



## Momentum's National Coordinating Group

### Action Report (draft)

Saturday 11th March 2017



**In attendance:** Gemma Thornton, John Taylor, Nav Mishra, Elizabeth Hayden (via skype), Cecile Wright, Martin Menear, Christine Shawcroft, Puru Miah, Yannis Gourtsoyannis, Carol Turner, Jon Lansman, Barry Gray, Emine Ibrahim, Leigh Drennan, Joseph Ejiofor, Maggie Simpson, Andrew Towers (CWU observer),

**Apologies:** Liz Hames, Sahaya James, Huda Elmi, Helen McDonald, Sam Tarry, Campaign for Socialism representative

**Absent:** Rida Vaquas

**Staff in attendance:** Emma Rees, Adam Klug, Santiago Bell-Bradford, Rachel Godfrey Wood, Beth Foster-Ogg, Sophie Nazemi

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and introductions - election of chair to start the meeting
2. Establishing ways of working
3. Campaigns and activities update from 2017
4. Groups and membership update
  - 4.1 Establish and break out into regional groups and an elected officials group to formulate regional/local government outreach and development plans.
  - 4.2 Feedback on supporting and building capacity in local groups, liberation & other networks
5. Priorities moving forward
  - 5.1 Labour Party Conference Organising & Party reform
  - 5.2 Activist training and development plan
  - 5.3 Campaigns
  - 5.4 Supporting and developing liberation networks
  - 5.5 Members' Council
6. Establishing roles and responsibilities of the NCG
7. Finance & Fundraising
8. Staffing
9. Complaints policy and form panel
10. Co-options - The World Transformed
11. AOB

## 1. Welcome and introductions

- Navendu Mishra to chair the morning session.

## 2. Establishing ways of working

- Discussion and agreement that NCG meetings should be organised in the spirit of collaboration and consensus.
- **Convening meetings and setting agendas - agreed by consensus**
  - The NCG must meet at least quarterly.
  - The date of the next meet should be set at the end of each meeting (as a minimum).
  - Emergency meetings can be called (only in the case of an actual emergency, e.g. a leadership challenge or early general election) with agreement of the officers of the NCG.
  - Staff will send out a reminder email of the meeting at least 3 weeks in advance, asking for agenda items.
  - The deadline for agenda items will be 7 days ahead of the meeting.
  - The deadline for circulating the draft agenda and papers will be a minimum of 3 days ahead of the meeting.
  - If a member of the NCG is unable to attend, they should send apologies to the National Office which will be reported at the meeting.
  - Quorum is a minimum of 10 people.
- **Reporting to members - agreed by consensus**
  - The staff will produce a draft Action Report to be put up online within 3 days of the meeting. The staff will send it to the chair and vice chair (or equivalents) in advance of putting it online.
  - The NCG can approve the Action Report at the next meeting, after which it will be updated on the website to say 'agreed.'

## 3. Campaigns and activities update from 2017 - report from staff - noted by NCG

- AGMs and Labour Party Conference Organising
- Copeland and Stoke By-election Campaigning
- Anti-Trump demonstrations
- Momentum's Inaugural Conference - Building to Win
- Momentum's NHS campaign

## 4. Groups and membership update

- Members broke out into regional groups, a councillor groups and an affiliated organisation group to discuss how best to support Momentum members and groups within their divisions.

- Members reported back from each working group, including: regional representatives making regular contact with local organisers, members of Momentum being able to contact NCG members easily, NCG members committing to supporting and strengthening local activism.

## **5. Priorities moving forward**

### **5.1 Labour Party Conference Organising & Party reform**

The NCG agrees that Momentum should continue to allocate staff and volunteer time to organise for Labour Party conference, including:

- Supporting members who want to stand as delegates
- Encourage members to attend as guests
- Organising networking and briefing opportunities before and at Conference
- Supporting rule changes which help Labour become a more member-led, democratic party
- Publicising policy motions to stimulate debate in the Party
- Hosting The World Transformed fringe festival
- Promoting CLGA candidates in the National Constitutional Committee elections

### **5.2 Activist training and development plan**

The NCG noted that 'helping Labour members become more active in the Party' was voted as the second priority (after 'Campaigning for Labour victories in elections') in the members' survey at the end of 2016. It was commented that we have a huge amount of potential within the network which can be supported and nurtured through an activist and candidate training and organising programme. Momentum's Conference, Building to Win, aims to provide a launch pad for further training and capacity building initiatives.

It is agreed that it is an urgent priority to designate time and resources to developing a training and organising programme which can be rolled out across the network.

A working group is established to act on this immediately (see later in the report for details).

### **5.3 Campaigns**

The NCG commits to expanding support for the following:

- campaign for a publically owned, funded and accounted NHS and social care system
- support workers' struggles, such as the Durham Teaching Assistants, Derby Teaching Assistants and the Picturehouse Living Wage Strikes
- supporting Labour Campaign Days

#### 5.4 Supporting and developing liberation networks

The NCG notes 12.2 of Momentum's constitution states, "The NCG shall encourage and support the development of liberation networks for women, BAME, disabled and LGBT+ people, and of Youth and Student networks in which members who self-identify as being within these categories are able to self-organise."

It was agreed that members of the NCG who self-identify as belonging to a liberation group will form working groups to plan for developing liberation networks in collaboration with the nascent and developing networks. It was agreed that these working groups can co-opt additional members to support this work.

It was noted that the women's network should consider organising around LP Women's Conference.

#### 5.5 Members' Council

The NCG notes that Momentum's constitution includes a Member's Council, a body of 50 people drawn randomly by lot every 6 months, who will directly feed into developing the campaigns and activities of Momentum.

The staff proposed to convene the members council's first meeting in June, after the May elections. It was agreed that the NCG should meet before the first Member's Council.

### 6. Establishing roles and responsibilities of the NCG

It was agreed that the hallmarks of the way the NCG works should be:

- We operate in a broadly consensual manner, and celebrate our pluralism.
- Our democracy is giving our supporters the space, autonomy and support to organise for the changes they believe in.
- Our aim is maximum impact in defence of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership, in democratising the Labour Party and in winning for Labour.
- We provide the right leadership only if we get things done ourselves rather than expecting others to do things.
- We must recognise that what we say and do can hinder, embarrass or damage Momentum and Jeremy Corbyn - speak to our press team before speaking to the press.

It was agreed that the NCG should operate in the following way:

1. We **will meet at least quarterly** - which will need to be physical meetings;
2. Between full meetings, we shall **operate through a series of sub-groups or caucuses** at physical meetings, through online forums or through audio/video conferencing. Where physical meetings are held, a phone-in facility shall be provided;

3. Individual members of the NCG shall **express a preference** for the sub-group(s) in which they wish to participate subject to ratification by the NCG; caucuses shall comprise all members in that category who wish to participate.
4. The NCG shall elect a **chair and two vice-chairs** who shall share the chairing of NCG meetings, and be ex-officio members of sub-groups, **and a Treasurer**. Jon Lansman, Cecile Wright, Emine Ibrahim and Puru Miah were elected to these positions respectively.
5. The **NCG shall designate convenors of each sub-group** and the **caucuses shall elect chairs or convenors**; please see below.
6. That the NCG Chair, Vice-Chairs, Treasurer and the convenors of the three sub-groups shall constitute an **NCG Officers** group to coordinate the work of the NCG, resolve any conflicts between sub-groups in between NCG meetings, and take decisions on matters of urgency;
7. Decisions and actions of Officers' and sub-groups, and of caucuses shall be reported to the NCG;
8. All groups should also include trade union representation (who need not be a member of the NCG) and shall have a designated lead member of staff.

### Sub groups and Caucuses

#### **Resources Group**

- **To comprise:**
  - members of the NCG, based so far as possible upon their preferences, who shall have the power to coopt additional non-voting members
  - Elected Christine Shawcroft as convenor

#### **Party Reform Strategy Group**

- **To comprise:**
  - members of the NCG, based so far as possible upon their preferences, who shall have the power to coopt additional non-voting members;
  - Elected Barry Gray and Joseph Ejiofor as co-convenors (job share)

#### **Training & Organising Strategy Group**

- **To comprise:**
  - members of the NCG, based so far as possible upon their preferences, who shall have the power to coopt additional non-voting members;
  - Elected Gemma Thornton as convenor

#### **Councillor Network Group**

- **To comprise:**
  - Members of the NCG who are also Labour councillors including Leigh Drennan, Joseph Ejiofor, Emine Ibrahim, Helen McDonald, Sam Tarry

### **BAME caucus**

- **To comprise:**
  - Members of the NCG who self identify as BAME.

### **Youth & Student caucus**

- **To comprise:**
  - Members of the NCG under the age of 30.

**Caucuses** or facilitation groups (where there are insufficient members of the NCG in those categories) shall also be established in respect of **Disabled**, **LGBT**, and **Women** members.

**Regional organisation** - Conveners of regional groups should be individuals elected through the regional member representatives elections.

### **North**

Membership: Leigh Drennan, Elizabeth Hayden, Nav Mishra, John Taylor, Gemma Thornton, Co-opt from TUs and also consider further co-options to improve representation

### **Midlands & South West**

Membership: Rida Vaquas, Cecile Wright, Martin Menear, Liz Hames, Co-opt from TUs and also consider further co-options to improve representation e.g. from Bristol, and the West Mids

### **South-Eastern** (London, East & SE)

Membership: Christine Shawcroft, Yannis Gourtsoyannis, Puru Miah, Sahaya James, Joseph Ejiofor, Emine Ibrahim, Helen McDonald, Jon Lansman, Barry Gray, Huda Elmi, Carol Turner, Co-opt from TUs and also consider further co-options to improve representation e.g. from Oxford, Southampton, Brighton), and London Labour Left

**Agreement to put out statement to reflect the first NCG meeting:**

#### **Momentum Moving Forwards:**

#### **Statement from Momentum's First National Co-ordinating Group Meeting**

Momentum's National Coordinating Group (NCG) met on Saturday 11th March for the first time. It was a positive and productive day with discussions focused on how to best support Momentum's members and groups to build the movement that will elect a transformative, socialist Labour government.

The NCG's meeting was conducted entirely through healthy discussion reaching consensus decisions, with several definitive agreements that will be actioned immediately:

- 1) Organise for Labour Party Conference: invest more time and resources into helping Labour become more representative of its membership;
- 2) Activist training and organising: designate time and resources to developing a training and organising programme which can be rolled out across the network;
- 3) Set up a local councillors network: direct time and resources into building a community of

Momentum members who are councillors who can encourage and support other members to stand as local councillors;

4) Support workers' struggles: extend solidarity and raise awareness of workers' disputes, such as Derby City Teaching Assistants, Durham Teaching Assistants, Ritzy Living Wage Strike and UNISON care workers for change.

In the interest of transparency and building trust with members, a report of the actions and key decisions that arise from the NCG's meetings will be published on Momentum's website and circulated to Momentum's members via the weekly newsletter.

The NCG notes and regrets that the atmosphere in Momentum has at times been difficult over the past few months, but is confident that by working together with Momentum's activists and groups, Momentum can fulfil its potential to democratise the Labour party, re-energise politics and build the movement that can help Labour win.

The NCG hopes that Momentum's Inaugural Conference, taking place on Saturday 25th March, will be a good opportunity for activists to come together to network, share skills and get organised and that activists will leave feeling empowered, enthused and emboldened for the challenges ahead.

The NCG recognises and appreciates the incredible level of commitment and energy within Momentum's grassroots network of members and groups and looks forward to working together.

The NCG can be contacted by emailing [ncg@peoplesmomentum.com](mailto:ncg@peoplesmomentum.com).

## **7. Finance & Fundraising**

- Financial report noted and discussed
- Agreement for staff to do membership recruitment drive
- Resources working group to discuss local group financing

**8. Staffing** - A National Coordinator role is being advertised for the next three weeks. The resources working group is needed to oversee the recruitment process of a National Coordinator, followed by the implementation of a permanent staffing structure.

**9. Complaints policy and form panel** - noted and complaints panel formed

**10. Co-options** - Agreement to co-opt non voting representative from The World Transformed, other co-options to be considered at the next meeting

**11. AOB** - none raised.