

Summary of achievements in 2025

By Robyn Peel

Regional Diversity Officer for South Central

The following list is in no particular order; these are the main accomplishments. If you are aware of others, please forgive me for not including them. This has also been my first year in this role. Thank you for allowing me to step up to the role.

- Continued to host monthly Zoom calls with local party Diversity Officers from across the region
 - Sourcing guest speakers
 - Providing some training
 - Providing relevant content in a friendly and open atmosphere
- Helped to update the Diversity Statements for all the local parties, where possible, across the region by:
 - Working to get the **Demographic Surveys** sent out
 - Providing training and support with the **demographic reports** in Lighthouse
- Provided group and one-to-one support for Diversity Officers across the region
- Creating the **Diversity Statement** for the **Hampshire & the Solent Mayoral** constituency. This covers Hampshire & The Isle of Wight
- Following the UK Supreme Court's Judgement in April, attended three **Trans Rights Protests** across the region
 - Brought some Trans related **placards** which I'd made
 - Brought some of my own Trans & Pride **flags and flag poles**
- Attended a few Pride events across the region
 - Lending my own Pride Flags and flag poles for those who joined the local party
 - Providing a few **stickers** for members of the public
 - Providing a few Lib Dem **Pride badges** for some of the Lib Dems
 - Members of the Southampton Lib Dems brought the region's Pride placards
 - Taking **photos** to be shared on social media and elsewhere
- Attended the **regional exec meetings**, providing reports for each
- Attended some of the regional exec **sub-committee** meetings
- Joined the Hampshire & Solent Mayoral selection committee
- Communicated with other Diversity Officers, Membership Secretaries and Membership & Development Officers via the regional **WhatsApp group**
- Provided content for the **regional newsletter** from our chair, Tahir Maher
- Been out **canvassing across the region, and beyond**, in a few by-elections and in preparation for the county elections
- Created a **monthly document** to help the region's DOs get relevant diversity posts on their local party's social media
- Attended the **Trans Experience event** in Southampton as a panellist
- Spring and Autumn Conference
 - I attended both the Spring and Autumn Conference as a Steward. *I'm already booking the spring conference in York and intend to join the autumn conference in Brighton.*

- Attended the **regional gatherings** at the conferences
- Introduced myself and briefly chatted with members from across the region
- During the Autumn conference, I took on a temporary role as the **Lead Steward for Accessibility** whilst the regular Lead Steward, Chris Portou, was attending a family wedding
- Helped to raise awareness of International Day for Sign Languages by asking for something to be included on the last day of the conference. During the thank you segment before the leader's speech, Nick Da Costa mentioned it as he gave his thanks to the team of sign language interpreters.
- Worked with other regional diversity officers from **across the country**
- Worked with the Diversity & Inclusion Officer **from HQ**, Nicole Turner
- Created a spreadsheet of diversity-related **events across the region**
- Attended a national Zoom call hosted by Baroness Caroline Pidgeon and Lord Shaffaq Mohammed of Tinsley, the newly appointed Diversity & Inclusion Officer for England
 - The meeting was called with relatively short notice
 - It was intended for all the regional DOs
 - Whilst other people were present, I was the only regional DO present
 - Some of the suggestions made to improve the diversity within the party, such as improving BAME representation and the list of diversity events, we are already doing across the region
- Met with other trans people at a Leaders meeting during the Autumn Conference.
 - Lisa Smart, MP & Lord Mark Pack hosted the meeting. Sir Ed Davey, MP, was also present at the meeting.
 - The meeting included members of the trans community within the party, from across the country, to discuss various issues within the party relating to how trans people are currently treated and represented by the party
- Helped to promote news relating to funding for targeted diversity groups for different things through the region's DOs
- Provided content for a "Spotlight on..." piece that is now available in the Campaign Hub
- Working with Tahir Maher on the piece that he is doing to improve our representation of members from the BAME community

Limitations

- Despite it now being a mandatory position, not every local party has a diversity officer
- GDPR prevents me from chasing those DOs who are not in the WA group or emailing them too much, unless I have consent
- As someone on benefits, this limits where I can travel on occasion. In most cases, travel has been at my own expense. In some cases, I have had help from others. Thank you to those who have helped in this instance. Like the other regional officers, there is no budget for this role.

P.S. This year has been both interesting and varied. It is not what anyone could have predicted. We are all volunteers and give our time freely. Thank you to everyone for your support.