

Policy Motions

1. North West State Party

Proposed by Manchester Gorton, Central and Blackley Local Party

Proposer: I Donaldson

Summator: R Gadsden

Conference resolves, in principle, that the North West Liberal Democrats shall become a State Party independent of the Liberal Democrats in England.

Conference therefore instructs the Regional Executive to:

1. Bring a motion to the next Federal Conference under Article 2.1 of the Federal Constitution seeking recognition as a State Party and making any necessary constitutional amendments to bring this into effect.
2. Consult members, starting 24th June, and, based on that consultation, to bring amendments to the Regional Constitution to convert it into a State Constitution to the next Regional Conference.

Amendment 1: Proposed Andrew Haldane

In **Conference therefore instructs** delete “next Federal Conference”, replace with “Spring 2017 Federal Conference”

2. PrEP

Proposed by Manchester Gorton, Central and Blackley Local Party

Proposer: I Donaldson

Summator: D Page

Conference notes:

A. There are currently over 100,000 people living with HIV in the UK alone. Last year Public Health England announced there were 6,151 new HIV diagnoses in 2014, 3,360 of whom were men who have sex with men, the highest number on record. Of the 85,489 who are accessing care in the UK 67% were men and 33% women. Out of the total number 48% had acquired HIV through heterosexual sex, of whom Black Africans comprise 60%. 45% acquired the virus through men having sex with men.

B. PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is the use of a prescription Anti HIV drug (known as Truvada) that prevent an individual from contracting HIV. Increased use of PrEP has the potential to reduce infection rates thus not only saving lives but also money.

C. Despite its proven efficacy and potential for long term financial health care savings, the NHS has yet to approve its use. It is currently only available in the UK through a private prescription that costs approximately £400 for a month's supply.

D. An increasing number of people are importing generic forms of the PrEP medication Truvada produced and sold by Gilead Sciences Inc. through websites for approximately 85% less than the patented version.

E. Norman Lamb MP and Eluned Parrott AM's recent calls for PrEP to be made available on the NHS immediately.

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F. The October 2014 interim analysis of the PROUD study data showing that PrEP is 86% effective against HIV for gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) at high risk of infection.

G. The Same levels of protection shown by the IPERGAY, a French and Canadian Study into PrEP.

H. The study conducted by the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco showed no new infections.

I. The decision of the Centre for Disease Control to approve Truvada as PrEP in 2014.

J. In 2014 the World Health Organisation issued guidelines strongly recommending men who have sex with men consider taking antiretroviral medicines as an additional method of preventing HIV infection.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

i) champion the freedom, dignity and well-being of individuals.

ii) fight disease wherever it may occur.

Conference calls for:

1. Liberal Democrats in Parliament to continue their work for NHS adoption of PrEP for those people at high risk of HIV Infection, BME communities and women.

2. The government to use all available methods to highlight PrEP to at risk groups, and to fast track PrEP availability on the NHS for high risk groups.

3. Government ministers to consider the use of generic Truvada to reduce costs to the NHS.

Policy Fringe

Overhaul Lib Dem welfare policy with the Social Security Working Group

Liberal Democrats recently forced the Government to reverse their plans to cut tax credits. This would have left three million low-income people £1,000 worse off and hit working families hardest. We are fighting planned cuts to Universal Credit, which will have the same effect. How will low income families in the North West cope?

A member of the party's Social Security Working Group will be running a debate session to help North West members feed into its policymaking process. The group has been appointed by Federal Policy Committee to present comprehensive proposals to Autumn Conference 2016. The group's consultation paper can be read in advance here: www.libdems.org.uk/spring-conference-16-consultations

Our constitution commits us to fight for a society in which “no one shall be enslaved by poverty”. Come to this session and help us in that fight.