

Minutes of the CLP Special General Meeting of Hallam Constituency Labour Party, Thursday 9th December 2021, 19:30 to 21: 30 on Zoom

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies for absence: Matt Killea, Lisa Markham, Nigel Jones, Ruth Milsom, David Milsom, David Blunkett, Margaret Blunkett, Vanessa Senger

Present at start of meeting, 37 devices, 42 people

2. Minutes and matters arising: a) Executive Meeting 14th October (to note)

Noted.

3. MP's Report: Deferred to next meeting

4. Yorkshire & Humber Regional Conference, 5th – 6th February 2022.

a) Selection of delegates (up to 3 delegates of whom at least 50% must be female. We may also send an additional female and a youth delegate).

Nominations:

Jane Thomas, Nominated by Jane Thomas, Seconded by Gillian Fletcher

Joe Ashton as Youth delegate, nominated by Lee Rock, Seconded by Elizabeth Lawrence.

Lee Rock, nominated by Tim Plant Seconded by Roy Arnold.

Mary Seneviratne, Nominated by Mary Seneviratne, Seconded by Chris Batchelor

(All accepted)

b) Nominations to the Regional Executive Committee:

Jane Thomas, nominated by Jane Thomas, seconded by Mary Seneviratne

Jenny Prideaux, nominated by Jenny Prideaux, seconded by Chris Batchelor

Minesh Parekh, nominated by Lee Rock, seconded by Emma Carpenter

Lee Rock proposed and spoke for the motion that we should not put forward a nomination, seconded by Joe Ashton.

There were two speakers against the motion and one speaker for the motion. The motion was defeated: **15 for, 21 against, 6 abstentions.**

(All nominations were therefore accepted)

c) Nominations to the Conference Arrangements Committee

None.

d) Motion on a Regional Policy Topic: *Bus Transport in Yorkshire and Humber* submitted by Lee Rock, seconded Anne Davies.

The motion was passed: 39 for, 1 against, no abstentions

5. Emergency motion(s) (if any received and accepted)

UCU Strike and Picket Lines, submitted by Crookes and Crosspool branch.

Moved – Liz Lawrence , Seconded Lee Rock

Emma Carpenter proposed an amendment: add

“we note with even greater concern the video that has emerged showing a labour councillor pulling the face covering from a picket and call upon the labour group to follow an appropriate disciplinary procedure.”

Seconded by Tim Plant.

The amendment was passed: 27 for, 6 against, 8 abstentions

The original motion, including the amendment was put to the vote and passed. 31 for, 5 against, 5 abstentions

6. Motions from Branches:

a) *Motion on single sex services*. Ecclesall branch, and Amendment to Single Sex Services motion.

Motion on Single Sex Services

“This CLP:

- believes that everyone has the right to be, and to feel, safe
- notes, with increasing concern, the reported escalation of domestic violence against women and girls and that the demand for all domestic abuse services continues to exceed available provision
- welcomes the good progress made by Sheffield's Domestic Abuse Coordination team; particularly in its development of services and 'safe place' refuges for Women plus specific services and safe accommodation targeted at male victims and LGBT+

In this context, and in order for abused women to be, and to feel, safe, this CLP resolves to support the continuing provision of single sex services in line with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010.”

Jenny Prideaux proposed, Vonny Radstone seconded.

No speakers against.

The motion was passed: 25 for, 9 against, 7 abstentions.

Amendment to Single Sex Services motion (see text below)

At the beginning of the motion, insert:

“This branch recognises:

- That domestic violence has escalated throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, while routes to safety have been restricted, as services women rely on have faced immense challenges in meeting increased demand while protecting their frontline staff against Covid-19.¹
- That recent cases of gendered violence and abuse within police forces, especially the rape and murder of Sarah Everard, and the response by HMICFRS² to the super-complaint - made by the Centre for Women’s Justice -

regarding the failure of police forces to enforce laws designed to protect women experiencing or fleeing domestic abuse, have laid bare the institutional failure of the state to protect women's right to life.

- That the End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW) Coalition estimates the funding shortfall for rape crisis services has now increased to £215 million per year.³
- That women who are BAME, disabled, teenaged⁴ and/or LGBT+⁵ are in many cases at an even higher risk of experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence, and that, despite the significant progress being made, they are often not best served by existing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) services, and face additional barriers to accessing support; and that specialist services, especially those run by and for BAME women, have in many cases faced even greater challenges through the Covid-19 pandemic.⁶
- That although the long-standing practice of VAWG organisations supporting both transgender and cisgender women⁷, and the use of exemptions in the Equality Act 2010 to allow single-sex services to exclude individual transgender people if necessary, has been hotly debated in the media and by politicians; the organisations providing these services have consistently stated that they face no significant challenges providing integrated support, and that while they are aware of the exemptions available in the Equality Act 2010, they have never needed to use them.⁸
- That in addition to drastically reducing the capacity of VAWG organisations⁹, the ongoing impact of austerity increases women's vulnerability to domestic abuse and sexual violence, as well as eroding the factors - including welfare, access to housing, security of employment, and security of immigration status - which are essential to a safe escape and hope for the future for women fleeing abuse.¹⁰

After "refugee and asylum seeking women", insert, was noted to be an error and replaced with After "continues to exceed available provision" insert

- "Believes that the needs of both transgender and cisgender women experiencing or fleeing domestic abuse and sexual violence are best served by addressing the serious problems outlined above".

After "male victims and LGBT", insert "people", and then:

- "Welcomes the significant work being carried out to expand specialist provision for LGBT+ survivors of domestic abuse in South Yorkshire, and to raise commissioning standards for these services"

After "in order for", insert "all".

After "provisions of the Equality Act 2010", insert:

- ", and to demand greater recognition, funding and support for organisations involved in providing these lifesaving services. We urge the Council to ensure that all areas of Council provision, in particular housing and children's services, demonstrate a similar commitment."

1 Women's Aid, Imkaan, Women's Aid Northern Ireland, EVAW Coalition, Welsh Women's Aid, Scottish Women's Aid, Covid-19: One Year On. 23rd March 2021. <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-one-yearon/>

- 2 HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), *A duty to protect: Police use of protective measures in cases involving violence against women and girls*. 24th August 2021. <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/police-super-complaints-police-use-of-protective-measures-in-cases-of-violence-against-women-and-girls/>
- 3 EAW Coalition, *Autumn Budget: A missed opportunity to invest in ending VAWG*. 27th October 2021. <https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/budget-missed-opportunity-vawg/>
- 4 Office for National Statistics, *Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2020*. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020#ethnicity>
- 5 Dr Jasna Magic and Peter Kelly, *LGBT+ People's Experiences of Domestic Abuse: a report on Galop's domestic abuse advocacy service*. 26th May 2020. <https://galop.org.uk/resource/resource-h/>
- 6 Women's Aid, *Imkaan, Women's Aid Northern Ireland, EAW Coalition, Welsh Women's Aid, Scottish Women's Aid, Covid-19: One Year On*. 23rd March 2021. <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-one-year-on/>
- 7 *Close the Gap, Engender, Equate Scotland, Rape Crisis Scotland, Scottish Women's Aid, Women 50:50 and Zero Tolerance, Statement in support of the Equal Recognition Campaign and reform of the Gender Recognition Act*. November 2017. <https://www.engender.org.uk/news/blog/statement-in-support-of-the-equalrecognition-campaign-and-reform-of-the-gender-recognition/>
- 8 *Stonewall and nfpSynergy, Supporting trans women in domestic and sexual violence services: Interviews with professionals in the sector*. 2018. <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/supporting-trans-women-domesticand-sexual-violence-services>
- 9 EAW Coalition, *Rape survivor challenges Prime Minister to fund rape counselling services*. 8th March 2020. <https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/campaign-no-more-survivors-turned-away/>
- 10 *Sisters Uncut, Feministo*. <https://www.sistersuncut.org/feministo/>

Proposed by Emma Carpenter, Dinah Ward seconded
There were two speakers against the amendment

When put to the vote the results were: 19 for, 19 against, 3 abstentions.

The amendment falls as the Chair ruled that in a tied vote the status quo prevails.

7. Reports

- a) Treasurer: Bank account of £10479
- b) Membership: National membership system hacking issue not resolved, impossible to report. A member queried availability of membership information availability to Mayoral candidates but not to membership officers. A member confirmed lack of detailed information from September. A member confirmed the unreliability of batch communication systems.
- c) Councillor: No report
- d) LCF: Organiser position not yet agreed by Region. Selections for local election candidates completed except for Dore & Totley and Ecclesall areas. A member queried: availability of key themes for local election publicity, (*will be produced*), budget constraints – (*confirmed budget constraints*), and outcome of request for support to striking Stagecoach workers, (*sent*). A member queried labour group subscription status with LCF (*non-payment for several years confirmed**), and

status of consultation by Sheffield Labour Group with the membership, (awaiting action, David will continue to raise).

**A member confirmed dues not paid since 2018*

8. Elections to CLP roles a) Vacant Officer Roles: b) Auditors – 2 required

(NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED AT THE MEETING)

- Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) Officer: No nominations
- Disability Officer: No nominations
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual (LGBT+) Officer: No nominations
- Auditors – 2: No nominations

9. AOB – to have been notified before or at the start of the meeting: None

10. Announcements

a) Working group on standing orders and meeting formats/organisation: Call for input from David Sedgley, an on-line meeting will be organised.

b) Accessibility initiative: This will be rolled into the working group above.

11. Next Ordinary Meetings, all on Zoom until further notice – 4th Thursday of the month (except, August, December, and April when in an election period).

27th January 2022; 24th February 2022; 24th March 2022; 26th May 2022