

# Spring Conference 2014

**Friday 28th March**

## **SC2: Mental health and Scotland's criminal justice system**

### **Policy Committee**

Mover: Alison McInnes MSP

Summator: Jim Hume MSP

1 Conference notes:

- 2 a) Official Scottish Prison Service (SPS) figures that there were 13 apparent  
3 suicides in 2010/11, eight in 2011/12, and seven in 2012/13.  
4 b) That all but one of these were male prisoners.  
5 c) There had been 61 attempted suicide incidents over the same three-year period.  
6 d) The 2008 Scottish Prisons Commission report 'Scotland's Choice' which found  
7 that 7 out of 10 prisoners had suffered from at least two mental disorders, that 2  
8 out of 10 male prisoners have previously attempted suicide and that 37% of  
9 women prisoners had attempted suicide.  
10 e) That two of the 28 prisoners who committed suicide and some of those who  
11 attempted suicide in Scotland's prisons between 2010 and 2013 were placed on  
12 the SPS's suicide prevention strategy, ACT 2.  
13 f) That between June 2012 and November 2013 37 women were held in Cornton  
14 Vale's separation unit with four of these women incarcerated alone for many  
15 months.  
16 g) The high rates of self-harm amongst prisoners.  
17 h) That the Scottish Government has not carried out an urgent review of the  
18 provision and resourcing of services for women in prison with borderline  
19 personality disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder contrary to the  
20 recommendation of the Commission on Women Offenders' final report of April  
21 2012.

22 Conference welcomes the progress made since the publication of 'Scotland's Choice' in  
23 tackling mental health in our criminal justice system, but remains concerned that we  
24 continue to deal with mental health issues, addiction and poverty in our prisons rather  
25 than through early intervention and appropriate health and social care.

26 Conference believes that the Scottish Prison Service must ensure that staff are able to  
27 identify the early warning signs and that the NHS and Scottish Prison Service must work  
28 together to ensure that vulnerable individuals with complex needs get the help and  
29 support they need across multiple-agencies. Conference further believes that the prison  
30 population being at its highest ever is affecting prisoner care.

31 Conference calls for:

- 32 a) Mental health professionals to be available to those in custody whether in police  
33 custody or in our prisons, or in alcohol or drug treatment centres.  
34 b) Funding for mental health services to be improved and sustained with mental  
35 health services within the criminal justice system also being properly funded.  
36 c) The Scottish Government to carry out an urgent review of the provision and  
37 resourcing of services for women in prison with borderline personality disorder  
38 and post-traumatic stress disorder.  
39 d) Options for diverting people into treatment rather than prosecution if they suffer  
40 from mental health problems.

41 e) Members of the judiciary to be trained about mental health issues as part of  
42 ongoing training and best practice guidance.  
43 f) The Scottish Government to work with service users, healthcare professionals,  
44 the judiciary, the Scottish Prison Service and the Scottish Court Service and  
45 other partner organisations and third sector groups to build a framework for  
46 tackling mental health issues within the criminal justice system in Scotland.

47 Conference puts a premium on effective treatment and rehabilitation within our criminal  
48 justice system which can help us to build a fairer society and treats those suffering from  
49 mental health issues as people needing high quality help and support.

**Votes:**

*Motion - Carried*

### **SC3: A stronger economy through gender equality in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**

#### ***Policy Committee***

Mover: Katy Gordon

Summator: Christine Jardine

1 Conference notes that in spite of the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 women still face  
2 gender inequality in education, training and employment and that this is particularly  
3 prevalent in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) areas.

4 Conference believes that the pace of change in the position of women has been  
5 disappointingly slow and that there is an urgency to address gender inequality as part of  
6 the Liberal Democrats' aim to build a fairer society in which everyone has the chance to  
7 get on in life.

8 Conference notes that:

9 a) Women are under-represented in STEM workforces, particularly at senior  
10 levels.

11 b) Many more women train in STEM subjects than move into the STEM  
12 workforce.

13 c) 73% of women graduates are lost from STEM compared with 48% of male  
14 graduates.

15 d) The percentage of university graduates who move into STEM senior positions  
16 is far higher for men than for women in spite of a generally equal gender mix  
17 in the subjects at school level.

18 e) In academia, expensively trained women are lost in larger proportions than  
19 men at every step of the postgraduate ladder.

20 f) Only 4 of the FTSE 100 companies in the UK are led by women.

21 g) That women continue to be under-represented in leadership positions within  
22 professions, across parliaments and the public sector and throughout  
23 business.

24 h) The United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women which considered  
25 'access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science  
26 and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full  
27 employment and decent work' as its priority theme during its fifty-fifth session  
28 in 2011.

29 i) The Careerwise Scotland initiative which aims to encourage girls to widen  
30 their future career choices by choosing the right subjects at school.

31 j) A study by the Girlguiding Association in 2012 found that certain careers such  
32 as engineering were being dismissed as "jobs for boys" and that one in six

33 girls said they were put off an engineering career because they did not know  
34 of many women who worked in the industry.

35 Conference believes that overcoming gender stereotypes across the board but  
36 particularly in STEM is in everyone's interest, and will help Scotland to thrive.

37 Conference further believes that the loss of highly trained women from the workforce is  
38 not only a loss of opportunity to individuals, but also represents a major, quantifiable  
39 loss to the economy and society. Conference notes the comments made in the 2012  
40 report of The Royal Society of Edinburgh which conclude that:

41 a) Doubling of women's high-level skill contribution to the economy would be  
42 worth as much as £170 million per annum to Scotland's national income.  
43 b) Scotland's employers in the science and technology sectors are unable to  
44 find sufficient qualified, skilled and experienced workers.

45 Conference acknowledges that the issues surrounding female workplace inclusion are  
46 complex and varied but agrees with the conclusion of the report of The Royal Society in  
47 Edinburgh that in part the problem lies in "the lack of a concerted and sustained strategy  
48 and a commitment to change."

49 Conference calls on the UK and Scottish Governments to work together to develop a  
50 coherent and comprehensive strategy to tackle gender discrimination in education,  
51 training and employment; acknowledges that change will not just take political will but  
52 also the support of individuals, schools, career services, academic institutions, business  
53 and industry, women's institutions and others; and believes that elected Liberal  
54 Democrats at every level should push to ensure that women and girls are given every  
55 opportunity and encouragement to reach their potential.

56 Conference welcomes the report of The Royal Society of Edinburgh which looked at  
57 practical advice on what can be done to increase the proportion of women in STEM by  
58 workforces as well as the number of women who rise to senior positions in universities,  
59 institutes and business and the work of the Science and Engineering Education  
60 Advisory Group.

61 Conference further welcomes the delivery by the Liberal Democrats in government of  
62 shared parental leave which was a recommendation in the Royal Society report and  
63 notes the other recommendations of the two reports, which broadly call for:

64 1. An action plan aimed at retaining and promoting women in STEM.  
65 2. Practical, hands-on science learning for young people.  
66 3. Business and industry to introduce quality part-time employment at all levels for  
67 men and women.  
68 4. Research funding linked to gender equality.  
69 5. Monitoring of universities and research institutions against the Athena SWAN  
70 principles which recognise and celebrate good practice in recruiting, retaining  
71 and promoting women in STEM.

**Votes:**

*Sep vote, line 59-64 – defeated – lines are retained*

*Motion - carried*

## **SC4: Giving youth a voice: Political Education and Democracy for young people**

### ***Liberal Youth Scotland***

Mover: Daniel O'Malley

Summator: Euan Davidson

1 Conference notes:

- 2  The landmark decision to allow sixteen and seventeen olds to vote in the  
3 referendum on Scottish Independence.  
4  Article 12 of the UN declaration on the Rights of a Child, which states that every  
5 child has a right to be consulted on decisions affecting them.  
6  Research from the British Social Attitude Survey that shows less than a third of  
7 young people are interested in politics.  
8  Less than half of all eligible eighteen to twenty five year olds turned out to vote at  
9 the last general election.  
10  One of the major aims of the curriculum for excellence is to create active citizens.  
11

Conference believes:

- 12  That when young people are engaged and shown that politics affects their  
13 everyday lives and the issues they care about, many become enthusiastically  
14 engaged in the political process.  
15  The education system should be designed to enable young people to become  
16 responsible and engaged citizens.  
17  Empowering young people to make their own decisions is far more effective than  
18 merely telling them what to do without discussion or debate.  
19 Conference therefore calls on all elected Liberal Democrats:  
20  To campaign to make sure that the decision to expand the franchise to sixteen  
21 and seventeen year olds is a permanent fixture, not merely a tokenistic one-off  
22 gesture.  
23  To support compulsory citizenship education in high schools.  
24  To support a culture shift in schools towards a system where young people  
25 become empowered participants, where their opinions are valued and taken into  
26 account.

Furthermore calls on Liberal Democrats in local government:

- 28  To strongly support local youth democracy bodies such as youth councils and  
29 local members of the Scottish Youth Parliament.  
30  To work with local authorities to make sure that engagement with young people is  
31 not tokenistic but genuinely engaging.

### ***Votes:***

*Motion – carried nem. con.*

## **SC7: EM1: Transport in the North East**

*Aberdeenshire East local party*

Mover: Christine Jardine

1 Conference notes:

- 2 1. The March 20th announcement by the Scottish Government Transport Minister Keith  
3 Brown that the construction of the new and much needed Kintore Station won't begin until 2016.  
4 2. That this is the latest in a series of postponements and failures by the Scottish  
5 Government  
6 to invest in a transport infrastructure that meets the needs of the communities and economy  
of the North East.

7 These have included the failure to complete the upgrading of the Tippetty to Balmedie road,  
8 despite funding having been in place eight years, and which was then tagged on to the  
9 Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, which now not be completed until 2018, fifteen years  
10 after it was first announced

11 And the failure to dual the A96, the only major road between Aberdeen and Inverness,  
12 Aberdeen is currently the lowest funded council in Scotland and Aberdeenshire is the third  
13 lowest

14 Therefore conference calls upon the Scottish Government:  
15 Give urgent attention to the transport infrastructure in the North East and create a transport  
16 policy which offers improvement outwith the central belt.  
17 Ensure a fairer funding formula for Scotland's local authorities  
18 Investigate the feasibility of bringing forward the dualling of the A96 between Aberdeen and  
19 Inverness.

*Votes:*  
*Motion - Carried*

## **SC8: Support for business**

### ***Edinburgh West local party***

Mover: Mike Crockart MP

Summator: Christine Jones

1 Conference welcomes the UK Government's commitment to making the UK the best  
2 place in the world to start and grow businesses, particularly small and medium sized  
3 enterprises (SMEs); believes that we are creating a stable, competitive tax system by  
4 cutting corporation tax and reducing tax rates to 20% for SMEs with profits up to  
5 £300,000, as well as cutting red tape to guarantee that regulation supports business  
6 growth.

7 Conference notes:

- 8  That Liberal Democrats are helping businesses access the finance they need,  
9 creating the British Business Bank which will support up to £10 billion of new  
10 lending to SMEs.
- 11  The Funding for Lending Scheme which allows banks and building societies to  
12 borrow at cheaper rates from the Bank of England, passing savings on to  
13 businesses.
- 14  The £1.2 billion Business Finance Partnership scheme for less traditional lending.
- 15  The Enterprise Finance Guarantee which has offered loans to SMEs worth £2  
16 billion and Enterprise Capital Funds offering equity to SMEs worth £300 million.
- 17  A tenfold increase in capital allowances which will allow firms to offset capital  
18 investment worth £250,000 against tax on their profits.

19 And believes therefore that we are delivering on our commitment in the Coalition  
20 Agreement to develop effective proposals to ensure the flow of credit to viable SMEs.  
21 Conference commends Liberal Democrats in government for creating more  
22 opportunities for job creation through a £2000 employment allowance available to every  
23 business and charity; notes that with the allowance businesses will be able to employ  
24 four adults or ten 18-20 year-olds full-time on the National Minimum Wage without  
25 paying any employer NICs; and is pleased to note that in 2015/16 75% of the total  
26 benefit of the policy will go to regions outside London and the South East.

27 Conference celebrates the Small Business Saturday initiative as a chance for small  
28 businesses to promote themselves; notes the success of a similar event in the USA

29 which generated \$5.5 billion in sales in 2012, and welcomes the doubling of SMEs  
30 exporting with help from the UKTI and UK Government funding of £35 million. And  
31 conference notes that 8 out of 10 businesses want the UK to remain in the EU.

32 Conference applauds the UK Government's introduction of Product Surgeries designed  
33 to enable SMEs to pitch innovative products and services to senior decision makers in  
34 departments and the appointment of an SME Champion within each key division; and  
35 calls on the Scottish Government to consider whether there are similar opportunities to  
36 increase the participation of SMEs in government procurement.

**Votes:**

*Motion – carried*

## **SC10: Liberal Democrat vision for Early Years' Childcare**

### **Policy Committee**

Mover: Liam McArthur MSP

Summator: Cllr Kate Stephen

1 Conference recognises the research evidence which supports investment in quality  
2 early years' education and the positive impact which this can have on a child's life  
3 chances, and endorses the Liberal Democrat commitment to building a fairer society in  
4 which every child has a fair start in life.

5 Conference welcomes the extension in early years' childcare for Scotland's two year  
6 olds as stage 1 of our plan to see 40% of Scotland's two year olds in free early  
7 education and childcare and the actions of the Scottish Liberal Democrats in Holyrood  
8 securing this extension which will see 27% of Scotland's two year olds receive early  
9 education and childcare.

10 Conference believes that the additional provision secured by the Scottish Liberal  
11 Democrats will help the life chances of some of Scotland's most vulnerable children and  
12 welcomes the reversal of the Scottish Government's position that an extension could not  
13 be achieved without independence. Conference believes that devolution has delivered  
14 for Scotland's children.

15 Conference calls on the Scottish Government to now:

- 16 1. Work with the Scottish Liberal Democrats to ensure that there is sufficient  
17 capacity to provide childcare for eligible two year olds.
- 18 2. Work with the Scottish Liberal Democrats to ensure that the right number of staff  
19 are trained and that suitable buildings of a high quality are available.
- 20 3. And work with the Scottish Liberal Democrats and local authorities to ensure that  
21 parents know what they can expect from the policy and that take-up rates of  
22 those eligible are high.

23 Conference reaffirms its commitment agreed in the 'Access to affordable, high quality  
24 childcare and early education' motion passed at Autumn Conference 2012 to continuing  
25 to work to extend childcare to 40% of two year olds in Scotland, bringing the provision in  
26 line with that offered in England; and believes that a revolution in childcare can and  
27 should be achieved without further delay from the Scottish Government.

**Votes:**

*Motion – carried nem con*

## **SC11: A motion to end the cruelty of gay conversion therapy**

### **Liberal Youth Scotland**

Mover: Euan Davidson

Summator: Hannah Bettsworth

1 Conference notes:

2 1. The recent campaign by the TUC and Unison unions along with over forty LGBT  
3 organisations and other trade unions that presented two thousand and two  
4 signatures to the UK government calling for a ban on “gay cure therapies”,  
5 submitted on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

6 ~~2. Research from the University of Swansea which showed that one in six~~  
7 ~~psychiatrists had attempted to change or reduce a patient’s sexuality.~~

8 3. Gay conversion therapy is an intensely harmful practice which has been known  
9 to have led to despair, depression and even suicide in the past. The effect of gay  
10 conversion therapy is particularly damaging to young lesbian, gay, bisexual and  
11 transgender (LGBT) people who are often struggling to come to terms with their  
12 own sexuality.

13 4. Despite impressive progress many in the LGBT community continue to suffer day  
14 to day discrimination in their workplaces, schools, families and on the street.

15 5. The Liberal Democrats have often been at the vanguard of the movement for  
16 LGBT equality, from being the first party to call for decriminalisation of  
17 homosexuality to being the first major political party to embrace equal marriage.

18 Conference believes:

19 a. The LGBT community deserves full equality and protection from discrimination  
20 which cannot be achieved while a proportion of medical professionals and wider  
21 society believe sexuality is something which can or needs to be “cured”.

22 b. Gay conversion therapy causes an unacceptable amount of damage, both to  
23 those undergoing it and to society as a whole.

24 c. Gay conversion therapy serves to entrench the myth that being LGBT is an  
25 illness and a danger to society.

26 Conference therefore calls on the Scottish Government:

27 a. To legislate to ban medical professionals engaging in attempts to alter patients’  
28 sexuality.

29 b. To legislate to prohibit the offering of gay conversion therapies on a commercial  
30 basis.

31 c. To legislate to prevent any organisation attempting to alter the sexuality of those  
32 under the age of sixteen.

33 d. Increase public awareness that attempting to change a relative or friend’s  
34 sexuality can be intensively damaging.

35 Furthermore conference calls on all elected Liberal Democrats to:

36 a. Campaign for an end to the barbaric practice of gay conversion therapy.

37 b. Promote LGBT equality whenever the opportunity arises.

**Votes:**

*Vote on lines 6&7 – lines are deleted*

*Vote on lines 29&30 – counted – For:49 Against: 40 – lines are retained*

*Motion as amended - carried*

## **SC13: Building a stronger Scotland**

### **Policy Committee**

Mover: John Thurso MP

Summator: Alan Reid MP

1 Conference welcomes the news that the UK economy is now the fastest growing of the  
2 G7 countries and believes that in government Liberal Democrats are building a stronger  
3 economy in a fairer society.

4 Conference further believes that by sticking to our plans in the national interest we will  
5 make sure that this is a recovery built to last, and that sustainable recovery is the best  
6 way to improve living standards.

- 7 Conference notes that:  
8 a) The UK Government is helping families with the cost of living by raising the  
9 income tax threshold to £10,000 by April 2014 taking 2.7 million lowest paid  
10 Taxpayers out of paying tax altogether, while also giving a tax cut of £700 a year  
11 to more than 20 million low and middle earners; freezing fuel duty for the rest of  
12 the Parliament, and fixing the economy and delivering interest rates at historic  
13 lows.  
14 b) Since the Coalition Government took office in 2010 there are 1.4 million extra  
15 people in work, bringing the total number of people in employment to 30 million  
16 including 120,000 more people in work in Scotland.  
17 c) Scotland now has employment rates as high as anywhere in Britain.  
18 d) Scotland has the strongest economy in Britain outside of the south-east of  
19 England.
- 20 Conference endorses the view that our future prosperity and success will be through a  
21 single market in the UK and Europe which makes trade easier and which allows  
22 business based on innovation and excellence to thrive.
- 23 Conference welcomes the increase of more than £300 million to the Scottish  
24 Government's budget over the next two years as a result of spending decisions in the  
25 Autumn Statement and calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise a stronger  
26 economy and a fairer society by investing in childcare, skills and housing.
- 27 Conference notes that the economic recovery remains fragile and that a substantial  
28 impact on living standards is still to be experienced.
- 29 Conference calls on the UK and Scottish Governments to:
- 30  Work together to promote further growth across the UK.  
31  Foster increased participation in the workforce for future generations through  
32 educational opportunity.  
33  Support female participation in all workforces, but in particular in science, maths  
34 and engineering where doubling the contribution of women would add £170  
35 million to national income.  
36  Encourage excellence in manufacturing, engineering and entrepreneurship.  
37  And support businesses to export to foreign markets.
- 38 Conference holds that the best future for Scotland is as part of a United Kingdom,  
39 sharing the economic risks and rewards with our neighbours.

**Votes:**

*Motion – Carried nem con*

**SC15: EM2: Stop and search**

*Aberdeen Central. South & North Kincardine local party*

Mover: Cllr Martin Greig

Conference is greatly concerned:

- 1 1. By Police Scotland's announcement on 15 January that a total of 519,213 Stop and
- 2 Searches were carried out across the country between April and December 2013.
- 3 2. That it was reported in the Sunday Herald on 23 March that the Chief Constable of Police
- 4 Scotland, Stephen House, admitted in an interview that "some" Stop and Searches "are
- 5 being made up", adding "of course it concerns me".



- 6 Conference notes –
- 7 1. The term ‘Stop and Search’ encapsulates a range of police powers that are both
  - 8 statutory (underpinned by legislation) and non-statutory (simply based on securing the
  - 9 verbal consent of the subject).
  - 10 2. The majority of searches are carried out without police officers having reasonable 11
  - 12 suspicion and subjects are told little, or nothing, about their rights. When conducting a non-
  - 13 statutory search, an officer does not need to provide details of the basis for the search,
  - 14 inform the subject that the procedure is voluntary or that they have a right to refuse.
  - 15 3. That transparent and rigorous recording procedures are not in place to measure
  - 16 statistics including how many times any one individual is stopped.
  - 17 4. That the rate of Stop and Search in Scotland in 2010 was approximately four times 17
  - 18 higher than the comparable rate per capita in England and Wales.
  - 19 5. That the use of Stop and Search, a common Strathclyde Police tactic, has
  - 20 increased across the rest of Scotland since the formation of Police Scotland.
  - 21 6. That the Scottish Police Authority are presently undertaking a review of Stop and
  - Search procedures.

22 Conference calls on the Scottish Government, Scottish Police Authority and Police

Scotland.

**Votes:**

*Motion – carried nem con*

## **SC17: In Europe, in work**

### **Policy Committee**

Mover: George Lyon MEP Summator: Michael Moore MP

- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 1. Scottish Liberal Democrats want Scotland to stay in the EU because we are
  - 3 working hard for a stronger economy - millions of jobs in the UK, including
  - 4 hundreds of thousands in Scotland, are linked to our trade with the EU; and being
  - 5 in Europe gives us more strength when negotiating trade deals with global
  - 6 players like the US, China, India and
  - 7 Brazil.
  - 8 2. By working to keep Scotland in the EU, Liberal Democrats are defending jobs,
  - 9 working to create many more and putting thousands of pounds back in people’s
  - 10 pockets by making it easier for companies to export and slashing red tape for
  - 11 small businesses.
  - 12 3. By working to keep Scotland in the EU, Scottish Liberal Democrats are fighting
  - 13 for safer communities by ensuring our police forces have access to key EU
  - 14 crime-fighting tools.
  - 15 4. By working to keep Scotland in the EU, Scottish Liberal Democrats are fighting
  - 16 for a greener future by working with EU countries to combat climate change,
  - 17 create green jobs and reduce pollution.
  - 18 5. The Scottish Liberal Democrats are the party of ‘in’ –In Europe, In Work.
- 19 Conference further believes:
- 20 1. The Tories and UKIP are putting millions of British jobs and billions of pounds of
  - 21 investment at risk by undermining our membership of the EU.
  - 22 2. Labour can’t be trusted with the economy at home or abroad - their reckless
  - 23 spending and failure to regulate the banks crippled Britain's economy while their
  - 24 MEPs support measures that would impose huge burdens on British businesses.
  - 25 3. The SNP’s independence plans put our place in Europe at risk and threaten the
  - 26 advantageous EU membership terms that Scotland enjoys as part of a strong
  - 27 United Kingdom.

28 Conference resolves to support a strong manifesto for the European Parliament  
29 elections in May 2014 that commits Scottish Liberal Democrat MEPs to:  
30 1) Creating more jobs by further opening up of the EU's internal market, supporting  
31 new EU trade agreements with other trading countries, cutting red tape and  
32 'thinking small' by exempting smaller businesses from legislation where  
33 appropriate.  
34 2) Protecting the environment and creating green growth by committing to reduce  
35 the EU's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030, urgently  
36 strengthening the EU Emissions Trading System, and pushing for more  
37 international grid connections between European countries to support Scottish  
38 renewables and ensure we can meet our climate change goals faster and at a lower  
39 cost; and continuing to support ambitious energy efficiency standards at European level.  
40 3) Building a safer, stronger financial system by ensuring better quality of regulation  
42 in order to protect the economy, businesses and jobs, working for fairer rules that  
43 clamp down on the manipulation of energy and financial markets as exposed by  
44 the LIBOR scandal and Brent Oil fixing investigation, and implementing new tax  
45 transparency for multinationals, including banks and extractive industries, to  
46 show how much tax they pay in different countries.  
47 4) Building a more sustainable future for rural communities and businesses by  
48 supporting continued reform of the Common Agricultural Policy with more  
49 devolution in agriculture policy, ensuring continued support for rural communities,  
50 particularly upland and less favoured areas and enforcement of European Union  
51 fishing rules by all member states to promote a more sustainable fishing industry  
52 in Scotland.  
53 5) Getting a better, fairer deal for consumers by campaigning to abolish mobile  
54 phone roaming charges once and for all and supporting higher standards of food  
55 inspections and better country of origin labelling to protect against repeats of the  
56 horsemeat scandal.  
57 6) Fighting cross-border crime and defending rights by supporting the  
58 European Cybercrime Centre, pressing for the European Union missing  
59 child alert system to be implemented quickly, setting up a European  
60 Union database of unidentified bodies to help families searching for  
61 missing loved ones and supporting measures to combat cross-border  
62 fraud, corruption and tax evasion.

#### Amendment 1

Edinburgh North East & Leith local party

After Line 62 add new:

7) Promoting opportunities for citizens to live, work and study across member states.

#### **Votes:**

*Amendment – carried*

*Motion as amended - carried*

### **SC18: Electronic cigarettes**

***Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey local party***

Mover: Trevor Escott

Summator: Cllr Kate Stephen

1 Conference notes that in the UK there are around 100,000 deaths per year attributable  
2 to smoking, and that for every death caused by smoking there are another twenty  
3 smokers suffering from a smoking related disease.

4 Conference further notes the rise in popularity of e-cigarettes, with an estimated 1.3  
5 million of the UK's 10 million smokers switching to e-cigarettes.

6 Conference praises work by Liberal Democrat MEPs, including George Lyon, to raise  
7 the profile of e-cigarettes and to stimulate debate on the issue which has:  
8 a) Forced the European Parliament to decide that e-cigarettes should be regulated  
9 but not be subjected to the same rules as medicinal products unless they are  
10 presented as having curative or preventative properties.  
11 b) Ensured manufacturers and importers have to supply the competent authorities  
12 with a list of all the ingredients they contain.  
13 c) Made e-cigarettes subject to the same advertising restrictions as tobacco  
14 products.

15 Conference notes that while e-cigarettes have been found to be as effective as nicotine  
16 Patches in helping smokers to kick the habit, some groups have warned that not enough  
17 research has been conducted to be sure that e-cigarettes are safe. Conference  
18 acknowledges that this is a very complex situation, with opposing views from respected  
19 bodies but in particular notes that:  
20 a) The World Health Organization has advised that consumers should not use e-  
21 Cigarettes until they are deemed safe and has said that the potential risks remain  
22 undetermined and that the contents of the vapor emissions have not been  
23 thoroughly studied.  
24 b) The British Medical Association has called for a ban on “public vaping” in the  
25 same way that public smoking was banned and has said that a strong regulatory  
26 framework is needed to restrict their marketing, sale and promotion to ensure that  
27 it is only smokers who are targeted, as a way of cutting down and quitting, and  
28 that marketing does not appeal to non-smokers, particularly children and young  
29 people.  
30 c) Cancer charities have warned that e-cigarettes could “re-normalize” smoking.  
31 Conference accepts that e-cigarettes have value but believes that ongoing research is  
32 needed into the possible side-effects of chemicals used in them as well as work to  
33 properly understand how e-cigarettes can help to tackle smoking.

34 Conference believes that one important way of helping people stop smoking is to make  
35 sure, meantime, that nicotine replacement products like e-cigarettes are widely available  
36 and welcomes the decision not to regulate e-cigarettes as medicines which would mean  
37 that they could only be sold in pharmacies, making them harder to buy.  
38 Conference does however:  
39 1. Believe that some regulation is necessary on the sale of e-cigarettes to ensure  
40 that they are used appropriately;  
41 2. Welcomes the fact that the Advertising Standards Authority is to look at e-  
42 Cigarette advertising and in particular protections for children;  
43 3. Calls upon the Scottish Parliament to consider following the UK Government  
44 which has indicated that it intends to ban selling e-cigarettes to people under 18  
45 years old.  
46 4. Believes that the Scottish Government should also consider legislation to prevent  
47 proxy buyers purchasing e-cigarettes for minors.

**Votes:**

*Lines 43-45 separate vote – not granted  
Motion - carried*

## Sunday 30th March

### SC22: First aid and defibrillators

#### *North Glasgow local party*

Mover: Paul McGarry

Summator: Jim Hume MSP

1 Conference notes that the presence of universal healthcare in the UK has helped  
2 establish the UK as a leader in the provision of healthcare. Conference further notes  
3 that despite this we fall behind in terms of first aid provision and in particular first aid  
4 training in schools.

5 Conference is concerned that according to ICM research nearly 60% of adults do not  
6 feel confident enough to try to save a life and that the St Andrew's First Aid charity  
7 reports that Scotland has the highest mortality rate for accidents. They estimate that 1 in  
8 3250 dies as a result of accidents in Scotland compared to 1 in 4790 for the rest of the  
9 UK.

10 Conference further notes that:

11 a) Fewer than 1 in 10 people in the UK have had any formal first aid training.

12 b) 89% of 11-18 year olds have been confronted with a medical emergency  
13 according to the British Red Cross.

14 c) People who have had first aid training at an early age are often more confident to  
15 act in first aid situations.

16 d) 86% of teachers in the UK think that emergency lifesaving skills should form part  
17 of the curriculum.

18 e) In Norway where first aid is taught as a compulsory element in schools, and  
19 where 95% of citizens have first aid training, those who suffer a cardiac arrest  
20 away from a hospital have a 52% chance of survival compared to 18% in the UK.

21 f) One fifth of European countries have made First Aid training compulsory in  
22 schools.

23 Conference believes that:

24 a) Scotland needs a policy for First Aid in the community to promote the importance  
25 of first aid to preserve life and to ensure that nobody dies when the availability of  
26 good first aid could have made a difference.

27 b) Every state school in Scotland should teach first aid as a compulsory element.

28 c) The Scottish Government should continue to work with voluntary aid societies in  
29 developing a coherent first aid strategy.

30 d) That Scotland should be at the forefront of protecting our citizens by ensuring  
31 that we live our lives in the safest possible environments.

32 To that end conference believes it is crucial that defibrillators are installed in public  
33 places where routine exercise is expected to take place and that staff are trained in  
34 defibrillation and notes with concern that less than 1% of primary schools and only 19%  
35 of secondary schools in Scotland have access to a life-saving defibrillator. Conference  
36 further notes that for every minute which passes after a cardiac event the chance of  
37 survival reduces by 10% without defibrillation, and that the survival rate is just 10% if  
38 effective CPR is administered; but that if a defibrillator is used immediately following a  
39 cardiac arrest the chances of survival can be as high as 75%.

40 Conference calls on local authorities to install Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in  
41 all council controlled public buildings where exercise takes place.

42 Conference further calls on the Scottish Government to:

43 I. Mandate the installation of an AED in every public building where exercise takes

- 44 place.  
45 II. Include first aid training as a compulsory element of the curriculum.  
46 III. Work with voluntary aid societies to develop a comprehensive first aid strategy to  
47 enable Scotland to achieve the highest survival rates in cases of cardiac arrest.

**Votes:**

*Motion – carried unanimously*

## **SC23: Protecting the Rights and Safety of Sex Workers**

### **Glasgow South**

Mover: Ewan Hoyle

Summator: Ewan Hoyle

1 Conference reaffirms the dedication of the Scottish Liberal Democrats to improving the well-  
2 being of individuals belonging to stigmatised and marginalised groups, as reflected in  
3 motions on mental health and drugs policy in recent years.

4 Conference notes with concern:

5 That sexual assault can leave victims with severe, lasting, negative impacts on both their  
4 personal well-being and their wider interaction with society.

5 That sexual assault is one of the few forms of criminality in Scotland for which recorded  
6 offences are on the rise.

7 That sex workers are among those in our society who are at greatest risk of sexual and other  
8 assault.

9 The alarming actions of Police Scotland in raiding Edinburgh's licensed saunas and the threat to the  
10 future safety of Scotland's sex workers if current law continues to be enforced.

11 The worrying level of support expressed for Rhoda Grant MSP's failed  
12 bill seeking to make it a criminal offence to purchase sex in Scotland.

13 Conference further notes:

14 Evidence from Sweden, where the purchase of sex has been criminalised, that sex workers have  
15 been further marginalised and endangered as a result.

16 Evidence from New Zealand, where sex work has been decriminalised, demonstrating a much  
17 improved relationship with the police and greater protection from exploitation.

18 The welcome and dramatic improvement in relations between Merseyside police and local sex  
19 workers since attacks on sex workers have been classed as hate crimes.

20 The extremely limited to non-existent availability of sexual psychology services on the NHS in  
21 different parts of Scotland.

22 Conference believes:

23 Any attempts to legislate on sex work should be very careful to consider the diversity of sex work  
24 conditions, and the opinions of sex workers and their clients.

25 Current law is failing in its duty to protect sex workers from crime and ensure justice when crimes  
26 against sex workers are committed.

27 Those who pay for sexual services, rather than being viewed as criminal adversaries, would be  
28 better engaged as allies in the fight against non consensual sexual exploitation.

29 Not enough is being done to tackle the combination of poverty and addiction that motivates many of  
30 those sex workers who would prefer not be engaged in sex work.

31 Greater availability of sexual psychology services on the NHS could help prevent sexual assaults,  
32 reduce the trauma suffered by victims, and enable sex work clients to develop healthier attitudes  
33 and behaviour.

34 Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

35 Commission an investigation of decriminalisation and legalisation examples from international  
36 experience with a view to implementing evidence-based policy which will best protect sex workers  
37 from violence and other crime.

38 Develop a targeted campaign encouraging those who pay for sex to report suspicions of sex

- 39 workers being victims of trafficking or other forms of coercion.  
40 Designate crime against sex workers as hate crime.  
41 Make available heroin-assisted recovery clinics for those sex workers who are addicted to heroin  
42 and wish to leave sex work.  
43 Ensure that appropriate sexual psychology services are freely available and accessible to those that  
44 need them in all regions of Scotland.

**Votes:**

*Reference back to be heard*

*Motion is referenced back to Policy committee*

**Liberal Democrats & Party Awards**

- Rae Michie Quaich (recruitment) – East Dumbartonshire local party
- SWLD Quaich (diversity) – Helen Watt
- Robin McSkimming Award (community support) – Audrey Finlay
- Russell Johnstone Trophy (Conference speech) – James Oates, Other Europe (Estonia)
- Sheila Tennant Award (LYS Member) – David Green
- John Morrison Award (local government) – Fiona Risk