

# National Coordinating Group (NCG)

**Saturday 1st July 2017**

**Action Report (Draft)**



## **1. Welcomes, apologies and aims of meeting**

**In attendance:** Jon Lansman, Cecile Wright, Christine Shawcroft, Barry Gray, Yannis Gourtsoyannis, Navendu Mishra, Elizabeth Hayden, Joe Ejiofor, Andrew Towers (CWU observer), Sahaya James, Rida Vaquas, John Taylor (Skype), Martin Cook (Skype), Leigh Drennan (on the phone for part of the meeting), Liz Hames (left at 1pm), Emine Ibrahim (arrived at 3pm)

**Staff:** Emma Rees, Santiago Bell Bradford

**Apologies:** Martin Manear, Puru Miah, Gemma Thornton, Helen McDonald, Huda Elmi, Maggie Simpson, Carol Turner, Sam Tarry

### **Aims of meeting:**

- To develop a shared analysis of the political context following the General Election and what this means for Momentum
- To agree Momentum's priorities moving forwards
- To review Momentum's governance arrangements and policies
- To develop a positive team culture

**Aims of meeting agreed.**

## **2. Agree Action Notes from previous NCG meeting and NCG Officers meetings (separate document)**

All Action Notes agreed.

## **3. Discussion/reflections on the General Election and political context**

Wide ranging discussion on the GE, including:

- Congratulating staff on effective campaign - impressive 'ground game' with training sessions, 'Campaign Weekends' and high level of mobilisation in marginal seats. Excellent use of social media reaching a third of all UK Facebook users. Lots of positive press coverage of the contribution of Momentum activists.
- Challenges ahead - including: maintaining 'momentum' and building on success, voter registration, building capacity across the movement and preparing for another election.

## **4. Activity report from staff**

## **Activity Report from Second Quarter (Q2), April - June 2017**

### **4.1 Campaigning for Labour in the General Election (GE)**

#### **Noted by NCG**

Momentum's contribution to Labour's campaign has been widely recognised and celebrated. For example:

- ['How Momentum changed British politics forever'](#)
- ['There is no unwinnable seat' - how Labour revolutionised its doorstep game](#)

Overall achievements include:

- We organised more than 50 Campaign Weekends in marginal seats
- We put on 38 training events with volunteers from the Bernie Sanders Campaign, covering every major metropolitan area and every key marginal seat.
- We used email, texts and phone-banking to mobilise to people.
- We created a marginals website with a carpool function - 'My Nearest Marginal' - which has 100,000 unique visits.
- We signed up almost 10,000 people to 'pledge the day' on polling day, knocking on 1.2 million doors on 8th June.
- We made numerous viral videos that had an incredible organic (unpaid) reach. One video was viewed 7.8 million times. During the course of the campaign, almost 1 in 3 UK Facebook users watched a Momentum video.

### **4.2 Organising for Labour Party Conference and Party Reform**

#### **Noted by NCG.**

On going work to encourage members and supporters to participate in the Labour Party and stand for conference delegate positions. Information and support available online at [http://www.peoplesmomentum.com/labour\\_organising](http://www.peoplesmomentum.com/labour_organising).

Momentum organisers will continue to build contacts with delegates and will organise delegate briefings and orienteering.

### **4.3 Activist Training Network**

#### **Noted by NCG.**

Original plans to develop an Activist Training Network were delayed/changed due to the General Election. However, Momentum organised 38 well-attended and popular training sessions on persuasion canvassing around the UK.

Additional matters arising:

→ Noted that the 'Persuasion Canvassing' training sessions were very popular and impactful in Manchester, Liverpool (and elsewhere)

#### **4.4 Improvements to our internal organisation**

**Noted by NCG.**

- Front introduced to improve response rate for general enquiries and membership admin.
- Staff team now using Slack and Trello to improve internal communication and efficiency.
- A further review of our internal systems and infrastructure is underway.

### ***Comfort break***

## **5. Momentum's priorities moving forwards**

### **5.1 Getting on a General Election Footing - agreed by the NCG**

**Proposal agreed by the NCG.**

Another General Election could be called at any time. Momentum must be prepared and will build on its successful campaigning efforts in the last GE by:

- Calling for immediate open selections for all seats without a sitting MP in preparation for a snap election, and subsequently the usual democratic processes for seats with Labour MPs, according to the Party rule book.
- Employ additional organisers and build capacity in the Organising Team to support local members who want to stand as PPCs.
- Direct additional resources, such as prioritising organising training events, to the new marginals.
- Support local groups and members to organise campaign events, outside of election time, particularly in the new marginals.
- Continue to build a network of grassroots filmmakers who will contribute to our viral video campaign to help shape the narrative around Labour as a party waiting to govern.
- Provide support and resources for local groups and members to run voter registration drives, street stalls and local events around the manifesto

- Continue to organise Activist Meet Ups in each region

## 5.2 Labour Party Conference and Party Reform

### Proposal agreed by the NCG.

Labour Party Conference 2017 must continue to be a strategic priority and Momentum should:

- Employ additional organisers to support with organising for this year's conference
- Campaign for reform which will support Labour to become a members-led party
- Hold pre-conference delegate meet-ups in every region to brief supportive delegates on how conference works, key votes and to allow delegates to meet each other and build relationships before conference
- Hold daily briefings for delegates at conference on the key business of the day
- Run a comprehensive digital operation at conference, through our texting service and social media, to give live updates and guidance on what situations as they unfold
- Have a stall in the Labour Party Conference Hall

Additional matters arising:

- We need to define objectives for the stand - exhibit Momentum's activities, promote TWT, recruit members
- NCG members should play a role in helping to coordinate activity at Conference, speaking at fringe events and supporting with delegate briefings beforehand.
- CAC and NCC campaign is a key priority for staff
- Training sessions to be organised in Scotland as a priority - Glasgow and Edinburgh

## 5.3 Activist Training Network

### Proposal agreed by the NCG.

- Momentum ran successful Activist Training sessions in persuasion canvassing during the GE, attended by nearly 3000 activists. We must now expand this training to reach more activists in our new key marginal areas, as well as develop a 'train the trainer' programme to expand capacity across Momentum's network.
- The three month mass training plan would include:
  - 1 - develop three training programmes 1) doorknocking training 2) Labour Party 101 3) Community organising basics
  - Organise three 'train the trainer' days in Manchester, London and Birmingham to teach core activists on how to teach these trainings and on basic facilitation. Deliver the doorknocking training in regional hubs close to new target areas and in target areas (for the next GE) to develop activists and local groups in these areas.
  - Develop extra sessions on 1) running a board 2) voter registration 3) engaging new members for group leaders which those who have been trained in facilitation can then deliver accordingly
- Through this we would achieve the following aims:

- Train activists in key skills - talking about politics and having persuasive conversations, basics of community organising and understanding the Labour Party.
- Develop a team of approximately 90 activists who can deliver these trainings across the country and who are trained in facilitation
- Use trainings as a tool to support struggling groups where there is internal conflict/small numbers or an absence of leadership by offering engaging workshops which will attract newer members and provide structured activity
- Develop and identify leaders through the process of the 'train the trainers' sessions
- This project will help Momentum's overall strategy in several ways:
  - Leadership development - developing community leaders and future candidates
  - Development of Momentum's National office and NCG relationship with local groups - offering support to struggling local groups in concrete and measurable way; Offering development opportunities to stronger groups who can use trainings to do more outreach and leadership development
  - Membership offer - ensuring members receive something for their money that helps them in their development as an activist
  - GE strategy - Ensure leaders are developed in target seats (people who can lead the ground operation during a GE campaign) as well as ensuring our activists are trained in doorknocking and community organising so are more prepared to support their local ground operations
  - Labour Party relationships - to build relationships with local labour parties and regional boards by offering joint trainings where the Labour Party does not have capacity to train (NW regional director)

## **5.4 Members' Council (MC)**

### **Proposal agreed by the NCG.**

#### **The NCG agrees:**

- The MC was due to take place in June but unfortunately had to be postponed due to the GE. It is proposed to have it on the weekend of the 9th and 10th of September (after the school holidays) in Manchester.
- The National Office will randomly select 50 Momentum members who will make up the first MC by mid-July and invite them to the MC weekend.
- The MC will be organised by staff, any NCG members who wish to be involved and external facilitators who specialise in participatory decision-making and facilitation.
- The purpose of the MC weekend is to ensure that there is a continuous flow of ideas from the grassroots to develop Momentum's activities, resources and campaigns.

#### **Additional matters arising:**

→ Navendu Mishra and Liz Hayden to have oversight of the first Members Council.

→ A joint meal for the Council and NCG to be organised.

## **5.5 Mobilising Young Members**

Item taken at the same time as Item 11.1 (proposal by Rida Vaquas)

### **Proposal 5.5 agreed by the NCG.**

That a basic / anecdotal analysis of Momentum local groups shows that the people who attend tend to be older than Momentum's membership and much older than those who follow us on social media. Momentum should allocate staff time and resources, in consultation with young NCG members, to developing a youth engagement strategy. It's goals should be determined by young NCG members, but should broadly include:

- To build capacity, skills and leadership amongst young members through organising training, political education initiatives and campaigns
- To develop a network of Young Labour Clubs
- To organise strengthen the young left in Young Labour, Labour Students and to organise for the NEC Youth position

Additional matters arising:

→ Report back on the foul play at the Labour Students Conference

→ Issues raised about Momentum Youth and Students - it is not an active body and has no status within Momentum's constitutional arrangements

→ Staff to convene a meeting of all NCG members 30 and under who will report to the next NCG meeting

## **5.6 Supporting workers' struggles and solidarity actions**

Item taken at the same time as Item 11.3 (proposal by Rida Vaquas)

### **Proposal 5.6 agreed. Proposal 11.3 noted.**

- The NCG Chair and Vice-Chairs, and National Coordinator, should continue to build positive relationships with unions and seek their affiliation to Momentum.
- That the staff should initiate further contact with the union campaigns listed above to offer support for the causes. This could include: promoting union membership, using social media and email to raise awareness of local union campaigns or workers struggles and promoting crowd-fund pages as and where appropriate.

Additional matters arising:

- Momentum will provide political support to workers struggles and will promote crowd-funders but is not a grant making body
- NCG members to take funding proposals for the Picturehouse strike to their union branches

## **5.7 Recruitment and fundraising**

### **Agreed by the NCG**

Following our successful crowd-sourced fundraising during the campaign, Momentum should continue to fundraise and recruit members, involving a variety of methods, including:

- Momentum should continue to utilise expertise in digital fundraising, primarily through social media, viral videos and targeted email fundraising.
- Momentum should organise fundraising and recruitment events.

Additional matters arising:

- Updated paper membership forms with new branding and full equalities information

## ***Lunch***

## **6. Regional breakout groups & feedback**

Feedback from regions on improving communications and accountability.

- NCG members to develop better links with local groups and members by visiting groups (facilitated by the National Office)
- NCG members to attend 'Regional Activist Meet Ups' and 'Pre-Conference Delegate briefings'

## **7. The World Transformed (TWT)**

### **Noted by the NCG**

The NCG supports The World Transformed fringe event. Any NCG members who wish to be more directly involved should meet with the key organisers, in addition to Jon Lansman and Emma Rees (staff). The NCG agrees that it might be necessary for some staff time to be allocated to working with TWT, closer to conference, and delegates the power to determine the necessary staff input to the NCG Officers Group.

Additional matters arising:

- Staff to circulate contact details for TWT Organisers and details of the next TWT organising meeting.

## **8. Governance documents and policies (separate document)**

### **8.1 Declaration of Interests Form**

#### **Remitted to next meeting**

→ Staff to work with Joe Ejiofor and Emine Ibrahim to revise the form and 'Conflict of Interest' policy ahead of next meeting.

### **8.2 Ordinary Budgeting Procedure**

**Agreed by the NCG**

### **8.3 Recruitment Policy and Procedure**

**Agreed by the NCG**

### **8.4 Adoption of Principles Post GE**

**Noted by the NCG**

## **9. Treasurer's Report (separate document)**

#### **Report noted by the NCG**

→ Joe Ejiofor requests a yearly financial forecast report at the next meeting. Noted that this has been previously asked for.

→ Discussion noted about new premises.

## **10. NCG co-options**

#### **Proposal agreed by the NCG**

→ Adam Klug co-opted as a non-voting member of the NCG

## **11. Proposals from Rida Vaquas**

### **11.1 Youth Organising**

Proposal taken at the same time as Item 5.5

### **11.2 Stop the Purge**

NCG agreed that Rida Vaquas, Yannis Gourtsoyannis (proposer of related item 12.3), Chair, Vice-chairs and staff to work together to refine a proposal on suspensions and expulsions to put to the next NCG meeting.

### **11.3 Picturehouse Strike**

Proposal considered at the same time as Item 5.6 and noted.

## **12. Proposals from Yannis Gourtsoyannis**

### **12.1 Proposal to Affiliate to Health Campaigns Together**

NCG suggests Yannis Gourtsoyannis speak to staff about incorporating proposal within work stream. Remit to next NCG meeting if necessary.

### **12.2 Proposal for initiate the formation of an “NHS Advisory Group”:**

NCG suggests Yannis Gourtsoyannis speak to staff about incorporating proposal within work stream. Remit to next NCG meeting if necessary.

## **13. AOB**

- **Momentum Black Caucus**

NCG agrees that BAME NCG members speak to MBC about ways of working moving forwards.