

## Liam McClelland

I've been aware of the importance of good policy and the devastating impact of bad policy since I was a teenager. I was at secondary school during the final few years of the homophobic legislation Section 28.

It was the Green Party's education policy that helped me make my decision to join in 2015. Since then I have supported my local party by serving on the committee. I already have experience of working on the green party executive committee as co-chair of the Young Greens. I was a key contributor to the successful adoption of our new Drugs Policy. If you were at Scarborough Conference you may remember our "Drugs Don't Kill People, Government Policy Does" t-shirts.



I spoke to two of the former Policy Development Coordinators about what is expected from the role. Having done so, I believe I am a good fit. I am confident with independent research projects, having been accepted onto a Masters of Research course. I have experience of working with teams, currently as a member of the Federation of Young European Greens. Working on policy protecting gig-economy/precarious workers that was passed at the European Green's Council. I also remain teachable, listening and learning from the ideas of others on how Green Party policy can support small businesses.

If elected, I would make sure we adopt the Scottish Greens policy pages approach. This means we would have a brief synopsis of our policies on a public facing web page, and then in-depth short and long term aims on our members page.

If elected I would start with a skills audit of the policy development committee. Then I would set about co-opting a further 5 members with appropriate skills (the total allowed to make up a committee). This would ensure we have the skills to support our members in policy development.

Many of our current policies are out of date and cause problems for the party when the press picks up on them. We need to, see when they were last updated, and what has changed in scientific understanding since. It's my aim to ensure all our policy is evidence based.

I would then look to utilise the studio space we have available with YouTube to provide effective and accessible online learning for members wishing to form policy working groups. This is likely to be needed should PolicyFest have to be organised online. I have over 10 years' experience within the hospitality industry so organising an event like this would be straight forward.

I believe policy development volunteers need to work closely with our equality and diversity committee and coordinators to ensure we have the most inclusive policies possible - better than any other party. It's paramount that we lead with policies that support environmental and social justice. We know how - time and time again - our policies are adopted by think-tanks, quickly become mainstream and are adopted by other political parties. This is why we must lead in this area and react swiftly yet [statement cut here as over the 500 word limit].