

National Coordinating Group (NCG)

Saturday 9 September 2017

Action Report (draft)

In attendance: Jon Lansman, John Taylor, Huda Elmi, Sam Tarry, Mike Byrd, Martin Cook, Cecile Wright, Joe Ejiolor, Yannis Gourtsoyannis, Rida Vaquas, Christine Shawcroft, Alison Spencer-Scragg (observer), Helen McDonald, Sahaya James (12.00), Emine Ibrahim (12.30), Liz Hames (phone call from 2pm)

Apologies: Martin Menear, Puru Miah, Barry Gray, Leigh Drennan, Liz Hayden, Carol Turner, Andrew Towers, Nav Mishra

Staff: Emma Rees, Rachel Godfrey Wood, Joe Bradley

Welcomes, apologies and aims of meeting

Aims of meeting:

- To develop a shared analysis of the current political context and what this means for Momentum
- To review Momentum's activities over the last quarter
- To agree Momentum's priorities moving forwards
- To develop a positive team culture within the NCG

Apologies: Martin Menear, Puru Miah, Barry Gray, Leigh Drennan, Liz Hayden, Carol Turner, Andrew Towers, Nav Mishra

Apologies noted. Aims agreed.

Discussion on key political developments and what this means for Momentum

- Communication Workers Union have affiliated to Momentum - noted.
- Discussion of the growing strength of Labour in the polls after the general election and Jeremy's summer of campaigning. It was noted that Momentum had successfully remained in 'permanent campaign' mode by organising more persuasion canvassing trainings and launching the 'Unseat' campaign with Owen Jones.
- NCG members reported very positive feedback about Momentum's Activist Training Network.
- Discussion on the importance of having a successful Conference to embed the manifesto and pass reforms to help Labour become a more members-led party.
- Brief discussion on the opportunity the Scottish leadership election presents for recruiting members to the Labour Party and changing the dynamics of politics in Scotland.

3. Agree Action Notes from previous NCG meeting

4. Staff Update

4.1 Membership

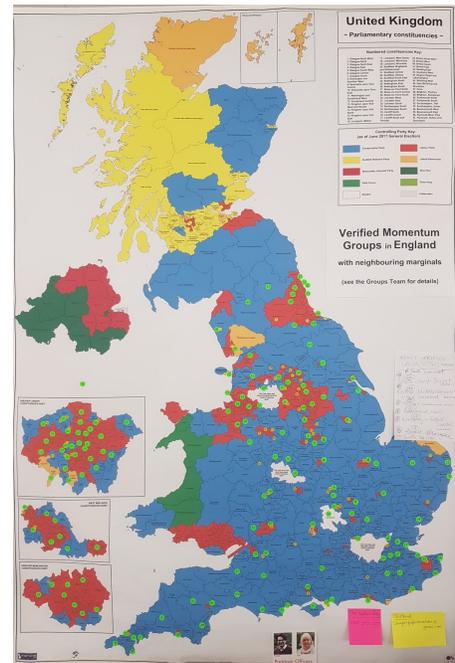
- Steady increase in membership - approaching 30,000 members.
- Aiming to recruit more around Conference and The World Transformed.

Noted.

4.2 Groups Report

- Momentum now has 169 local groups along with Momentum International.
- It was noted that the general election revitalised many groups and the additional regional organisers that have been employed in recent months have helped to boost levels of activism in many areas. Likewise, the increasing membership has meant that having smaller, more effective groups is becoming more viable. A great example of this is Momentum Norfolk splitting into 5 new groups, allowing for effective organisation and campaigning across the entire county, as opposed to a single, county size group based in Norwich.
- It was noted that the WLG/Momentum groups in Wales should be added to the map.

Noted.



4.3 Complaints

- Two on-going complaints have now been resolved by a Complaints Panel of three NCG members.

Noted.

4.4 Staff Recruitment Report

- We have recruited 5 temporary regional organisers and a permanent Communications Officer (Press Lead), following our recently adopted Recruitment Policy.
- Equality and diversity monitoring has been introduced to all staff, core volunteers, as well as people applying for positions within the organisation.
- Staff and core volunteers attended an 'Unconscious Bias - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' training provided by an external consultant, which included a section on recruitment best practice.

- **Regional Organisers**
 - We have employed an additional 5 regional organisers to support with local group and member development, conference organising and selections preparation.
 - These roles were advertised on our website, and by email to all our local organisers through the 'Organisers Update' and the Scottish advert was emailed to the database in Scotland. We received 52 applications in total, we interviewed 12 people and we hired 5.
 - Of the current organising team the current gender ratio is 5:5. 3 regional organisers identify as BAME and the team come from diverse regional and class backgrounds.
- **Communications Officer (Press Lead)**
 - We advertised the Communications Officer (Press Lead) role from Friday 11 August - Sunday 27 August. It was advertised on our website, posted on social media and emailed directly to all members.
 - We received 21 applications in total, shortlisted 6 people, and hired one.
- **National Coordinator**
 - We are currently recruiting a permanent National Coordinator. The position has been advertised on the website, social media, through the NEON network and directly emailed to all members twice. The post was advertised on Friday 18th August and will close on Sunday 10th September.
 - Interviews are due to take place on Thursday 14th September and Friday 15th September.
- **Staff leaving**
 - Temporary Regional Organiser, Lotte Boumelha, leaving in mid September.
 - Acting National Coordinator (former National Organiser), Emma Rees, leaving at the end of October.
 - NCG congratulated and thanked Emma Rees for her contribution to Momentum since prior to its launch.

Noted.

4.5 CAC Campaign

- The campaign spanned members of all teams of Momentum, with additional input from CLPD to create a dynamic and expansive campaign, never before attempted for this election including
 - A dedicated microsite: <http://yourlabourconference.co.uk> to collect pledges.
 - Videos and social media: To boost engagement and awareness.
 - Emails, texts and calls: Members and supporters were contacted through email texts and phonecalls.

Noted and Momentum team congratulated for their efforts. Noted that NCG member Gemma Thornton was instrumental in getting local phone banks set up across the UK.

4.6 Activist Training Network

- We have delivered two 'Train the Trainer' days to over 60 participants in Manchester and London. Two more sessions are planned for Birmingham and Bristol.
- The first round of the programme will have trained 100 activists in how to deliver two sessions - 'How the Labour Party Works' and 'Persuasive Conversations'.
- The 'Train the Trainer' programme is already yielding great results with over 20 sessions already self organised by the trainees with lots more to come.

Noted and NCG passed on an array of positive feedback from activists who have participated.

4.7 Unseat Campaign

- The Unseat Campaign (targeting high-profile Tory MPs) was launched as part of the "permanent general election footing" in partnership with Owen Jones.
- First event was held in Putney on Saturday 2nd September where 150 people turned up (50% were first time canvassers).
- 8 more events scheduled within the next 2 months. More information can be found on the website here - <https://unseat.co.uk>.

Noted.

4.8 #McStrike, Ritzy strike and workers' struggles

- Support for McStrike included:
 - 1 video of workers testifying to their appalling working conditions, which so far has more than 3 million views (& rising) and potential press interest. This is the biggest video about the strike by a long way (C4 and ITV on social media gained 500-600,000 views each). An analysis of the people who had watched the video revealed that 25% (& rising) of all UK McDonalds workers had watched the video (<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/sep/08/mcdonalds-uk-workers-viral-momentum-video-facebook>)
 - A second parody video on workers' conditions, released today, also with 100,000s views so far.
 - Other support was provided, including: linking workers up with professional photographers and filmmakers, social media support, emailing members with a list of solidarity actions.
- Alongside building a campaign around McStrike, we have shared the strike fund numerous times for the Picturehouse strikers.

Noted and Momentum team congratulated for this positive development.

This NCG also commented that:

- Momentum's support for McStrike represents a qualitative change in the level of impact Momentum can have on public discourse and narratives over industrial action.
- There may be possibilities for further collaboration with trade unions to support striking workers, particularly in the gig economy.
- It is important that Momentum also focus on recruiting young people to trade unions.
- Momentum's video team are running a training session today to boost video-making capacity.

4.9 Volunteer Skills Bank

- We have now developed a National Momentum 'Skills Bank', currently consisting of over 500 activists, all of whom are split into skills areas where they think they can be of most use. From accounting, to website design, the skills bank gives the organisation a solid base of activists from across the UK, who can be called on to work on at short notice to help on a range of projects.
- This enables volunteers to contribute remotely, making us more accessible to members outside of London and/or people with caring responsibilities or shift work.
- In addition, we have launched Momentum's Digital Hub to bring together digital volunteers both online (using Slack) and offline, along with the Creative Network of filmmakers, editors and actors who have been contributing to our social media content.

Noted.

4.10 Press Team

Since the last NCG meeting the Momentum Communications Team have continued to build a positive narrative about Momentum as an effective campaigning force, begun planning our ground operation for conference, mitigated various negative stories, built stronger links at with broadcast journalists and begun planning local press officer trainings in marginal constituencies. Key events include:

- The launch of Momentum's training network which attracted positive coverage in a series of national media outlets including The Guardian, Sky News and The New Statesman.
- The launch of Momentum's digital hub which attracted positive coverage in a series of national and international media outlets including the BBC, Reuters and the Independent.
- The launch of Momentum's Unseat campaign which attracted positive coverage in a series of national media outlets including The Guardian and The Huffington Post.
- The launch of The World Transformed which attracted positive coverage in a series of national media outlets including The Guardian and The Independent.
- A successful media training session for some staff and NCG members run by Momentum Press Office and Paul Mason.
- Since 1st July, seventy print articles have been written about Momentum, the majority of which were positive.

Noted. NCG members who attended the spokesperson training gave positive feedback.

5. Priorities for Next Quarter

5.1 Scottish Leadership Campaign - verbal update from Martyn Cook

- Kezia Dugdale has resigned for personal reasons. There will be a leadership campaign in Scotland.
- Campaign for Socialism will campaign for Richard Leonard.
- The details of the election will be released following the Scottish Executive Committee.

Noted

5.2 Parliamentary Selections 2017/18

- There will shortly be selections for candidates in winnable seats in England, and under the current guidelines issued by the NEC, they will occur simultaneously and in short time frame.
- Regional Organisers are talking to local groups and activists on the ground to give support and advice, with a view to ensuring that there is a locally agreed candidate.
- The NCG will determine where resources are distributed based on an assessment of where the biggest impact is possible. Panels including NCG Officers, NCG Members, and Momentum activists.

Noted and agreed.

5.3 Activist Training Network

Building on what we have done already, over the next quarter, we will:

- Support the 100 trained activists to deliver training sessions in CLPs and local Momentum groups (20 events have been organised already).
- Run the second part of the Activist Training Programme, which will train 100 activists in how to teach a starter session on community organising.
- Prepare for the second cohort of trainers who will do the programme in early 2018.

Noted and agreed.

5.4 Youth Organising

- The Young Labour Policy Conference, which is to be held on 14th & 15th October, was organised by party staff with no involvement from the Young Labour National Committee.
- Young Labour delegates to the conference will be a minority at their own conference.
- The process for delegates to apply was incredibly time restricted with less than 10 days between applications opening and closing.
- Momentum backed candidates were agreed by young members of the NCG.
- A campaign with phonebanks, emails and social media will follow.

Noted and agreed.

5.5 Digital Democracy

Proposal agreed by NCG:

Rule 10.1 of Momentum's constitution stipulates that "the NCG shall ensure that there is an online facility to enable members to propose that:

- A proposed amendment to this constitution be considered by the NCG;
- Support for a particular campaign be considered by the NCG;
- A proposed amendment to this constitution rejected by the NCG be put to a ballot of members; and
- A prior decision of the NCG on whether to support a particular campaign, to issue guidance or directives to all members, to groups or to networks be put to a ballot of members."

We are thus constitutionally required to provide such a facility. In addition, we believe a number of other necessary and/or desirable democratic services are not currently being provided to members. These include:

- A facility to elect members of the NCG;
- A central facility to elect persons in positions of authority in groups and/or networks;
- A facility whereby updates from the NCG and Members' Council are shared with members; and
- A facility whereby all member only online training, guidance and other resources are collated.

We are currently in the design and development phase of developing a platform that fulfills the requirements as laid out above. Once this phase is over the project designs will be referred to the appropriate NCG officers and working group for comment and direction.

Currently the online facility in development would include:

- The online facility known as "MxV" originally developed in order to facilitate the making of proposals for debate at a conference be repurposed and/or redesigned in order to provide the facility required by Rule 10.1 of Momentum's Constitution;
- The online facility known as "MVotes" originally developed in order to facilitate the first election to the NCG be repurposed and/or redesigned in order to provide a facility for members to elect members of the NCG and persons in positions of authority in groups and/or networks;
- An online facility be developed whereby updates from the NCG and Members Council can be easily shared and fed into the redeveloped version of MxV where necessary, and procedures be put in place within the staff team and lay structures in order to ensure that such updates are regularly given; and

- All online training, guidance and other resources be collated, reformatted into an as accessible format as possible and an online facility be developed in order to best store and structure these resources.

Noted and agreed.

6. Membership: Roles and Responsibilities

- Discussion raised by an NCG member about people who do not support Momentum's aims and objectives attending meetings.
- Discussion about how constitution enshrines the rights of members to be heard, in the instance that there is an issue with someone's membership.
- The following proposal on membership was tabled following discussion by the officers group:

The Constitution make various requirements of members and states that "any member who does not join the Labour Party by 1 July 2017, or ceases to be a member of the Labour Party, or acts inconsistently with Labour Party membership, may be deemed to have resigned." The following is the advice which is recommended for circulation to local and other Momentum groups or networks:

Where local and other Momentum groups or networks notice that a member of Momentum participates in the group's meetings or interacts with the group in some other way and they believe that member is not a current member of the Labour Party, they should not exclude members from participation but should instead notify the National Coordinator in order to ensure that the member's right to be heard is respected prior to any decision on their membership status. The National Coordinator, when in receipt of such a notification, shall invite the member concerned to provide evidence of the Labour Party membership or set out in writing reasons why they believe they should not be deemed to have resigned, and shall refer the matter to a panel of 3 NCG members for decision.

It shall be the responsibility of local and other Momentum groups or networks to ensure that any office holders in that group are current members of the Labour Party.

Where a group or network (i) has an office holder who is not a current member of the Labour Party, or (ii) fails to notify the National Coordinator where any member of Momentum whom they know are not current members of the Labour Party, or (iii) is found to have misused data to which their data officer is granted access under the terms of their agreement with Jeremy for Labour Ltd, the NCG may withdraw recognition from that group or network.

9 voted in favour, 2 against. Proposal carried.

7. Statements on Expulsions

- It had been agreed at the last NCG meeting that agreement on a 'form of words' would be sought by the Chair and Vice-chairs, along with Yannis Gourtsoyannis and Rida Vaquas who had originally proposed two different statements.
- However, it was reported that agreement had not been found and for this reason it was proposed to consider the matter no further.
- Yannis Gourtsoyannis proposed that the topic be remitted to the Officers Group. Seconded by Rida Vaquas.

4 in favour of remitting the proposal, all else against remitting the proposal. The proposal to consider the matter no further was carried.

8. NCG Working Groups (separate document)

- Structure of the NCG, working groups and caucuses were discussed,
- Audit working group added.
- Staff to circulate a survey to members of the NCG for them to indicate preferences for working groups.

Proposal carried unanimously.

9. Conference and The World Transformed (separate document)

- Report on preparations for Conference, including: delegates briefings, communications and Momentum's stall.
- NCG notes that the TWT line up looks very exciting and congratulates the organisers.

Noted and agreed.

10. Treasurer's Report (separate document)

- Further breakdown of income and expenditure, along with annual projections, to be presented at next meeting.

Noted.

11. Regional Break-Out Groups & Feedback

- Discussion about local/regional activity.

12. Proposals from Rida Vaquas

12.1 Mobilising Support for Free Education Now!

National Campaign Against Fees And Cuts (NCAFC) have called a demonstration in London on November 15th in order to seize the enthusiasm of the Labour manifesto in 2017 and build the momentum for the immediate abolition of tuition fees and the introduction of living grants. This is a key opportunity to maximise the impact of the enthusiasm that Jeremy Corbyn's policies unleashed amongst students and young people through engaging them in meaningful political activism to put an end to fees. Both Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell have previously spoken at or supported free education demonstrations in recent years.

The power of a demonstration lies in numbers on the streets. Momentum should help build support for this demonstration so that turnout is as large as possible. A big and vibrant demonstration under the banner of "Free Education Now - Tax The Rich" will be key to maintaining and increasing support for abolishing fees.

Momentum should commit to:

- Sharing the Facebook event on our social media regularly, as well as key announcements that are released about the demo (such as start point, route, coaches being organised etc). Link to the Facebook event can be found here:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1405855222863843/>
- Momentum should also include information about the demonstration in its Organiser Updates, and encourage organisers to get into contact with students to find out plans on their campus.
- We should collaborate with NCAFC in creating shareable social media content about the demonstration specifically for Momentum to share.

Agreed.

13. Proposals from Maggie Simpson

Shavanah Taj, WLG sc, has asked what Momentum is doing for Black History Month and if Momentum would consider making a video for it. Shavanah is Wales secretary of the PCS union and chair of Cardiff Central CLP and is prepared to make a contribution to such a project.

Remitted to NCG BAME caucus. Huda Elmi to coordinate.

13. A.O.B.



- Noted that Momentum will be moving to new premises by the end of September.