. 3. Convene an international summit to agree how to use the
42. hundreds of billions of dollars, pounds and Euros of frozen
43. Russian assets to pay for the weapons Ukraine needs to
44. beat Putin.
45. 4. Immediately recognise Palestine as a state, to make clear
46. our commitment to a two-state solution based on 1967
47. borders.
48. 5. Create a visa route to allow highly-skilled Americans who
49. wish to flee the Trump presidency to come to the UK, so
50. they are able to legally bring their money and skills to the
51. UK, contribute to the economy and help fund public
52. services

53. Conference also calls on both the UK and Scottish Government to
54. continue to stand against hatred and attacks against those groups
55. within our society most likely to face them.

1700 - Conference Close

Thank you for attending this years Spring Conference in Inverness

We hope you have enjoyed yourself and keep a look out for notices for Autumn Conference!

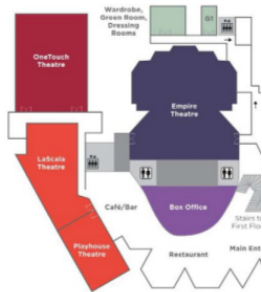


Venue Plans

One Touch Theatre



GROUND FLOOR

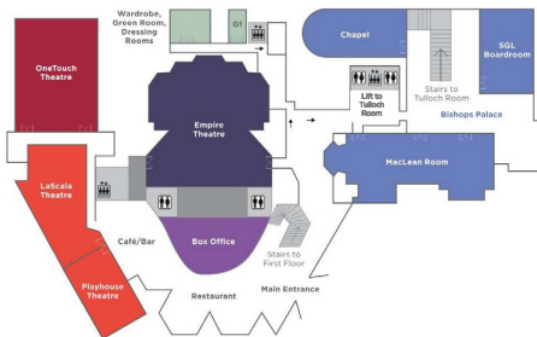


VENUE INFO

Bishops Palace

OVERVIEW

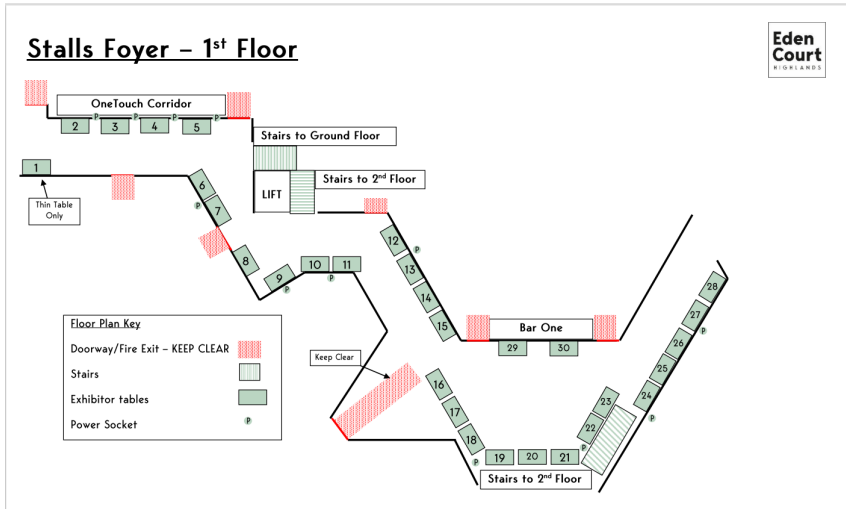
GROUND FLOOR



Source: eden-court.co.uk

Exhibitor Locations

Stalls Foyer



Stall Directory

1. ALDC
2. Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland
3. EIS
4. Liberal International Group
5. Stroke UK
6. Scottish Police Federation
7. SAMH
8. Scottish Sea Farms
9. Scottish Liberal Democrats LGBT+ & Women
10. Unison
11. Trussell Trust
12. Rebalanced Sports Therapy
13. Highland Young Liberal Chair
14. Scottish Swimming
15. Margot Kerr



Exhibitor Directory

The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors

We're a membership organisation that provides advice, resources and training for Liberal Democrat councillors and campaigners. Any Liberal Democrat member can join us.



Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland



Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland is Scotland's largest health charity supporting people with chest, heart, and stroke conditions, including Long Covid, to live their lives to the full. We provide direct support, information and advice, as well as campaigning to improve policies and services for the 1 in 5 people affected by these conditions.

Education Institute of Scotland



The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) is the largest and most effective, Scotland only, education union. We represent over 80% of Scotland's teaching professionals, across all sectors, from early years to Higher education. The EIS is committed to promoting and protecting the interests of Scottish education and ensuring a better future for pupils and teachers alike.

Highland Young Liberal Chair

A brand new branch of the Young Liberals created just last year, aimed at bringing a liberal voice to the Youth of Scotland's highlands.

Liberal International Group



Liberal International Scotland exists to encourage debate on international issues within the Scottish Liberal Democrat through online and in person events. LI Scotland is the Scottish branch of the Liberal International British Group. At a time of international uncertainty the Liberal Democratic voice has never been more needed. If you are interested in International Affairs and what we as Liberal Democrats can do, come and join us.

Stroke Association



Half of Scotland's adults have a close connection to stroke. Making stroke a priority will save lives, reduce pressure on health and social care and improve recovery outcomes for survivors. We need support from Scotland's political influencers to achieve this. Visit our stand to find out what you can do.

Exhibitor Directory Cont.

Scottish Police Federation



SCOTTISH POLICE FEDERATION
THE VOICE OF SCOTLAND'S POLICE SERVICE

The Scottish Police Federation is the staff association that represents over 99% of the police officers in Scotland; currently more than 16,250 members. With a remit for both the welfare of our members and efficiency of the service we are the only statutory consultative body for the police service in Scotland.

Website: www.spf.org.uk X: @scotspolfed

Scottish Swimming



Scottish Swimming is the National Governing Body for Swimming, Diving, Open Water, Artistic Swimming and Water Polo in Scotland. Our vision is everyone can swim and our mission is to inspire our members and partners in the development of aquatics, providing leadership and expert support, resulting in more people taking part and reaching their full potential.

SAMH



SAMH (Scottish Action for Mental Health) is Scotland's national mental health charity. For 100 years we've been here for Scotland's mental health and wellbeing, providing local mental health support and always accessible information. We listen to what matters in each local community, and campaign nationally for the changes that make the big and little differences in life. SAMH has launched our first Youth Panel, bringing together a group of young people aged 12-25 to advocate for young people's mental health. Members of the Panel will be at our conference stall to speak about their plans.

Scottish Sea Farms



An organisation founded 50 years ago representing the sea farm industry in Scotland.

SLD LGBT+ Women

SLD LGBT+ Women are a party group representing the LGBT community and women in the party.

Rebalanced Sports Therapy

Rebalanced Sports Therapy are offering head and shoulder massages in return for a donation to charity. Enjoy!



Exhibitor Directory Cont.

Trussell Trust



Trussell is an anti-poverty charity and community of food banks, working to end hunger in Scotland and across the UK. You can find our more by following us on Twitter/X @TrussellScot and Blue Sky @trussellscot.bsky.social or visiting our Trussell website, <https://www.trussell.org.uk/>

Unison



UNISON Scotland is the public services union and the largest union in Scotland. Our members work in education, social care, local government, the NHS, police staff, water and energy.

Observer Directory

Change UK, Jamie Grant

Robert Gordon University, William Hardie

YouthLink Scot, Sarah Paterson

Oxfam, Lewis Ryder-Jones

Versus Arthritis, Rebecca Campbell & Lauren Bennie

Scottish Renewables, Jack Norquoy

Fringe Events and Training Guides

Friday 4th

Canvassing for Beginners

Desmond Blouse, 1000 - 1100, Chapel Room

An introductory session on canvassing and why we do it



A Societal Approach to ADHD and Autism in Scotland

Royal College of Psychiatrists, 1230 - 1330, MacLean Room



In recent years, there has been an unprecedented rise in referrals for ADHD and autism assessment and support in Scotland. However, there is currently no dedicated, national standard neurodevelopmental condition referral, treatment or support pathway in place. This is leading to critical issues within the mental health sector.

This event will feature a discussion and Q+A on a whole-society, multi-sector approach to providing for neurodevelopmental conditions in Scotland.

Catering Provided.

FRINGE & TRAINING

Scotland's Early Years Childcare Crisis

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 1230 - 1330, SGL Room



Families across Scotland cannot access the childcare they need. Locking families in poverty and entrenching inequality. Cost and availability means many parents are pushed out of a system designed to help them return to work while giving their child a safe and nurturing environment to develop in. The Scottish Government spends £1billion each year on providing funded childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds but parents find this increasingly difficult to access. The system is failing families and needs to change. Join us for a discussion about early learning and childcare in Scotland, what's working and what's not, and how the 2026 Scottish Parliament election is a chance for political parties to set out how they would improve ELC for our children and their families.

Speakers: Jack Evans, JRF; Carmen Martinez, Scottish Women's Budget Group and Carole Erskine, Pregnant Then Screwed

Catering provided.



Fringe Events and Training Guides Cont.

Friday 4th

Empowering Local Government
ALDC, 1230 - 1330, Chapel Room

ALDC

Scottish local government are under growing pressure—facing unprecedented financial challenges while being handed more responsibilities without the funding to match. Join us for a vital discussion on how we can give local authorities the tools, resources, and autonomy they need to truly deliver for our communities. The meeting will be chaired by Richard Cole (ALDC) alongside speakers Cllr James Calder (Fife Council), Cllr Jeff Goodhall (Aberdeenshire Council).

FRINGE &
TRAINING

Trump, Ukraine and European Security
Liberal Internationals, 1745 - 1830, Chapel Room



Christine Jardine MP, Sir Graham Watson, Chair of Liberal International British Group

The election of Donald Trump has thrown the international order into disarray. Will his use of tariffs as a diplomatic tool lead to a world wide recession? Is his policy on Ukraine peace or appeasement? What is the future for NATO and European Security? Is the future of western democracy at risk? Come and join the debate with perspectives from both sides of the Atlantic. Wine and soft drinks available.

Fringe Events and Training Guides Cont.

Saturday 5th



Delivering a Fair Transition for the North Sea
Future Economy Scotland and Uplift,
 1230 - 1330, SGL Room



Scotland is at the forefront of the transition to renewable energy, with the opportunity for Scotland's communities and economy to benefit from harnessing its abundant natural resources. However tangible steps must be taken to ensure that the transition to renewables is fair for Scotland's workers and that communities don't just survive the transition, but benefit from it. At present, just transition planning is lagging behind, and workers and communities in Scotland are missing out on tangible, good quality jobs to transition into. Looking ahead to the 2026 Scottish Parliament election, this event will explore the steps required in Scotland to realise a genuine just transition for the North Sea and the role that the Scottish Liberal Democrats can play in pushing greater Scottish and UK Government ambition to deliver this.

Tea and coffee provided.

Practical Steps Towards Net Zero by 2045
Scottish Green Liberal Democrats
 1310 - 1410, Chapel Room



We know that solution to the catastrophic climate crisis we face lies in cutting down those damaging greenhouse gas emissions which come from the way we live our lives every day. Energy, housing, agriculture, and transport all contribute, and Lib Dems are committed to comprehensively tackling this challenge over the next two decades to ensure that future generations inherit a world in better condition than it is now.

Join the Scottish Green Lib Dems, and the Scottish Party's Net Zero spokesperson, Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie to discuss the practical actions which need to be implemented – especially at a local level – in order to meet our commitment to reaching Net Zero Carbon by 2045. Sanne will be joined by Charles Dundas of SGLD who will speak on the role that landscape conservation, and nature-based solutions can also play in meeting that target. Other speakers TBC.



Fringe Events and Training Guides Cont.

Saturday 5th

Introduction to Fleet and Targeted Email
1030 - 1130, Chapel Room

Come and learn how to use our new digital campaigning tools ahead of the Holyrood election next year!



**Marie
Curie**
SCOTLAND

A Right Delayed is a Right Denied
Marie Curie, 1205 - 1305, Maclean Room

Everyone deserves to be well cared for and supported at the end of their life, but too many people are missing out on the palliative care and support they need. We need to fix palliative and end of life care.

Join an urgent conversation on why we need to deliver “a right to palliative care” to ensure everyone gets the palliative care and support they need at the end of life.

Chair – Willie Rennie MSP
Speaker – Amy Dalrymple, Associate Director of Policy and Public Affairs,
Marie Curie
Speaker – Kenny Steele, Chief Executive, Highland Hospice
Refreshments provided

FRINGE &
TRAINING



Fringe Events and Training Guides Cont.

Saturday 5th



Public Services: The Heart of a Fairer Scotland

Unison and Poverty Alliance, 1310 - 1410, Maclean Room



UNISON Scotland and Poverty Alliance invite you to a joint fringe to discuss the future of public services and how we fund them.

Public services keep our communities safe, clean and improve our well-being. They provide opportunities and safety nets to those who need it most.

Over a million people in Scotland live in poverty, 500,000 in deep poverty, 240,000 are children. These shameful figures have changed little in over a decade.

Public services are at the heart of tackling poverty. We will not end poverty without investing in the staff who deliver them - they are the beating heart of public services.

Come to our fringe and debate the future of our services and how we fund them.

Refreshments provided

Notes

