



institute for public policy research liberal democrats party conference fringe events guide 2008

Saturday 13th September

13:00-14:00

Highcliff Marriott, Shaftesbury Suite Future of Progressive Politics

With Labour behind in the polls and the Conservatives resurgent, how do the Liberal Democrats fit into the political picture? Should they tack left or right, what coalition of support should they build? What are their electoral prospects?

Chair: Martin Kettle, Columnist, The Guardian

Speakers: Rt Hon Sarah Teather MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; Danny Alexander MP, Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats; Lord Tom McNally; Bobby Duffy, Deputy Managing Director, Ipsos Mori; Jasper Gerard, Journalist

20:00-21:15

Highcliff Marriott, Blandford Room Achieving a Global Deal on Climate Change

Emissions cuts under the Kyoto agreement end in 2012. An agreement on action post-2012 is essential if efforts to drive down global carbon emissions are to continue. Talks are underway to agree a new agreement, but a fight looms on what it should look like. What obligations will countries need to take on to prevent dangerous climate change and how should developed and developing countries' actions differ in a world of extreme poverty?

Chair: Andrew Pendleton, ippr

Speakers: Steve Webb MP, Shadow Environment Secretary; Elliot Wittington, Christian Aid; Kit Vaughan, WWF

Sunday 14th September

13:00-14:00

Highcliff Marriott, Purbeck Suite Squeezed out: What is distinctive about Lib Dem public service agenda?

What's the right balance between central direction and local autonomy? What role for targets and professional autonomy? Where next for commissioning and contracting? And how do we meet the needs of those with least voice?

Chair: Jenni Russell, Journalist

Speakers: Norman Lamb, Shadow Health Secretary; Richard Reeves, Director, Demos; Julian Astle, Centre Forum; Dame Julie Mellor, PWC

20:15-21:45

Tregonwell Room, Royal Exeter Hotel A Fair Chance for Every Child?

Children from deprived backgrounds are three times less likely to achieve good outcomes at age 16. How should the education system and family support be transformed to make a real difference to children's lives no matter where they live or what background they are from?

Chair: Carey Oppenheim, Co-director, ippr

Speakers: David Laws MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Children; David Collins, AOC President; Al Aynsley Green, Children's Commissioner;

Monday 15th September

18:15-19:30

Highcliff Marriott Purbeck Suite 120 The Care Crunch

More and more families are being affected by the care crunch: where both care needs and the costs of care rise faster than the ability of the current system to pay for it. Those who are neither rich nor poor are feeling the squeeze most. What would a progressive and sustainable system of care for older people look like?

Chair: Stephen Burke, Counsel & Care

Speakers: Paul Burstow MP; Clive Cowerly, Resolution Foundation; Carey Oppenheim, Co-Director, ippr

20:00-21:30

Shaftesbury Suite, Highcliff Hotel Innovation

Given the priority that the private sector has placed on policies designed to nurture and foster innovation, government and the public services are increasingly focusing on the important role innovation can play in transforming public services. But while the public sector remains a rich source of innovation, a number of barriers remain.

Chair: Lawrence McGinty, ITN Science Editor

Speakers: Vince Cable MP, Shadow Chancellor; Lord Tim Razzle; more TBC

Tuesday 16th September

20:00-21:15

Highcliff Marriott Hotel Yeovil Suite Home-coming: Will we get the housing we need or the housing we deserve?

Considers if we are building both private and social housing that are fit for purpose. In particular, do these homes meet community need? Does the process of planning and decision-making in housing build ensure that new developments meet local need? Has reform of the planning system really delivered?

Chair: TBC

Speakers: Lembit Opik MP, Housing spokesperson; Martin Bellinger, Oracle; David Tuffin, Managing Partner, Tuffin Ferraby Taylor; Heather Petch, Director, HACT