

Policy Motions



1. Resisting the rise of the far right in Wales and Europe

Proposed by: Fflur Arwel

Seconded by: Branwen Dafydd

This motion is drawn in direct response to the growth of far right movements and parties in many European countries including here in Wales in the form of UKIP and the threat they pose.

This motion has been adapted from our sister alliance party, the European Free Alliance Youth, the youth of the stateless nations, regions and minorities of Europe, following the conclusions of the debates developed in Südtirol in May 2016 during the conference Far-Right and State Populism.

Conference believes:

1. In the promotion of a civic nationalism that promotes an inclusive society.
2. Welcomes refugees and migrants to our nations, regions and communities, and stands for a mutual understanding and cohabitation.

Conference notes:

1. The worrying growth of far right movements and parties in many European countries.
2. The threat that the mentioned factors suppose for the civic, political and social rights that European citizens, especially women, LGBTIQP+ collectives, minorities and migrants, have achieved after years of struggle.
3. The multiple forms that far-right is adopting at political level.
4. The threat that the far-right and political parties such as UKIP pose here in Wales to our communities, minorities, and culture and language.

Conference resolves:

1. To fight the far-right parties on a political level.
2. To stand for the creation of alliances and networks with other groups, organisations, NGO's and platforms for the defence of diversity and the struggle against the far-right.
3. To fight the threat that far-right parties pose to the civic, political and social rights of European citizens, minorities, migrants, women, and LGBTIQP+ collectives.
4. To fight the threat that the far-right and political parties pose here in Wales to our Welsh communities, culture and language.

2. Bullying

Proposed by: Rhydian Elis Fitter

Seconded by: Kieran Sawdon, Polly Manning

Conference believes:

1. That bullying, in all its forms, is unacceptable, and leads to extraordinary suffering in our country.
2. That our movement is a safe space for people with shared values to further the national cause of Wales, free from harassment, abuse, or bullying.
3. Any form of abusive or bullying behaviour has no place in our movement, our party, or in politics more widely.

Conference notes:

1. That up to 44% of suicides among 10-14 year olds in the British State are linked to bullying (Beatbullying, 2010).
2. That other political youth movements have experienced institutional bullying in recent years, with tragic consequences.
3. That Plaid Ifanc has a proud track record of providing a welcoming environment to all members, from all parts of society.
4. That many groups in society face a devastating level of harassment, bullying, and abuse.
 - a. 75% of young transgender people feel unsafe at school
 - b. 94% of Pakistani people in Wales and 74% of black people in Wales reported experiencing racial abuse
 - c. Women and girls in Wales face sexual harassment "on a near-daily basis" (Plan International UK, 2016).

Conference further notes:

1. That the Free Wales to which we aspire is a Wales in which all our people are free to live their lives, and reach their full potential, free from the threat of abuse or intolerance.

Conference resolves:

1. That Plaid Ifanc will work with external partners and utilise the expertise of our members to help build a Wales which is free from bullying.
2. That Plaid Ifanc will continue to work with Plaid Cymru to ensure that our party remains a movement which fights against bullying in any form.
3. That Plaid Ifanc will urge Plaid Cymru to re-examine its standing orders and to amend them where necessary to ensure that our members are safe from harassment, abuse, and bullying.
 - a. Taking specific notice to making the standing orders fit for the 21st century, by explicitly banning cyber-harassment, cyber-bullying, online abuse, and cyber-assaults.

3. Street Names

Proposed by: Daniel Roberts

Seconded by: Glenn Page

Conference believes:

1. That the young people of Wales are not given enough opportunities to learn about the history of our country; whether in the school curriculum, the media, or in day-to-day life.
2. That street names are an excellent opportunity for us, both as a country and our local communities, to honour important figures in Welsh and local history.
3. That the history and culture of Wales is something to be proud of, adding to the diversity of experience in Britain, Europe and the world, and that street names honouring historic Welsh figures would help assert our own distinct identity.

Conference notes:

1. That capital cities around the world use street names as a way of honouring important figures; for example, Cromwell Road in London, O'Connell Street in Dublin, and Avenue Charles de Gaulle in Paris.
2. That Cardiff already names many of its street names after famous people; including Hemingway Road, Bute Street, and Callaghan Square.
3. That street names across Wales and the UK that do honour historic figures are disproportionately in favour of men.

Conference resolves:

1. That Plaid Youth should campaign to ensure the legacy of historic Welsh men and women by urging local councils to rename streets in their honour.
3. That Plaid Youth should encourage those members who are elected as councillors in the upcoming local elections to put forward similar motions in their respective councils.

4. Decriminalisation of Drugs

Proposed by: Glenn Page

Seconded by: Daniel Roberts

Conference Notes

1. Plaid Ifanc supports the legalisation, regulated sale and manufacturing of cannabis for medicinal and recreational uses (motion passed in 2013).
2. That Plaid Cymru's position on decriminalisation and legalization is unclear.
3. That Leanne Wood has recently called for medicinal cannabis to be made available via the Welsh NHS.
4. That Leanne Wood, in her 2008 'Making our communities safer' report, called for the decriminalisation of cannabis.
5. That Arfon Jones, the Plaid Cymru PCC for the north of Wales, has been calling for the decriminalisation of drugs.
6. That other European countries such as Portugal & the Czech Republic have decriminalised drugs with positive effects.

Conference Believes

1. That the war on drugs has been an unmitigated failure.
2. That the war on drugs has failed to stem the demand for controlled substances.
3. That addiction is an illness that must therefore be treated as such by the health services.
4. That punishing those suffering from addiction is not only morally reprehensible but counter-productive.
5. That the decriminalisation of drugs would free up police resources enabling them to focus on violent and organised crime, including tackling the supply of drugs.

Conference Resolves

1. To support the decriminalisation of drugs.
2. To lend our support, where possible, to organisations campaigning for decriminalisation.
3. To lobby Plaid Cymru to support the decriminalisation of drugs as their official position.

5. Associate Citizenship of the EU

Presented by: Elyn Stephens

Seconded by: Sioned Treharne

Conference believes:

1. That despite Wales' narrow vote to leave the European Union on the 23rd of June 2016, many Welsh citizens still feel fiercely Welsh and European.
2. That currently, our European citizenship is being stripped from the Welsh people against our will.

Conference notes:

1. That Guy Verhofstadt MEP, chief negotiator on leaving the EU for the European Parliament has proposed an opt - in associate EU citizenship as part of the official negotiations. It was originally proposed as an amendment to report on the future institutional set up of the European Union by Charles Gorens MEP.
2. That the idea has given hope to so many people and young people in particular who wish to be a part of the European project. It has also given hope to EU citizens living in the UK whose rights to stay in the UK have still not been made certain.

Conference resolves:

1. That Plaid Ifanc supports an associate EU citizenship.

6. The Welsh Media

Proposed by: Evan James

Seconded by: Rhydian Elis Fitter

Conference believes:

4. In the expansion of BBC Wales to include more conducive and informative news broadcasts for the people of Wales.
5. That the expansion would see a settlement similar to Scotland, where there is a distinct and separate news broadcast for all Welsh news related programming; a primary news programme which is separate to England's (see 'Conference further notes: 4.').
6. In replacing *BBC Wales Today* with *BBC News Wales*; a show that would become the primary news programme of BBC Wales.
7. *BBC News Wales* would broadcast on all BBC news schedules, concurrently with Scotland and England at 6pm and 10pm, in addition to the five-minute bulletins ran throughout the day.
8. *BBC News Wales* would become the flagship news programme for BBC Wales and would report on the regular stories that any primary news broadcast would; World News, UK-wide news and Welsh news.
9. The creation of *BBC News Wales* would provide an opportunity to:
 - 9.1. Focus on, and in greater depth, a wider range of issues effecting Wales.
 - 9.2. Filter news not relevant to Wales. (see 'Conference further notes: 4.').
 - 9.3. The ability to link and demonstrate how each report will affect Welsh civil society.
10. The creation of regional Welsh news broadcasts, which would be transmitted in the slot formally taken by *BBC Wales Today*.
 - 10.1. Regional broadcasts would allow for a greater spotlight to be shone on local issues, elections and events than what is currently available to viewers.
11. In the creation of Welsh versions of *Newsnight* and *Question Time*.
 - 11.1. Creation of Welsh centric political shows would increase the public's connection with the Senedd, devolution and Welsh politics in Westminster.
12. In enacting formal requirements for ITV Wales & West and any other terrestrial television stations partially owned by the public to follow similar news broadcasting regulations as detailed above; the requirement for a separate news jurisdiction to England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
13. The requirement for all news broadcasts within Wales to provide the provision of both English and Cymraeg subtitles.

Conference notes:

1. The assessment of Professor Roger Scully, that the poor standing of a distinct and separate Welsh media is creating a serious democratic deficit within Wales.¹
2. Of studies conducted by Cardiff University, which indicate that there is currently a low electoral turnout within Wales and a critically low understanding of, and connection to:²
 - 2.1. The Senedd, it's constitutional framework, committees and chambers.
 - 2.2. Wales' relationship with Westminster, European and Devolved Politics.
 - 2.3. AMs & MEPs, their duties and roles.³
 - 2.4. The powers and jurisdictions the Senedd currently has over governance in Wales – *43% of the public believe the UK government controls the NHS in Wales.*⁴
3. That the lack in understanding of devolution undermines the Senedd's legitimacy and critically diminishes the ability and effectiveness of self-governance in Wales.⁵
4. That news-media provides a vital public service; an independent, transparent and informative media is essential for the electorate to make informed decisions. It provides a critical check on government and governance and therefore is the backbone of any liberal democracy.
5. That the proposals laid out within the first section would dramatically improve public information, education and the relationship with the Senedd and Welsh Politics in general. This is because:
 - 5.1. Welsh specific news will have the ability to concentrate and cover the Senedd, Welsh Politics, governance and the public sector far more than the current settlement is able to.
 - 5.2. It will focus on, and consequentially raise awareness on, issues specifically relating to Wales and filter out news that does not impact or relate to Wales. (see 'Conference further notes: 4.')
 - 5.3. Viewers in Wales will finally have a greater opportunity to observe and learn about issues specifically relating to them.

Conference further notes:

1. That for the possibility of a successful independence referendum to occur in Wales, Wales requires a stronger, more transparent and informative media.
 - 1.1. The proposal will benefit all Parties within the Senedd, as they will have a greater voice, that is not always heard under the current settlement.
2. That the people of Wales deserve a robust and informative news media.

¹ "Low Welsh Media Consumption Creates 'Democratic Deficit' - BBC News", *BBC News*, 2017 <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-35984859>> [accessed 19 March 2017].

² Roger Scully, Richard Wyn Jones and Dafydd Trystan, "Turnout, Participation And Legitimacy In Post-Devolution Wales".

³ "Brexit: More People Recognise Fictitious MEP Than Real Ones - BBC News", *BBC News*, 2017 <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-38004531>> [accessed 21 March 2017].

⁴ "Fewer Than Half The Population Know Who Runs Welsh NHS, Says Poll - BBC News", *BBC News*, 2017 <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-27739205>> [accessed 17 March 2017].

⁵ Roger Scully and Richard Wyn Jones, "The Public Legitimacy Of The National Assembly For Wales", *The Journal Of Legislative Studies*, 21.4 (2015), 515-533 <<https://doi.org/10.1080/13572334.2015.1059591>>.

- 2.1. *BBC Wales Today* is broadcast within the same slot as English regions. The conference would recognise that Wales is not a region, but much like Scotland, is a country that warrants and requires its own independent/separate news programmes.
3. *BBC Wales Today* is the most widely consumed Welsh media outlet, with 37% of people frequently watching. *ITV's Wales at Six* is the second most popular with 17% of people in Wales regularly tuning in. ¹ The proposals to forge these broadcasts into primary news programmes, moved up to the primetime slot, will have a significant impact on substantial swathes of the public, as well as the opportunity to engage with a greater number of viewers who switch off after the main news headlines at 10.
 - 3.1. Conference would recognise this proposal as one of the best methods of engaging the Welsh public with Welsh politics and devolution.
4. The current news settlement is actually damaging public information and inadvertently perpetuating misinformation about Welsh governance.
 - 4.1. The current news settlement means that Wales, at this time, receives the same news transmission as England.
 - 4.2. Naturally, as England is the larger nation within the UK and Scotland has its own BBC News jurisdiction, *BBC News [UK]* will primarily focus on issues relating to England. In many cases, this means stories about certain English government sectors are covered and shown to Welsh audiences that don't necessarily affect them – i.e. Health, Transport or Education.
 - 4.3. For example, if *BBC News [UK]* cover a story in relation to how the UK government will bring in changes that affects England's Education system, such as Grammar Schools, viewers in Wales will also see that story. This settlement feeds confusion and misinformation, as viewers may not be aware, or the distinction may not have been made clear to them, that the changes reported on by *BBC News [UK]*, will not affect Wales and that those areas fall under the jurisdiction of the Senedd.
 - 4.4. As well as feeding misinformation and confusion over governance, this issue signals wasted broadcasting time for Welsh viewers that could be better spent on highlighting issues that would directly affect them.
 - 4.5. *Note: UK wide decisions that will affect Wales would still be covered under BBC News Wales, as it would fall within the 'UK News' category; this section 4. Specifically relates to the irrelevant English specific stories that are irrelevant to viewers in Wales.*
5. Strengthen the civic Welsh national identity, providing the opportunity for citizens to become invested in their society and governance.
6. Due to the increased demand and expansion of services, the proposal signals the possibility to create hundreds of jobs within Wales and Welsh media for graduates and journalists.

Conference resolves:

1. That Plaid Ifanc will forward the proposal to officials within Plaid Cymru for their consideration.

2. That if passed, members of Plaid Ifanc will sign the corresponding e-petition, that will be forwarded to the relevant Senedd committee for their consideration, once it has reached the threshold of 10 signatures.
 - 2.1. The more signatures and the formal backing of the petition by Plaid Ifanc, strengthens the impact of this perposal.

7. Independence and Brexit

Proposed by: Daniel Roberts

Seconded by: Glenn Page

Conference believes:

1. That Wales is about to enter into a period of constitutional upheaval, in the context of Brexit and the transfer of powers from Brussels, the independence referendum in Scotland, and amidst calls for Irish Unity.
2. That there is no power currently at EU level which better serves Wales by going to Westminster rather than Cardiff Bay, and that the UK Government must not use Brexit as an opportunity to take powers back from the Welsh Government.
3. That regardless of the results of the constitutional debates in Scotland or the north of Ireland, Wales should be an independent nation, and that the challenges we face as a nation economically, culturally and socially can only be identified and solved by our own independent Government.
4. That at a time when people from all parties and none are having to imagine a new constitutional future for Wales and the UK, Plaid Ifanc, as the largest political youth movement in Wales and the most active section in Plaid Cymru, has a vital role in formulating the vision of independence that we present to the people of Wales, and in ensuring that young people from across the country are able to access our arguments for independence.
5. That the UK Government must allow Scotland to hold a referendum on independence at a time of the Scottish Government's choosing, as mandated by the SNP's 2016 manifesto, in order to respect the sovereignty of the people of Scotland. This must also be true if and when the people of Wales vote for our own referendum on independence, or on any constitutional change.
6. That Wales' current status as one of the constituent nations of the United Kingdom will be under threat if Scotland and the north of Ireland decide to leave the Union. We will be left in an even more imbalanced union, with a much larger country, that is currently devolving more powers to its own regions than Wales has.
7. That the current political developments within the UK mean that the people of Wales no longer face a choice between independence or the status quo, but independence or a Tory-dominated, inward-looking, anti-migrant, regionalised United Kingdom outside of the European Union.

Conference notes:

1. That the demand for a constitutional debate has not been limited to Plaid Cymru - even senior unionist figures have acknowledged that the current constitutional settlement is unsustainable, regardless of the decisions made in Scotland or northern Ireland.
2. That in the Plaid Cymru special conference on the 16th of July of 2016, members reasserted its support for independence in Europe for Wales, and stated that "it is important that contingency plans are drawn up for the future of our country in this rapidly changing context."

3. That it is a long-standing policy of Plaid Ifanc to campaign for and advocate an independent Welsh republic within the European Union.
4. That the Compact between Plaid Cymru and the Labour Party in the National Assembly has ensured that Plaid Ifanc policy is now Welsh Government policy, demonstrating that we can work with the Government while still strongly holding them to account and providing the strongest official opposition in Wales since 2007.

Conference resolves:

1. That Plaid Ifanc should lobby the Plaid leadership team to hold a National Convention on Wales' constitutional future - seeking the views of people from across Wales, both Plaid members and not, both long-term supporters of independence and those who have not yet considered it, to ensure that the wishes of the people of Wales are, at all times, guiding our national future.
2. That the Plaid Ifanc National Executive Committee will organise a National Young People's Consultation on Wales' constitutional future. Using digital democracy and meetings hosted by the growing number of Plaid Ifanc branches, we can hear a wide cross-section of the young people of Wales' visions for our nation.
3. That after Plaid Cymru and Plaid Ifanc have held successful conventions to open a National Conversation on Wales' path to independence, that Plaid Ifanc should play a key role in creating a Plaid Cymru Roadmap to Independence that we can present to the people of Wales, as a clear and structured alternative to the Tory UK Government's plan for a regionalisation of Wales in a post-Hard Brexit UK.
4. That the Plaid Ifanc NEC should regularly communicate with the leadership of Plaid Cymru in order to ensure that our voice is heard in the development of the contingency plans being created in the context of Brexit, a Scottish Independence Referendum, and calls for Irish Unity.

8. Young Carers

Proposed by: Elyn Stephens

Seconded by: Lewis Greenaway

Conference believes:

1. That young carers make a valuable, often overlooked contribution society.
2. That young carers are often unable to find part time work due to caring commitments.

Conference notes:

1. That there are 29,000 known young carers in Wales, the actual figure is estimated to be much higher.
2. That currently, young carers who attend school cannot receive carer's allowance.

Conference resolves:

1. That young carers should be paid carer's allowance from the age of 16, regardless of the circumstances of their education.

9. Prevent

Proposed by: Fflur Arwel

Seconded by: Branwen Dafydd

The Prevent strategy was a part of the government's CONTEST 2 counter-terrorism strategy. Over the years it has been underhandedly and extra-legally implemented by various public bodies in conjunction with local police force with the specific target being the Muslims of the United Kingdom. The 2011 revision of Prevent narrowed the focus to ideology and broadened the application to include the far-right.

Prevent received statutory footing via the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Section 29 (which issues Prevent duty guidance). Section 26 of the Act places a duty on public bodies ("specified authorities" listed in Schedule 6 to the Act), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Schedule 6 identifies the following bodies required to implement this duty:

Local government
Criminal Justice
Education, child care etc.
Health and Social care
Police

Conference believes:

- That the UK government's PREVENT strategy and its statutory implementation through the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 has failed not only as a strategy but also the very communities it seeks to protect.
- That PREVENT will have a chilling effect on open debate, free speech and political dissent. It will create an environment in which political change can no longer be discussed openly, and will withdraw to unsupervised spaces.

Conference notes:

- The way that PREVENT conceptualises 'radicalisation' and 'extremism' is based on the unsubstantiated view that religious ideology is the primary driving factor for terrorism. Academic research suggests that social, economic and political factors, as well as social exclusion, play a more central role in driving political violence than ideology.
- PREVENT remains fixated on ideology as the primary driver of terrorism. Inevitably, this has meant a focus on religious interaction and Islamic symbolism to assess radicalisation. This serves to reinforce a prejudicial world view that perceives Islam to be a retrograde and oppressive religion that threatens the West and thus has imperialist undertones.
- PREVENT reinforces an 'us' and 'them' view of the world, divides communities, and sows mistrust of Muslims.

Conference resolves:

- To call on the Westminster government to end its ineffective PREVENT policy and rather adopt an approach that is based on dialogue and openness.
- To call on Plaid Cymru to adopt a similar policy of opposing PREVENT in Wales

- To stand in support and solidarity by those affected by PREVENT in Wales and work alongside NGOs such as Prevent Watch and the MEND community

Further notes:

Prevent Watch is a community led initiative which supports people impacted by Prevent. Established in September 2014 by a group of community organisations our work has supported over 140 cases.

They employ case workers and volunteers who have a reach into communities impacted by Prevent and we create a public record of the impact. We are not Government funded, we rely on the community and well wisher for funding.

10. LGBTI Inclusive Education

Proposed by: Llyr Williams

Seconded by: Alanna Jones

Conference believes:

1. That there should be a legislative requirement for LGBTI inclusive education to be delivered in all schools in Wales.
2. There should be dedicated, free teacher training focussing specifically on LGBT issues and on homophobic bullying.
3. Local authorities to record incidents of homophobic, biphobic & transphobic bullying as is done with other protected characteristics such as race.

Conference notes:

1. That Stonewall's School report (2012) found that
 - a. more than half of LGBTI young people experience homophobic bullying in Britain's schools
 - b. three in five say that this impacts on their school work.
 - c. 99% of pupils hear phrases such as "that's so gay".
 - d. more than half of lesbian, gay and bisexual people are never taught anything about LGBTI issues at school.
 - e. One in five discuss LGBTI people or their relationships in sex and relationship education.
 - f. Two in five LGBTI pupils who experience homophobic bullying attempt or think about taking their own life because of bullying.
2. That Stonewall's teachers report (2014) shows that:
 - A. Three in five (61 per cent) primary school staff in Wales hear pupils use expressions like 'that's so gay' or 'you're so gay'.
 - B. More than a third (37 per cent) of primary school staff in Wales say their school does not allow them to teach about lesbian, gay and bisexual issues and almost half (47 per cent) don't know if they are allowed.
 - C. Only one in four (27 per cent) primary school staff in Wales say their school has a policy that addresses homophobic bullying.
 - D. Nine in ten (90 per cent) primary school staff in Wales have not received any specific training on how to tackle homophobic bullying.
 - E. Among the 40 primary school teachers surveyed in Wales, only a third (33 per cent) of primary school teachers have addressed different types of families in a way that includes same-sex parents in the classroom.
3. That Scotland is already ahead of the rest of Europe in terms of implementing LGBTI inclusive education thanks to the success of the Tie campaign.

Conference resolves:

1. That Plaid Ifanc will work with LGBTI organisations and other political parties on what is a cross-party issue in order to lobby the Welsh Government to deliver LGBT inclusive education across all Welsh schools including faith schools.
2. That Plaid Ifanc will urge all Plaid Cymru representatives across all parliaments and local authorities to support LGBTI inclusive education.
3. That Plaid Ifanc should be proud of its track record on standing up for LGBTI issues.

11. The Compact to Move Wales Forward – Delivering in Opposition

Proposed by: Glenn Page

Seconded by: Daniel Roberts

Conference Notes

1. Plaid Cymru and Welsh Labour entered into an informal agreement following the 2016 election to allow the formation of a minority Labour government. This arrangement is known as 'The Compact to Move Wales Forward'.
2. The Compact is an informal arrangement – not a coalition - that does not bind Plaid Cymru members of the National Assembly to vote in-line with the government on any issues.
3. Wales' political landscape is changing rapidly as a result of Brexit and the upcoming referendum on Scottish independence and, potentially, Irish re-unification.
4. That as a result of the compact, that Plaid Ifanc policy on maintaining the benefits students & young people enjoy post-Brexit – is now the official policy of the Welsh Government.
5. That Plaid Cymru members of the National Assembly voted against Labour on the Wales Bill and on triggering Article 50.
6. That some members of Plaid Cymru were skeptical of entering into any arrangement with Welsh Labour.

Conference Believes

1. It is more important than ever that Wales has strong leadership, given the unique and unpredictable political environment Wales finds itself in.
2. The Compact allows Plaid Cymru to deliver for Wales, from opposition.
3. That Wales' Brexit negotiating priorities should not be left to Welsh Labour.
4. That the Compact is a vital opportunity for Plaid Cymru –and by extension Plaid Ifanc – to shape Welsh Government positions.
5. That Wales would be best served by a Plaid Cymru-led government, however, in the meantime, Plaid Cymru should continue to work with other parties to ensure Wales national interest is furthered at every opportunity.

Conference Resolves

1. To continue to support the Compact, and to work with any progressive organisations looking to further Wales' national interest.
2. To work with Plaid Cymru to ensure as many Plaid Ifanc policies as possible are adopted as Welsh Government positions.

12. Mental Health

Proposed by: Osian Wyn Owen

Seconded by: Nia Haf

Conference notes:

1. that suicide remains the leading cause of death for men between 20 and 34 in England and Wales, representing 24% of all deaths in 2013

Conference believes:

1. that Plaid Ifanc is as a progressive and forward-thinking movement, and that we should be at the forefront of the campaign to tackle the current crisis in mental health provision.

2. that Plaid Cymru is leading the way by pledging to 'increase spending on Mental Health services in each year of the next Assembly term, and pledges to improve access to trained counsellors and therapists in the community.' (Plaid's manifesto for the 2016 Assembly Elections)

3. that stigma surrounding mental health leads to higher suicide rates in this group.

Conference resolves:

1. That Plaid Ifanc will continue to work with Plaid Cymru to campaign for a healthier Wales, and that innovation in the field of mental health is necessary to achieve this goal.

13. Learning at least one foreign language to be compulsory in our schools

Proposed by: Llyr Williams

Seconded by: Alanna Jones

Conference believes:

1. That learning one Modern Foreign Language such as French, German, Spanish or Italian as well as Welsh and English should be compulsory in schools.
2. That pupils should learn that language from Primary School through to 16 years old.

Conference notes:

1. That only 25% of school pupils in Wales sit a GCSE in a modern foreign language, with the lowest ever number sitting German exams.
2. That there's been a fall of 44% between 2002 and 2015 in the number of pupils sitting GCSEs in Modern Foreign Languages
3. That the use of English within the trading environment in Europe will fall after Brexit and that we need to train the next generation to be able to speak a language useful for foreign trade.

Conference resolves:

1. That Plaid Ifanc will urge Plaid Cymru to include this policy in their education plans
2. That Plaid Ifanc will campaign for the benefits of learning a foreign language in addition to Welsh and English.