

Full NCG

Agenda

6/3/2021

Staff: (names of staff in attendance)

Ollie Hill, Andrew Dolan, Craig Lloyd (seconded from FBU)

Participation: (names of NCG members in attendance)

Andrew Scattergood, Mick Moore, Phil Clarke, Alan Gibbons, Barry Gray, Carol Turner, Gaya Sriskanthan, Deborah Hermanns, Darran McLaughlin, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Jackie Owen, Jon Trickett, Mish Rahman, Rory MacLean, Shona Jemphrey, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Abbie Clark, Ana Oppenheim, Craig Anderson, Sarah Doyle,

Later in the meeting: Emina Ibrahim

Apologies: Solma Ahmed, Callum Bell, Liz Smith, Matt Wrack, John Taylor

Item1: Apologies/Matters Arising (5 mins) (10:00-10:05)

No AOB items for the agenda. No matters arising.

Item 2: Co-Chairs Report (10 mins) (10:05-10:15)

AS: Political situation still bleak. Difficult times not just for Labour members, but for the wider country. Tory budget punishes the working class. No financial reward for frontline workers. Lack of opposition for Labour leadership. Jon and members of the SCG standing up to the Tories, but in isolation, from the backbench. The polling is diabolical. Looking v concerning for a future Labour government of any form possibly ever again. AGMs taken over by regional offices, run badly and in benefit to the right of the party. Regional Labour Party in

poor finances. Big donations aren't coming in. Everything is pointing to a bad result in May.. Momentum is in a good position though. Recent work has been on strategy document and it's brilliant. Much needed contribution to the left. Staff's ideas of how to grow Momentum etc v positive. Trade Union Network is in consultation with TUs and there's a lot of excitement and good work going on there. With factors such as the derisory NHS pay offer, the Momentum TU network could play a key role mobilising our activists, supporting members and amplifying their voices. This is what we've seen lacking. Everything's that been thrown at the left, we're still here, we're still organising, we're still holding on and making gains. FYI

GS: Main focus of last few weeks has been Women's Committee negotiations. First time in decades Labour is electing a Women's Committee, to be elected by delegates at conference and sit for two years. So v important in setting tone and focus for women over the next couple of years.

TK: 1% offer to NHS staff has been met with resistance - this is an opportunity for us. The narrative is changing around austerity. If we don't step into that space, someone else will. We need to link left TU activists around this cause, but also dovetail into narrative that all workers need a new deal.

AS: This was discussed at Comms WG yesterday, and there is an emergency motion being proposed that we will hear. Will ask AD and CL to lead on thinking on this quite quickly, early next week.

JT: Left of the labour movement need to move fast on this before the Tories reverse it, rather

BG: This coming year there will be a £16 billion cut in finance for public services (£12bn announced last November and an extra £4bn in the budget). That is a cut of approximately 5% of what government spends on public services. So we are facing austerity attacks on public services that aren't spoken about by the Tories or the Labour Party frontbench. In addition council taxes will rise this year by £2bn - forcing more costs onto council taxpayers. We must challenge the narrative that everything's getting better, because it is not true.

AS: Probably more detail in emergency motion that's been proposed. Agreement that we must have a response quickly. Will be an update about the TU network by the next NCG.

SJ: Propose an emergency meeting of the Covid WG this weekend if people are available.

CA: Scottish government have indicated the 1% is interim, so v likely Sturgeon will reverse this to win favour with public.

Item 3: Officers Report (10 mins) (10:15-10:25)

SB: Discussed candidates for NCC. Support Rheanne Davis. Agreed to support Right to Food Campaign, headed by Ian Byrne. Set of candidates for Young Labour equality strands. Funding pot for local groups. Looking at funding support for suspended members. Support for Vaccines for All campaign. Vaccines regardless of immigration status. Discussion over Covid campaign at Comms group. Initiatives were proposed.

RM asked about local funding pot.

SB confirmed there is a paper.

Item 4: COVID working group report (Shona) (10 mins) (10:25-10:35)

SJ- Meeting weekly. Briefing sheet being prepared. Some discussion on the Zero Covid title for the campaign. A resource on privatisation of the NHS to raise with councils.

CA- Employers may start exerting force to take vaccination.

SJ- Possible emergency meeting this weekend.

PC- We should be recommending the taking of the vaccine. We have to focus beyond Covid at austerity. The NEU fears we could be back in a mess. Time to keep the powder dry and see how it develops. Pull back on full school opening if it is going badly.

Item 5: Local government working group report (Shona) (10 mins) (10:35-10:45)

SJ- Relaunched candidate network. Second meeting last week. Training section each month. Possibly open sessions to wider membership. FB group to be set up to share ideas. Meeting on March 15 for policy platform.

AS- Local government will be in the front line. We need to support candidates who share our politics.

Item 6: Membership working group report (Deborah) (10 mins) (10:45-10:55)

DH- Policy primary going well. 70 motions. 24 local groups and unaffiliated groups taking part. Compositing underway, contacting local groups. Does sign off need to go to the Officers' Group?

AS- We said there would be a special NCG to sign off. Is it acceptable to do this at the Officers' Group?

JO- It should come to the NCG.

DH- Rule change group has examined suspensions, elected General Secretary, constraints of three year rule and other issues. Thanks to RGW. Phone banking to contact CLPs across the country about AGMs. Appeal to join phone banking sessions. Refounding with local groups all the team. New groups in a number of areas. To clarify, members will have the deciding vote on the motions process.

Vote: by 78% to 24% the process will go to the Officers' Group.

Item 7: Election of Momentum Delegates to CLGA (Sonali) (20 mins) (10:55-11:15)

SB- Mick Moore has been attending CLGA. Propose that we have a small pool of delegates to extend relationships with the wider Left. Five members.

MM- we need to engage in a more profound series of discussions with other organisations on the Left.

AG- Offered to join the group. With the Left under attack, we need to engage fully.

JO- queried the number.

SB- A reasonable number to share the load.

AS- Two out of the five would attend each time.

CA- We need report backs on CLGA meetings. Onus on the five to come back to the NCG and build the relationship. There isn't another collective. We need to build trust if there are issues.

AS- This will give a clearer mandate. Suggest we have updates at the NCG.

GS- Between meetings the Officers' Group will have oversight.

AS- Are five willing? DH, AG, SB, TH, MM. The group was accepted without opposition.

Item 8: Leadership development programme (Deborah (Rachel/Santi) (20 mins)
(11:15-11:35)

DH- Document was not shared in advance due to oversight. The idea of the programme is one part of wider political education and training, developing core activists. This is to develop their strategic skills and theoretical knowledge. Three schools for 15 activists in different locations. A weekend in the summer. In future years, it could be on a bigger scale. A lot of feedback in consultation. Some queried the project. Working group to work with TK.

AS- Suggest vote after dinner so people can read the document.

AD- We lack an intermediate layer of skilled activists. The long term viability depends on that middle layer.

MR- Supportive of the paper. Post graduation can fail the programme. That is important.

PC- Usually doesn't like such titles, but convinced after attending meeting and hearing AD. Won over. It looks good.

Item 9: Political education on racial justice (Sonali) (20 mins) (11:35-11:55)

SB- We are committed to provide more political education. After successful Trans political education, the next focus should be on racial justice and migrant rights. Self-organising and networking key. Trying to think about how to create a meaningful intervention and empower our members, black and brown members in particular. Targeted to black and brown members, but not exclusively.

Item 10: Refounding Momentum (Deborah) (20 mins) (11:55-12:15)

DH- Bring proposal to April NCG to move onto next stage of refounding. Key objectives: a key promise was to make Momentum more democratic and member-led, change the constitution and structures. Five-stage process set out in the document. Three months of assemblies. In October, proposals from the assemblies come to the NCG then a ballot of the membership and an implementation plan.

AD explained the assemblies. There is a desire for structural and constitutional change. Settled on member assembly model. We have put a middle stage into the primary process. At the current stage, in many areas groups are still getting up and running. In this interim stage, this model will be better. The role of the NCG is to manage the process to help the assemblies take change forward. At the end of the process, the NCG will have to put the constitutional changes to ballot. Then the members get to vote. There is a stage where the NCG can put counter-proposals. The final stage will be voting and a road map to delivery.

CA- I can see the intentions. In Scotland we have groups with CfS and Momentum members. Struggling to see how it could be implemented. It would be useful to share the information with the CfS executive. Could be very complex for Scotland.

AD- when it comes to Welsh and Scottish affiliates it will have to be agreed.

DH- a meeting next week could talk through the detail. Similarly meetings with the trade union affiliates. We need to take time, but it is long overdue. A lot of members don't feel they have enough say.

Additional item: Campaigns Group.

DM reported on a national housing day of action in April, which was deferred. Some members of Acorn were arrested in Oxford this week. About ten can take part in some form of action. Acorn and LRU groups are developing. Build campaign as we approach the end of the eviction freeze. We need elected representatives to amplify it.

Additional item: Comms Group.

RM- Launched local comms officers network, 37 local contacts. Training has been arranged to develop skills. Communications will have a clearer voice, a more emotional, angrier one. Good social media numbers recorded. Donations have gone well. Outperforming the Labour Party on comms. Capacity is low. Staff are working hard getting out material. CB profiled in the Huffington Post and a petition gained 3,000 signatures on the NHs. Until Tuesday, working on the policy launch.

BREAK (30 mins) (12:15-12:45)

Item 8: Leadership development programme: Agreement was given to this proposal.

Amended statement. Racial Justice.

SB presented the amended document.

CT queried 'informal committee.' Does it come back to the NCG for agreement.

SB- not appropriate for the NCG to decide when it is BAME self-organisation. Comrades welcome to attend sessions.

The document was carried.

Item 11: Cooperation with other Labour left organisations in Labour's internal elections (Barry) (30 mins) (12:45-13:15)

AS suggested this be in closed session and item 12 too. The NHS emergency motion will be taken at the end.

BG proposed a motion around the candidates for the women's national committee. There was a discussion with points made for and against. A vote was held and the motion was overwhelmingly rejected.

Item 12: Liverpool Mayoral crisis (Alan) (20 mins) (13:15-13:35)

AG proposed a motion around the current crisis in Liverpool. A discussion was held around it and a variety of suggestions made about how to move forward. A vote was held and the motion was passed; a statement will be put out by Momentum.

AOB:

Emergency motion on Austerity, NHS and Public Sector Pay

PC proposed an emergency motion on the crisis around the lack of decent pay for nurses and other public sector workers. TK had made some suggestions for what to be included in the motion.

DH agreed to second.

SB asked for some clarifications around the wording of the motion which did not seem to make sense. PC confirmed that these were typos that he would be happy to fix.

JO agreed that this is the time to attack the Tories and commented that nurses and other NHS staff are very angry.

No objections were noted to the motion.

SB and PC to put together a statement from the full NCG.

MM to make graphics around this campaign.

DH to talk to RM about putting out a video.

Covid working group to reach out to relevant groups and unions like Nurses United, and create a model motion for CLPs and other Labour Party groups.

The chair thanked everyone for their time and the meeting ended.