

Scottish Liberal Democrats – Virtual Spring Conference 2021

Friday 5th March 2021

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Poll 1. Do you like carrots? – 83.6% like carrots so I'm guessing 16.4% don't

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10:10 SC1: Removing Homeopathy from the NHS

Submitted by: the Scottish Young Liberals

Mover: Andrew Reynolds

Summator: Jack Clark

Conference notes the 2010 House of Commons Science and Technology Committee report on homeopathy which affirms that homeopathic remedies perform no better than placebos and was based on principles which are “scientifically implausible.”

Conference further notes that:

a) The fundamental principles of homeopathy are that further dilution of a substance increases its potency, a process called “succussion”, and that “like cures like” (e.g. consuming something stinging shall cure a sting). Homeopathy originates from Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843), and his views are in opposition to the most basic fundamentals of understood chemistry and biology.

b) It is the view of the ex-Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Dame Sally Davies that homeopathy is unproductive in helping patients.

c) Homeopathy prescriptions have been blacklisted by the Department of Health for NHS England.

d) That a legal challenge by the British Homeopathic Association to overturn plans to ban the prescription of homeopathic treatments was rejected by the High Court of Justice.

e) That the NHS England Chief Executive, Simon Stevens, welcomed the High Court ruling, stating, “there is no robust evidence to support homeopathy which is at best a placebo and a misuse of scarce NHS funds.”

Conference therefore calls on the Scottish Government to:

1. End the prescription of homeopathy in NHS Scotland, to be in line with NHS England.

2. Make a firm commitment to individual choice, in that homeopathy can still be purchased privately by individuals, but not at the expense of the NHS Scotland

Cards

Move: Andrew Reynolds, Central Scotland, called

Sum Up: Jack Clark, Highland, called

Eileen McCartin, Paisley and Renfrewshire, called

John Waddell, Aberdeenshire West, called

David Gregg, Highland, withdrawn

Malcolm Wood, Edinburgh West, called

Jennifer Boag, Inverclyde, called

Caron Lindsay, West Lothian, called

Sheila Thomson, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called

Votes

Motion carried : Poll – 74% in favour, 26% against

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11:05 SC2: Business and Employment – now and for the future

Submitted by: Policy Committee

Mover: Julia Brown

Summator: Katy Gordon

Conference notes the policy paper Business and Employment – Now and for the Future from the Policy Committee.

In particular conference notes:

A. Scotland’s economic performance was declining prior to 2020, and COVID-19 has resulted in an additional fall of more than 20% since March;

B. That, after years of division over referendums and the shock of the pandemic, business seeks greater certainty to face the future;

C. The serious costs borne by all in society, but particularly by the young, during the pandemic;

D. The pandemic hit many different sectors of the economy, and has highlighted the importance of many that have been neglected.

Conference believes that the overall approach and specific proposals made in Business and Employment – Now and for the Future present the steps to put recovery first for business and employment, and contain the recognition that the challenges of the last 12 months will not be the landscape of the future.

Conference calls on the Scottish Government to build greater business confidence and position Scotland as the most business friendly and supportive community in Europe by action to:

1. Reform business rates to take the burden off high street retailers;
2. Restart the cross-party process to replace the unfair council tax that has been left dangling by the SNP for 14 years;
3. Overhaul public sector procurement policies to ensure they support local suppliers, Micro-bidders, fair employment practices and take note of the level of state aids in Non-Scottish bids;
4. Address the major geographic communication inequities, with utility companies, landowners and planners incentivised to deliver significant progress by 2023;
5. Empower local business growth partnerships to work directly with businesses and communities to allocate funding coupled with support in a rapid and efficient manner;
6. Ensure the mission for Scottish National Investment Bank is much more ambitious and diverse;
7. Support the development of a “Made in Scotland” quality standard to support consumer choice and aid exports;
8. Launch a consultation on how to support local retailers to maximise the opportunities around on-line retail and to reduce the environmental impact of deliveries;
9. Provide specialist low carbon advice free of charge to businesses on how to minimise the impact of their work on the environment.

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Conference further calls on the Scottish Government to support people to up-skill and access work experience, and develop Scotland’s reputation as the most highly skilled, adaptable workforce in Europe by action to:

10. Provide funding for a training bond coupled to careers advice that can be used to support people of all ages to pay for further skills development throughout their career;
11. Expand the apprenticeship programme with colleges, universities and businesses to enable more young people to access places, particularly in target sectors such as low carbon, care, education and artificial intelligence;
12. Support those who have unconventional CVs to build a recognised career passport;
13. Develop a national accredited internship programme for graduates to include short term, “bite sized” placements with Scotland’s SMEs.
14. Make the commitment to Equal Pay for equal level of work across the public sector and its suppliers

Conference calls on the Scottish Government to Increase support for business sectors that have demonstrated their value during COVID-19 through action to:

15. Encourage enterprise agencies to recognise the value (beyond traditional economic measures) of more diverse sectors such as care and education;
16. Encourage enterprise agencies to value and support more small and micro businesses, taking account of local community impacts;
17. Encourage support of businesses beyond the start-up phase to include expansion, collaboration and diversification;
18. Include measures within direct support from government agencies to enable more employee and community ownership of businesses particularly when the government divests equity;
19. Develop a centre of excellence for carbon capture and efficient energy generation;
20. Change support of land owners and managers to stimulate innovation, diversification and support new entrants.

Cards

Mover: Julia Brown, Perth, called

Sum Up: Katy Gordon, East Dunbartonshire, called

Sally Pattle, West Lothian Liberal Democrats, called

Christine Jardine, Edinburgh West, called

Thomas Prag, Highland, called

Jane Alliston, Edinburgh West, called

Galen Milne, Stirling and Clackmannanshire, called

Votes

Motion carried : Poll – 99% in favour, 1% against

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11:40 Speech by Hakima El Haite, President, Liberal International

12:00 EM1 Tailored lets for local needs

Mover: Jake Stevenson

Summator: Troy Davidson

Conference notes:

- 1) MSPs on the Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee voted in favour of creating a national licensing scheme to give councils new powers to tackle problems caused by the rapid growth of Airbnb-style holiday lets.
- 2) On February 18th the Scottish Government withdrew this legislation. This could delay the implementation of a scheme until 2022.
- 3) This scheme was proposed in response to concerns that the growth of short-term lets is pushing up rent levels for other properties. Residents in some popular tourist destinations have also raised concerns over increased litter, noise and anti-social behaviour.
- 4) In response to questions from some MSPs about how the scheme would work in practice, the Scottish Government has said that it will seek additional guidance before proceeding with legislation, meaning that it will now not be introduced until the next parliamentary term.
- 5) Scotland is in the midst of a housing crisis, with few opportunities for young people and first time buyers to purchase a home.
- 6) At the end of January, 25 third sector organisations such as Shelter and Crisis came together to highlight the housing crisis, and called on the Scottish Government to commit to building at least 53,000 new affordable homes between 2021 and 2026, including a minimum of 37,100 for social rent.

Conference believes that:

- 1) A national licensing scheme for short-term lets would provide more opportunities for first time buyers to purchase a home, as it would limit the number of properties that landlords can buy to convert into short term lets.
- 2) This would also offer councils the opportunity to turn more new build homes into social housing.
- 3) Licensing would enable stricter legal requirements on owners of short term lets to provide safer accommodation during the let.
- 4) Scotland's housing crisis must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Conference calls for the next Scottish Government to:

- 1) Bring forward legislation to create a national licensing scheme for short-term lets.
- 2) Ensure that housing for long term accommodation continues to be a priority.
- 3) Continue to support the tourism industry in its recovery.

Cards

Move: Jake Stevenson, Central Scotland, called

Sum Up: Troy Davidson, Central Scotland, called

Alan Reid, Argyll & Bute, called

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Paul McGarry, Central Scotland, called
Stephen Harte, North East Edinburgh & Leith, called
Rebecca Bell, North East Edinburgh & Leith, called
Bruce Wilson, North East Edinburgh & Leith, called

Votes

Motion carried : Poll – 51% in favour, 49% against

12:45 Fringes

14:00 Panel: COVID-19

14:45 Speech by Sir Ed Davey

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15:00 SC3: Land reform for thriving rural communities

Submitted by: Highland Liberal Democrats

Mover: Molly Nolan

Summator: John Waddell

Conference notes that:

- i. Scotland still has one of the most concentrated land ownership patterns in the world, with over half of Scotland's rural land owned by an estimated 432 landowners.
- ii. Lack of land reform is frequently cited as the biggest barrier to building the housing required to address the rural housing crisis.
- iii. The Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated the housing crisis affecting Scottish communities, particularly in the Highlands and Islands, where demand for housing has soared; and in the North East, where the oil and gas downturn has led to a significant decline in the local economy.
- iv. Average Scottish house prices rose from £113,289 in 2004 to £181,339 in 2019, well above the average increase in earnings. The Highlands have seen an even sharper rise, with prices increasing from £107,639 in 2004 to £185,178 in 2019, while the Western Isles have seen a rise from £65,189 in 2004 to £123,048 in 2019.
- v. Average house prices in rural parts of Scotland have risen even higher since the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, leading to fears of "economic clearances" as local residents are outbid by buyers from across the UK and beyond.

Conference recalls that the Liberal Democrat preamble states our Party's support for "the widest possible distribution of wealth."

Conference believes that:

- A. Reforming land ownership, usage and taxation in Scotland will contribute to a fairer society and a fairer economy.
- B. Hyper-concentrated land ownership and absentee property ownership have become corrosive problems across the entirety of Scotland.
- C. Scotland urgently requires a coherent strategy on the ownership and use of land which incorporates human rights and public interest to provide widespread opportunities for ownership of land amongst individuals, community organisations and businesses.
- D. A new land reform strategy should put communities at its heart, strengthening community rights and ensuring that the management of such assets is administered by locally based democratic governance structures.
- E. The Scottish Government's existing land reform policies do not go far enough to ensure that young people and families are supported to remain in their communities in adulthood. The severe shortage of housing stock in rural areas of Scotland is exacerbated by the lack of available land for building new homes, and ongoing delays in acquiring such land continues to force people into relocating to urban population centres.
- F. Depopulation in the Gàidhealtachd, driven by a lack of housing and jobs for young people, has led to the near collapse of Gaelic-speaking communities. Comprehensive land reform and community-

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driven affordable housing initiatives are crucial to ensuring the sustainability of these communities and the broader revival of the language.

G. Greater powers must be given to local communities to resolve their unique longstanding issues and concerns which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Conference calls on the Scottish Government to:

1. Replace property-based council tax with a locally administered land value tax, encouraging a more proportional system of taxation and fairer use of land.
2. Expand the Scottish Land Fund to facilitate further community ownership across Scotland, empowering sustainable communities to repopulate.
3. Prioritise land acquisition for communities by developing a localised service to assist self-builders and communities in securing land to meet housing demand, coordinating with local authorities, landowners and housing associations.
4. Institute a First Time Builders Fund, modelled on the Scottish Government's First Home Fund, to support population growth in rural areas where there is no existing housing stock available for purchase.
5. Extend and expand the Rural Housing Fund and the Islands Housing Fund, in addition to reducing barriers for communities to access the funds in a timely manner.
6. Give the Scottish Land Commission the power to legally enforce the voluntary Rights and Responsibilities Protocols that govern the relationship between landowners and communities, similar to the mandatory Codes of Practice overseen by the Tenant Farming Commissioner.
7. Afford rural communities enhanced consultation and consideration by public bodies by prioritising legislation similar to the Islands Act 2018, to ensure that the unique challenges facing rural communities in mainland Scotland are addressed with local input.

Cards

Move: Molly Nolan, Highland, called

Sum Up: John Waddell, Aberdeenshire West, called

Ross Stalker, Paisley & Renfrewshire, called, request for separate vote

Sheila Ritchie, Aberdeenshire, called

Caron Lindsay, West Lothian, called

Thomas Prag, Highland, called

Votes

Separate Vote on lines 49/50 (conference calls for 1.) - 66% to retain, 34% to remove – lines are retained

Motion carried : Poll – 97% in favour, 3% against

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15:55 Panel: Federalism

16:15 Q&A with Willie Rennie

17:00 Fringes

18:00 'In Conversation' with Christine Jardine and Luciana Berger

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Saturday 6th March 2021

10:00 Party Business Meeting

Accounts: presented

Policy Report: presented

Diversity: presented

No votes were taken to accept these reports

10:30 SC4: Building accessible mental health services, and tackling workforce barriers

Submitted by: Policy Committee

Mover: Jane Alliston

Summator: Rebecca Bell

Conference notes:

A. Scottish Liberal Democrat success in raising mental health awareness and pushing for improved service provision;

B. Mental health, exacerbated by the pandemic, and after years of neglect of services, needs a multi-pronged approach to help overall recovery from the impact of Covid-19;

C. The Scottish Government's mental health strategy was years late, short of ambition and has already fallen behind schedule. This exposes:

- Our young people: Waiting times for the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) remain stubbornly high, with waits of over a year endured by hundreds of young people, and we are still waiting for much of the implementation of the 2019 Task Force report into Children and People's mental health services;

- Our public services: The police service reports that the level of mental health-related demand has outstripped the national force's capacity and professional ability;

- The NHS: The number of psychiatrists training in the CAMHS specialism is only the same as it was five years ago; 1 in 8 positions in CAMHS are unfilled.

D. The government does not know how many trained counsellors there are in Scotland today or how many are undergoing training; rough estimates are 3500 and only a small percentage are trained to work with young people;

E. Further education pathways to train more counsellors are limited in number and do not qualify new counsellors to work with children and young people, causing a workforce shortfall in schools;

F. Barriers to entry to becoming a qualified counsellor include the hundreds of hours of unpaid work in counselling settings which, added to the cost of training courses, tend to restrict entry to the profession to those people who have well-paid previous careers, despite the benefits that would be brought by a larger, more diverse workforce;

G. The family, in all its diversity, is an integral element when building and repairing mental health resilience;

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H. Often mental health services are reliant on third sector provision with only a short term funding commitment from government. Of the 2018/19 health budget only 8.3% was spent on mental health;

I. The Scottish Government cancelled training for mental health first-aiders during the pandemic despite similar courses continuing to run elsewhere .

Conference believes:

a. Good mental health is important to allow people to achieve their potential in any liberal society;

b. Poor mental health damages the life chances of individuals, harms businesses through lost productivity and weakens communities; both prevention and early intervention are key tools to improve this;

c. An urgent task for recovery from the pandemic is to make sure there is a bigger, more diverse, trained and paid mental health workforce in the community, and the key to that is more counsellors to complement the work of clinical psychologists and psychiatrists;

d. The COVID pandemic reduced the ability to travel and confirmed the need, expressed in the motion A New Model of Health Provision Fit for Remote and Rural Areas passed in 2017, for a new model of NHS provision that builds capacity and services in local communities;

e. While Scottish Liberal Democrats persuaded the Scottish Government to recruit extra staff, including those to be based in schools, A&E departments, GP practices and police stations, the numbers proposed by ministers are inadequate to the task;

f. Ensuring an effective school counselling service for every pupil in Scotland requires urgent training and recruitment now, given one in ten young people require the service during their school careers;

g. New services need to be offered to young people, and their families, to allow them to access in-community support, building on the pilot in East Renfrewshire where there was a 93% improvement in outcomes for children after referral by the GP, and a consistent appointment attendance rate of 99%;

h. Mental health first-aiders are trained to help prevent crisis situations and should be a normal part of every workplace and community hub.

Conference calls for the Scottish Government to take action to :

1. Make every health contact count, by using existing staff to assess mental health needs quickly and signpost appropriately, with service accessibility enhanced by providing counsellors available to GP practices, and by supporting the third sector's provision of resources;

2. Support and include families when needed with new service innovations such as in community support hubs, and use of technology to ensure equality of access wherever people live;

3. Increase the number of training places for psychiatrists and clinical psychologists, especially those specialising in CAMHS services;

4. Work with the relevant professional bodies to add the counselling profession into NHS workforce planning and into the NHS pay and grading systems, to allow government to utilise the existing workforce and offer a career path to new entrants;

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5. Expand the trained counselling workforce with new routes to train, with more courses running to open doors to people from diverse backgrounds, and with new bursaries to widen access;
6. Adopt a commitment to rebalanced and fully resourced mental health services, by setting targets of 15% of any increase in health spend directed towards mental health services;
7. Restart mental health first aid training and aspire to provide a trained first-aider across every business and community hub through increased training capacity and the wide promotion of the benefits.

Cards

Move: Jane Alliston, Edinburgh West, called

Sum Up: Rebecca Bell, Edinburgh North East and Leith, called

Alison Simpson, Banff & Buchan, called

Conrad Wood, Aberdeenshire East, called

Susan Murray, East Dunbartonshire, called

Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh West, called

Caron Lindsay, West Lothian, called

Votes

Motion carried Nem Con : Poll – 100% in favour, 0% against

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11:15 TM1: Decentralisation and Recovery

Submitted by: Policy Committee

Decentralisation, subsidiarity and local decision-making are topics close to the hearts of Liberal Democrats.

Decentralisation was raised countless times during the policy roadshow events held with local party members last summer to help prepare the manifesto. Members were angry and frustrated that the current Scottish Government seems ever more intent on taking power to the centre.

As we approach the election campaign, the Policy Committee has asked to hear the views of members once again. They want to hear practical stories from the pandemic, perhaps where members have helped support local services and innovation.

What examples can we put in our manifesto to bring our demand for decentralisation to life?

Can we make recovery from the pandemic faster if we use local knowledge and decision making on economic development for example? How can local power be used to make that happen?

It must be more than a mantra. We should identify where centralisation has caused problems and where local decisions have proved better. Can we show that recovery will be faster and stronger if decisions are taken locally?

This topical motion is an opportunity for all members to contribute to the discussion. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cards

Move: Carole Ford, Glasgow City, called

Sum Up: Thomas Prag, Highland, called

Andrew Emmerson, Shetland, called

Peter Barrett, Perth and Kinross, called

Sally Pattle, West Lothian Liberal Democrats, called

Fred Mackintosh, South Edinburgh, called, not available

11:45 Speech by Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

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12:00 SC5: Ending Homelessness in Scotland

Submitted by: Policy Committee

Mover: Carole Ford

Summator: Carole Ford

Conference notes the policy report Ending Homelessness in Scotland from the Policy Committee.

In particular conference notes:

A. During the Covid-19 lockdown the Scottish Government managed to immediately find shelter for every homeless person in Scotland;

B. The Homelessness (Scotland) Act of 2003 which has an aim of ensuring that by 2012 everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless would be entitled to permanent accommodation has not fulfilled its objective.

Conference believes, as set out in the Policy Committee report Ending Homelessness In Scotland, that:

a) Everyone in Scotland has the right to have a roof over their head;

b) The current way that we are tackling homelessness in Scotland is not working and needs to radically change;

c) The Housing First model is the way to tackle Scotland's urgent homeless problem, whereby solutions to a person's social and health problems is not a pre-condition for organising secure accommodation;

d) A Rapid Rehousing strategy is required to prevent homelessness becoming a fact of life for many people, and available housing should be accessible for people who are in danger of losing their current accommodation.

Conference calls for the Scottish Government to consider the detailed proposals within the report Ending Homelessness in Scotland and to:

1. End rough sleeping immediately;

2. Commit to increase support in order to enable a quicker transition to a Housing First and Rapid Rehousing system, working towards the end of homelessness in Scotland;

3. Support a plan to build at least the 37,100 new homes for social rent in the next five years as recommended by Shelter;

4. Change, on a temporary basis, funding for emergency homeless accommodation to make it a national responsibility, not a local authority one, returning responsibility to local authority level once the current crisis in numbers has been abated;

5. Conduct an urgent review of the reasons properties are left vacant, to assess the steps needed to bring more of them into use, with the specific aim of increasing the housing supply, and to make any necessary changes to planning regulations to allow this to happen;

6. Endorse a commitment to a no eviction policy for asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants whose rights are exhausted.

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Cards

Move: Carole Ford, Glasgow City, called

Sum Up: Paul McGarry, Central Scotland, called

Andrew Emmerson, Shetland, called

Peter Barrett, Perth, called

Jill Reilly, Edinburgh North and Leith, called

Kevin Lang, Edinburgh North and Leith, called

Votes

Sep Vote to retain lines 27-29 (Calls for 4) Retain 35.5%. Remove 64.5%, clause is removed

Motion as amended Carried : Poll – 100% in favour, 0% against

12:45 Fringes

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14:00 SC6: Pre-Manifesto

Submitted by: Policy Committee

Mover: Willie Rennie

Summator: Rosemary Bruce

Put Recovery First

Conference accepts Put Recovery First – the Pre-Manifesto of the Scottish Liberal Democrats and calls for it to be combined with additional points of detail, further proposals made at conference, further relevant provisions to tackle the pandemic, and with up-to-date budget and economic forecasts, to be the basis for the manifesto for the 2021 Scottish Parliament elections.

Cards

Move: Liam McArthur, Orkney, called

Sum Up: Rosemary Bruce, Aberdeenshire West, called

Katy Gordon, East Dunbartonshire, called

Michael Crichton, Dundee, called

Caron Lindsay, West Lothian, called

Fred Mackintosh, South Edinburgh, called

David Gregg, Highland, called

Votes

Motion carried : Poll – 100% in favour, 0% against

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14:55 EM2 Funding the Recovery

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain MP

Summator: Councillor Peter Barrett

Conference notes

1. that since coming to power, the SNP government has
 - a. Established a trend of cutting local authority budgets and centralising public services at great detriment to local communities.
 - b. undermined the ability of local councils to deliver services and respond to the needs of their communities through successive real terms cuts to core funding.
2. Since the beginning of the Covid lockdown in March last year, local authorities have played a critical role in administering public support through support grants and public services.
3. The Scottish Government does not cover the costs incurred by councils administering the Scottish Welfare Fund and that none of the uplift money, or subsequent financial insecurity funding, provided during the Covid pandemic could be used for Scottish Welfare Fund administration.
4. Scottish Government funding announcements for 2021/22 indicate a return to pre-pandemic levels for the Scottish Welfare Fund, showing that there will be no uplift to account for the impact of pandemic in terms of awards or administrative funding.

Conference believes:

- Successive cuts to local authority funding have left Scotland in a worse position to deal with the pandemic emergency than if the Scottish Government had properly funded local authorities.
- That local authorities will play an invaluable and irreplaceable role in supporting the recovery after the pandemic, as they have supported local communities through it.

Conferences calls for the Scottish Government to

1. Maintain eligibility and levels of payment available from the Scottish Welfare Fund through the £22m pandemic uplift.
2. Fully fund Councils administration costs for the Scottish Welfare Fund.

Cards

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain MP, North East Fife, called
Sum Up: Councillor Peter Barrett, Perth, called, called
AC (Adrian) May, Tweeddale Ettrick & Lauderdale, called
Rosemary Bruce, Aberdeenshire West, called
Jacqui Bell, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called
Gordon Adam, Highland, called

Votes

Motion carried: Poll – 99% in favour, 1% against

15:30 Speech by Willie Rennie MSP

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15:50 SC7: The Future of Adult Social Care

Submitted by: Policy Committee

Mover: Susan Murray

Summator: Jacquie Bell

Conference notes

A. The publication of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care which examined the future of care for older people and disabled people;

B. The review's recommendations relating to better service for care users, fairer pay and conditions for care workers, and a move to a national governance structure;

C. The concerns of disabled people that previous legislation such as the Carers Act and the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act have not worked sufficiently well to give them a system based on their human rights which allows each individual to achieve their goals.

Conference believes:

a. There should be a step change in social care so that it is provided on a human rights basis, guaranteed for everyone, and be considered a normal part of life that merits investment to allow people to achieve their goals and secure their wellbeing, and that a preventative approach should be championed;

b. Such a step change is the key to improving the quality of life for social care users and implementation should begin now through existing systems and should not be delayed by a need to create new organisations to deliver it;

c. The social care workforce should be respected for the work they do and be afforded a nationally agreed and mandatory fair work package;

d. That centralisation has not delivered the benefits promised for other public services, and the loss of local democratic accountability is a risk to care service users.

Conference calls for Liberal Democrats in the Scottish Parliament to work towards:

1. A step change in the experience of care users and care workers as described by the independent review;

2. The building of a new national consensus that social care should be provided on a human rights basis;

3. The setting of national care service standards to achieve the aims in 2, with the funding put in place to meet those standards, and effective complaint resolution for those people whose services do not meet the standards;

4. National standards and local commissioning to involve disabled people and other care users, and be informed by local experience of unmet needs, as highlighted by the independent review;

5. Changes to value the social care workforce better, including a requirement that any care service by any provider must comply with fair work requirements which are set nationally, and all staff should have nationally agreed pay, terms of employment, and career progression;

6. Changes to enable care workers, through collective bargaining, to establish the matters in 5 and to help shape the service;

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7. Include within the reforms changes to the way care services operate to allow carers to build relationships and trust with care users, moving away from narrow task-based contracts;
8. Scrapping charges for care services delivered at home, encouraging more support for people to stay in their homes if they choose;
9. Recognise unpaid carers with better support for respite for them, and the ability for them to continue to work;
10. Transparency in the finances of the care sector and limits on the amount of profits that can be taken out of the care sector.

Conference does not support the creation of a National Care Service as set out in the Independent review of Adult Social Care because of the concerns listed below, and calls for the new resources and new human rights approach to social care to be provided through integrated local services, governed locally, involving care users, to national care standards:

- i. The proposals risk the local innovation that improves services and respond to local needs;
- ii. The proposals risk building delay into the changes needed;
- iii. People should not lose their right to ask their locally elected representative to resolve problems;
- iv. The proposals threaten to fragment the social work profession;
- v. The proposals jeopardise the independence of the Care Inspectorate by making it part of the governance of the National Care Service and also its inspector;
- vi. The previous centralisation of Police Scotland left an organisation in the financial red and caused the loss of thousands of skilled support staff.

Cards

Move: Susan Murray, East Dunbartonshire, called
Sum Up: Jacquie Bell, North Edinburgh East and Leith, called
Robert Brown, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called
Luca Allen, Liberal democrats, called
Jacci Stoyale, Inverclyde, called
Catriona Bhatia, Borders, called
Katy Gordon, East Dunbartonshire, called
David McKenzie, Glasgow Kelvin, called

Votes

Motion carried : Poll – 99% in favour, 1% against

16:30 Thank You and Party Awards

Award	For	Recipient
The Helen Watt Quaich*	Diversity	Caron Lindsay
The Sheila Tennant award	SYL member	Molly Nolan
The John Morrison award	Local Government	Liz Barrett
The Russell Johnston Trophy	Speech to Conference	Paul McGarry
The Ray Michie Quaich	Membership	East Kilbride
The Robbie Simpson award	Service to the party over many years	Derek Barrie

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**(as was SWLD)*