

D1-034-IM Young Greens Constitution 2019/2020

Proposer: Isabella Moir (Mid Sussex, Crawley & Horsham)

Motion Text

From line 34 to 37:

2.5 The Executive Committee, **(with the exception of the Welfare Support Officer, who'll be co-opted by EC each year)** Structures and Procedures Committee, Senate Co- Chairs and the Green Students Committee Co-Convenors will be elected at the Young Greens Annual General Meeting according to the provisions in Section D of the Standing Orders.

Insert after line 261:

1.1.4 Welfare Support Officer. This member has a specific responsibility to protect the welfare of members. They don't have voting rights and are therefore not included when calculating a quorum for EC decisions as specified in article 1.8.

Reason

The Young Greens of England and Wales (YGEW) notes:

- **That there is a current mental health crisis in young people.**
- **That young people are becoming increasingly vulnerable to activist burnout.**
- That young people suffering from mental ill health in the political sphere often have nowhere to turn to and so in turn step back from political activities.
- That younger people have higher stress related to the pressure to succeed - 60% of 18-24 year olds and 41% of 25-34 year olds cited this, compared to 17% of 45-54s and 6% of over 55s. (<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/statistics/mental-health-statistics-stress>)
- That 30% of older people reported never feeling overwhelmed or unable to cope in the past year, compared to 7% of young adults. (<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/statistics/mental-health-statistics-stress>)

The YGEW believe:

- **That having mentally healthy membership is a vital foundation for a successful movement.**
- **More can be done to protect members from activist burnout, political disillusion and mental ill health.**
- That a Welfare Support Officer should be added to the YGEW Executive Committee to lead on work to protect and improve the mental health of our members.

Supporters

Robert Nixon (Oxfordshire Green Party); Ellen Parry (North Surrey); Martin Osborne (Brighton and Hove)