



All-Party Parliamentary Group On Youth Affairs

AGM and Inaugural Election of Officers 5 July 2010

Present:

Natascha Engel MP (Chair 2008-2010)
Stella Creasy MP (Co-Chair 2010- present)
James Morris MP (Secretary 2010- present)
Lisa Nandy MP (Treasurer 2010- present)
Stephen Pound MP
David Amess MP
Baroness Sharp of Guildford
Lord Brookman of Ebbw Vale
Lord Davies of Coity
Nicola Blackwood MP
Stewart Jackson MP (Co-Chair 2010- present)
Julie Hilling MP
Stephen Matthews (Clerk)
Lindsay Martin, YMCA England
David Clark, British Youth Council
Dominic Weinberg, National Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Semakaleng Moema, The Scout Association
Gail Scott-Spicer, The Scout Association
Joanna Ashworth, David Amess' Office
Jane Slowey, Foyer Federation
Denise O'Brien, Foyer Federation

Apologies:

Liz Kendall MP	Lord Dear
Baroness Howe	Baroness Massey
Margaret Hodge MP	Chris Skidmore MP
Lord Ramsbotham	Dave Watts MP
Diane Abbot MP	Jim Cunningham MP
Charlotte Leslie MP	Philip Lee MP
Alec Shelbrooke MP	Andrew Mitchell MP
Nigel Evans MP	Baroness Blood
Peter Bottomley MP (Vice-Chair)	Anne McGuire MP
Simon Hughes MP (Co-Chair)	Iain Duncan Smith MP
Roger Gale MP	Baroness Harris MP
Lord Cope	Mike Weatherley MP
Bob Blackman MP	

Inaugural Election of Officers

Natascha Engel (Chair): Natascha thanked the group for the work they have done over the last year. Natascha introduced Stephen as clerk to the group and announced that she was stepping down from the Chair. Various members (MPs/Peers) of the group were also introduced.

Stephen Matthews (Clerk): Stephen explained the process we were following; to first take the AGM and election of officers for the APPG on Youth Affairs; then hand over to the APPG on Scouts; then to be followed by the APPG on Foyers. There would then be a discussion on topics of concern for young people and agree a programme of meetings.

Lord Davies: Lord Davies asked if the groups were merging. It was confirmed that they were not, but they may work closely together.

The proposed officers for the APPG on Youth Affairs stood together on a slate – a proposed register was disseminated for all to see. Stephen asked if everyone present was happy for the officers proposed to stand.

David Amess MP proposed the officers.

Natascha Engel MP seconded the proposal.

The following officers were elected to the following positions:

Member:	Position:
Stewart Jackson MP	Co-Chair
Stella Creasy MP	Co-Chair
Simon Hughes MP	Co-Chair
Peter Bottomley MP	Vice-Chair
Lisa Nandy MP	Treasurer
James Morris MP	Secretary

There then followed:

The AGM and election of officers for the APPG on Scouts

David Amess MP took the Chair.

David Amess MP outlined the process for electing officers to the group.

Lord Davies proposed the officers stand for the positions they currently hold, with the addition of Nicola Blackman as Vice-Chair.

The following officers were elected to the following positions:

Member:	Position:
David Amess MP	Joint-Chair
Stephen Pound MP	Joint-Chair
Nicola Blackman	Vice-Chair
Bob Russell MP	Secretary
Baroness Morgan of Huyton	Hon President

There then followed:

The AGM and election of officers for the APPG on Foyers

Lisa Nandy MP took the Chair.

Jane Slowey (clerk to APPG on Foyers): Jane announced that Lisa had agreed to stand as Chair of the APPG on Foyers.

The following officers were elected to the following positions:

Member:	Position:
Lisa Nandy MP	Chair
Baroness Sharp	Vice-Chair

Discussion of topics of concern to young people

Stewart Jackson MP took the Chair.

A discussion paper was circulated with suggested topics (appendix 1).

Natascha Engel MP: Natascha suggested that we hold a meeting on political engagement first, particularly since there were some 3.5m eligible but unregistered voters at the previous election (2001).

David Clark: Many young people have been involved in the votes @ 16 campaign for the last few years; it is an issue that concerns them.

Stella Creasy MP: Stella expressed her interest in the topic on employment, education and training, especially as this would support her interest in continuing the Group's current focus on Social Mobility.

Baroness Sharp: Baroness Sharp said this topic would be relevant to Foyers.

James Morris MP: James advised the Group to hold its meeting on Youth Services after the Comprehensive Spending Review where the Group can look at shaping provision of services, an important issue especially at a time of spending constraint.

Stewart Jackson MP: Stewart suggested that the topics of welfare reform and employment, education & training would work well together; likewise meetings on volunteering and youth services could work together.

Stewart Jackson MP: Stewart suggested we look to hold 2-3 meetings before Christmas. We will look to publish the views of the group and raise the issues and concerns that affect young people in adjournment debates.

Stewart also suggested the Group consider how it could pull together evidence, as through an inquiry, to support the work of the Group. Perhaps we could do this for a specific issue.

Baroness Sharp: Baroness Sharp suggested this approach would help the meeting on Youth Services.

Natascha Engel MP: Natascha reminded members that we shouldn't neglect one of the Group's great strengths; it operates a different format to many of the 'drier' APPG meetings by involving young people.

Natascha pointed to the theme on health incorporating the Olympics.

Baroness Sharp: Baroness Sharp reminded everyone that the Skills Olympics would be held next year.

Natascha Engel MP: Natascha suggested that, as an APPG, we 'piggy-back' on topical issues. Again she highlighted where we have been successful as a group we have engaged young people, often in smaller debates, sometimes in larger question and answer sessions.

Baroness Sharp: Baroness Sharp reminded everyone that the Youth Parliament now meets in Parliament, and it first met in the House of Lords

Stewart Jackson MP: Stewart highlighted the worst aspects of groups which are dominated by lobbying charities that hold warm wine receptions. He emphasised that what we would need to do was to talk with relevance about what is happening in member's constituencies.

Jane Slowey: Jane agreed. For a smaller organisation like the Foyer Federation it is important to bring a group of young people to parliament to talk with experience about the effect that policies are having upon them. The APPG played a part in persuading young people that we could do something to help them.

Stewart Jackson MP: Stewart noted that he was there at that meeting, with James Plaskitt MP (Minister, Department of Work and Pensions), but sadly they couldn't push it along as quickly as they would have liked.

It is important that this group continues to enable small groups of young people to sit down together with Members of Parliament. Most MPs are community minded and diligent and will appreciate this approach.

Julie Hillier MP: Julie said that she was particularly interested in the topic of youth cuts, and the effect that they are having on youth charities, and importantly, the effect on young people. It is an issue that she would like to find out about in some detail. She would like to know what happens to the youth opportunity fund, and other funds in which young people were able to participate in deciding how they would be allocated.

David Clark: David explained that the strongest aspect of the previous meetings held by the group has been that young people have been

enabled to have their say, to share their experience and put their points across in their own words.

Natascha Engel MP: Natascha drew our attention to the advantage we have as an APPG. This is a cross-party group, and as such we have been able to give young people a chance to lead our debates. Telling us what matters to them gets us beyond the usual politics. Getting those who make decisions that affect them in the same room is important.

James Morris MP: James agreed strongly. Getting the voices of young people heard is what distinguishes this group; it is what we can achieve.

Stewart Jackson MP: Stewart recognised what was being said, recognising that the group isn't a select committee and is not there to hold government to account, per se. Stewart suggested that the group doesn't hold to a 'national' template that it would then seek to impose, but rather to look for the best examples across the country where aspects could be picked out that would recognise what is common amongst young people. Because we are not overtly party political, we can draw this out.

Stewart suggested that the officers meet in the next few weeks to set out the format of the group and to allocate dates for future meetings.

Stewart reminded the group that we want more than young people complaining about politicians, but we want young people to engage positively and share with us their insights and what works for them.

--- Meeting ended ---