

Getting support when you need it

Being involved in politics should be fun and rewarding. But it can be stressful and at times any of us may need to turn to others for help or support.

Often that support can best come from colleagues in your local party or a party body you are active in. But sometimes help is needed elsewhere, and this piece sets out the main places to turn.

24/7 helpline

For the most serious situations, all our members can access a **24x7 support helpline on 0800 028 0199**. It is run by [Health Assured](#), an **independent health and wellbeing specialist**. (When asked which organisation you are from, say the Liberal Democrats.)

Members can also download the **My Healthy Advantage app** from the Google Play store or the Apple App store to access a range of supporting materials. For people without smartphones, there is also a web-based version. For the registration code for the app and for web-based access details, please contact people@libdems.org.uk.

The Health Assured service is provided to support members, regardless of whether the issue is a party-related one or not.

Health Assured has a robust and thorough safeguarding procedure which covers in detail the steps to be taken in the event of risk being identified. All helpline staff receive training and regular updates on their safeguarding/risk policy and procedure. In all instances, Health Assured respects their client's right to confidentiality but also recognises the need and reserves the right to breach confidentiality in exceptional circumstances in line with the data protection legislation.

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July's Federal Conference Committee Report

Federal Conference Committee met via Zoom call on Saturday, 10 July for the agenda selection for our Autumn Conference 2021. The meeting was a lengthy one, which was in part due to the large selection of motions received.

A few announcements before the report; as you may be aware Geoff Payne, departed the FCC in early May, and I am delighted to have been elected the new Chair of FCC. All of us wish Geoff the very best for the future. A recount was held for the vacant place on the Committee, and I am delighted that Keith Melton has joined as our new member of the Federal Conference Committee. Chris Adams has also been elected in the vacant Vice-Chair position and will take responsibility for the General Purposes Sub Committee.

This Autumn conference will be held online, via our third-party provider, Hopin. You will be able to find [more information about the virtual conference](#). If you are planning to attend conference, we highly recommend taking part in the interactive exhibitions and the fringes.

If you haven't yet registered for Conference, [I would recommend doing so here](#).

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[Our political opportunity](#)

Our political opportunity

Sarah Green's brilliant victory in Chesham and Amersham shows the **huge political opportunity for us** – as long as we can continue to apply the lessons from our 2019 election post-mortem.

As part of this, a **trio of motions have been submitted for our autumn federal conference**. One is from the Federal Board (FB) on the **party's strategy**. The other two are from the Federal Policy Committee (FPC), on the **party's values and our policy platform**. Hopefully all three can be debated in sequence, so we agree values, strategy and platform in a joined-up way.

Also submitted are changes to implement the major improvements proposed by the [Party Bodies Review Group](#). These will make it easier to create, run and make a success of party bodies, replacing our current A0/SA0 structure with one, simple system. That will help us **involve more people in our work, and build a larger, healthier party**.

Among the other party business for conference is a **set of rules for electing [Isabelle Parasram's successor](#) as Vice President** responsible for working with ethnic minority communities. Having consulted with the Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel, who will be the returning officer, it's clear we need to have conference agree rules on nominations and campaign limits before a contest can be sensibly run. The Board will be **putting options on both to conference**

so members can choose.

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[Opposing the Protest Crackdown Law](#)

As you may have noticed, **this Conservative Government doesn't like to be challenged.**

Just look at how angry and red-faced Boris Johnson gets at Prime Minister's Questions every week. Just listen to how often Ministers rail against lawyers and the courts, because judges sometimes rule against them. Just remember how they refused to do interviews with journalists who might dare to ask difficult questions.

MPs vote today on Priti Patel's Protest Crackdown Law

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[The Chancellor must fix the black hole in business support](#)

Why support them for this long and then not see them through to the end?

Furlough is beginning to taper away and the business rates holiday is also coming to an end on July 1st. However, restrictions are set to remain in place until 19th July.

This Government seems incapable of hearing the many voices telling them loudly and clearly how desperately small businesses need support to help them cope with the extra period of restrictions, and beyond.

It is completely incomprehensible that the Chancellor is prepared to end so

many of the support mechanisms before firms even have a chance to open their doors and start trading.

The Chancellor has taken his eye off the ball and needs to come up with a long term plan before it is too late.

Why support them for this long and then not see them through to the end?

The black-hole in business support they have created is particularly unfair to the night-time economy, which is being forced to set aside thousands of pounds before able to welcome a single customer.

The Chancellor has taken his eye off the ball and needs to come up with a long term plan before it is too late.

Thousands of closures and job losses are at stake.

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