

LWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



CHAIR POSITION

Name: Anya Cook

CLP: Newcastle North

Personal Statement

"I know the best resource available to me is other women. We are at our best when we uphold, support and celebrate each other".

I'm a Labour Party activist and both NEC member and branch secretary of University & College Union.

By involving women members of UCU in campaigns about issues that matter to them, such as the first period poverty campaign at a college in England, I have increased their participation in the branch and their taking of roles. I have undertaken training in mediation and sexual violence, and am an experienced caseworker and negotiator.

I value diversity and am committed to increasing the participation of all women. I will work collaboratively to maximise the engagement of BAME, LGBTQ+ and disabled women, encouraging and supporting them to be active in their communities and within the Party to become councillors, MPs and activists.

Working as a Mentor in further education with adults, ESOL and young people, I am aware of the multiple barriers that women face throughout and across their lives; compounded against a backdrop of austerity and diminished community resources.

I'm vice chair of Socialist Health Association NE, a member of Peace & Unity Group, People's Assembly NE and anti-racist coalition, Newcastle Unites.

I see a priority of Chair of LWN to be active in all these priority areas, asking difficult questions and challenging patriarchy; not just offering talking shops within the Labour Party but ensuring that not only are women's voices heard, but that they are acted upon.

LWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



CHAIR POSITION

Name: Abena Oppong-Asare

CLP: Erith and Thamesmead

Personal Statement

Sisterhood and the progression of women within the Labour Party is at the very core of my values. We have a long way to go in securing women's rights, and the work LWN does is crucial in striving for our equality.

I would be honoured to serve as chair of LWN and use my skills and networks to amplify LWN's standing within Labour movement. I've been a committee member for the last 2 years with a focus on providing training for the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Scheme and LWN Leadership Weekend Schools. I have been involved in LWN's campaigns on baby leave, sexual harassment and all women shortlists. I regularly mentor and support Labour sisters to help them achieve personal and professional ambitions within the Labour Party and beyond.

I formerly served as a Councillor in the London Borough of Bexley. I am the co-author of 'Stand Up and Be Counted: Be a Councillor', a publication encouraging and providing practical advice for women from diverse backgrounds to stand for council. I proudly lead and participate in Labour Party Conference events and I am deeply committed to diversity of participation and representation.

My practical experience as a councillor, campaigner, community leader and champion of women's equality and BAME equality will profoundly inform my role as LWN Chair.

I would be thankful for your vote as Chair of LWN; serving will enable me to share my deep commitment to and enthusiasm for the vital work LWN does for women's equality.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Keonyemenu Akpoteni (Kacey)

CLP: West Bromwich East

Personal Statement

I was privileged to be on the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Programme 2018, therefore a beneficiary of LWN's positive impact and campaign for change and positive action to get more women selected as candidates.

Please elect me and I will use my varied skills to contribute meaningfully to making a positive difference to the lives and prospects of women in the Labour Party by closing the gaps and breaking down the barriers in the paths of womens' journeys to leadership and power particularly those of the marginalised.

Having nearly thirty years of work experience in a varied range of careers, currently run a domiciliary care business, a wife, a mother, Labour Party Activist & Branch Secretary, GMB Union Member, Board Member of a Local Charity etc I have firsthand knowledge of some of the challenges, barriers some of us women face in juggling our personal lives and taking up more active civic and leadership roles.

Please elect me and I will be passionately dedicated to serving on the LWN committees alongside other brilliant women across our Party and affiliates to seek and find innovative and sustainable ways for women to have a fairer representation across all levels of the party, as well as ensuring that: women's issues are constantly high up on the agenda, women's views are heard and taken into account, these views become implemented as policies, support systems are created and provided for women in leadership roles and politics in general to ensure longevity in these positions.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: SANCHIA ALASIA

CLP: Barking

Personal Statement

I am standing for the Labour women's network executive as I believe that I have the skills, knowledge and experience to make a real contribution to the team.

I work as an award winning equality and diversity manager at Brunel University in West London and one of the key projects that I am leading on is developing and encouraging more women to progress in science, engineering and technology where their participation is woefully low.

I am a Labour councillor in Barking and Dagenham and have worked within and outside of the council to increase women's participation in local government. When I was first elected in May 2010, I became the youngest female councillor and the first of three Black women to be elected to the council. I also defeated with my Labour colleagues the London regional coordinator of the BNP who was a councillor in my ward prior achieving a 7% swing to Labour. I have just finished my one year term as civic mayor of the borough from May 2018 to May 2019.

As a former MEP candidate in the 2014 and 2019 European elections, I spoke at events and meetings all across London about the importance about having women at the heart of policy making as well as outlining the benefits that Europe provides for women, for example protecting the rights of many women who work part time including myself from discrimination.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Rosa Bolger

CLP: Witney CLP

Personal Statement

As a recent graduate of the Jo Cox Women in Leadership programme, I have experienced first hand the value of the Labour Women's Network. I see becoming a Committee Member as my opportunity to give back to the LWN and also to be part of it's continued success in supporting women into public office, roles within our party, and helping to shape policy with women in the foreground.

About me: I'm a West Oxfordshire District Councillor and in May 2019 I became the first ever woman Leader of the now Labour controlled Witney Town Council.

At my roots I am a community activist committed to fighting inequality and promoting a society of Labour values based on solidarity, tolerance and respect.

I pride myself on being committed, enthusiastic, hard working and annoyingly organised, I'm not afraid of a challenge nor of getting my hands dirty.

In addition to this I'm a mother to two young children, a reluctant runner and a gin enthusiast.

I would very much appreciate your support in election to the LWN Management Committee.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Anntoinette Bramble

CLP: Hackney South and Shoreditch

Personal Statement

I am Councillor, the Statutory Deputy Mayor of Hackney, Cabinet Member for Education, Children Social Care and Young People and the 1st black female Deputy Leader of the Local Government Association Labour Group.

I am passionate about women's representation and want to be on LWN committee to be part of making that happen. I believe I have the leadership skills to contribute. In my various roles I have the opportunity to provide effective political leadership and strategic direction, and oversee budgets and the manifesto delivery. I also engage with Leaders and members, give evidence in parliament, organise and attend events, chair policy roundtables and speak on panels.

If elected, I'll have the unique opportunity to actively work with women across the country and champion Labour women nationally.

It's so important council-chambers and positions of power, reflect not just their local community but wider society. We need more women and underrepresented groups to speak for all communities. That is why I submitted an article for the Fabian Women's Network booklet encouraging more women and underrepresented groups to stand as Councillors.

Delivering LWN training is an exciting way to empower women to reach their potential and as a trainer I use my experience to do that. Recently I had the opportunity to train trainers in Africa, and this amazing experience reinforced to me how much we have in common.

Please vote to elect me to LWN's committee so that I can help make a difference for all Labour women. Thank you.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Charlotte Carson

CLP: Lewisham West & Penge

Personal Statement

As a recent graduate of the Jo Cox Leadership Programme and a participant in LWN's Leadership Weekend, I am grateful for the vital work of this organisation and want to play a leading role in its development.

I am a teacher and a trade unionist. I founded the Feminism in Schools Network in 2016 to bring together teachers, students, campaigners and politicians to support girls and young women to get political! I will bring this passion, energy and creativity to the management committee. I want to continue LWN's great work to push for progress from the bottom and at the top.

From the bottom – improving the grassroots culture for women in the Party: I am particularly interested in developing LWN's Political Education and designing resources for CLP training on Challenging Sexism at the local level. I lead teacher-training on Challenging Sexism in Schools and want to design resources to equip local members and Women's Officers to lead training in their CLPs.

At the top – improving the representation of women in leadership position: I am currently involved in building a legal challenge to allow the job-sharing of the role of MP. We must recognise the 'centrality of care' to most women's lives and make politics more accessible and manageable for women with caring responsibilities.

I would love to work within the structure of LWN to maximise the impact of my campaigning energy and get more women into power in the Labour Movement.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Catherine Davis

CLP: Tynemouth

Personal Statement

I'm Cath Davis and I'm a councillor for North Tyneside and member of Tynemouth CLP. I've been a labour party member for 10 years and I'm also an activist with Unison. I've always been passionate about women's rights and have actively taken part in campaigning against injustices which have effected women in particular such as the WASPI campaign I'm a WASPI myself !

I also have experience of being a councillor in local government and understand how very often it is difficult to get women's voices heard. Often a lot of the strategic posts are allocated to men and we are really under represented in councils across the country. I want to change that and help create a fairer playing field.

Last year it's been a 100 years since some women secured the vote and since then women have gone on and gained full voting rights, equal pay and made progress in areas such as maternity leave, but we still have a long way to go. For instance some councils still don't allow women councillors six months time off for maternity.

In March this year I attended a women's network weekend and I met some amazing women and found the event truly inspirational. I would like to be part of this network to encourage and support women to be more active on politics and be truly represented in our democracy.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Janice Duffy

CLP: Northampton South

Personal Statement

I'm an energetic mature woman, with much life experience and open to new challenges especially promoting women's interests and the Labour Party. I want to help expand and develop all women's life experience and expectations even under the stringent economic restrictions of today's society. I believe the core beliefs of the Labour Party will prevail in the hearts of its members as different leaders come and go. I'm a confident organiser and communicator across the whole spectrum of Labour members. I'm a mother of 2, and I owned a small catering business abroad before returning to the north of our wonderful UK and before settling once again in the south. For many years I worked as a legal PA. I am a borough councillor and treasurer of the local Labour group.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Laura Griffiths

CLP: Watford

Personal Statement

My name is Laura Griffiths and I am a member of Watford CLP where I have held many roles including Fundraising Officer, Women's Officer and now Vice Chair Communications. I believe the skills I have gained in these roles, particular from fundraising, will contribute greatly if I am elected to the LWN management committee.

I am privileged to be a graduate of the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Programme and I want to help more women get into and stay a part of politics, especially Labour women.

If elected to the LWN management committee I will:

- encourage women to put themselves forward for the LWN leadership training programmes which helped me become the woman I am today
- support women in getting elected to officer roles within their branch or constituency Labour Party right through to parliamentary level -ensure CLPs and branches have 50:50 gender representation in their officer roles
- campaign for all women's shortlists at regional and devolved levels including mayoral elections
- campaign for parental leave across all levels of the party
- continue to campaign for an independent complaints system within the Labour Party so all cases whether they involve bullying, racism or sexual harassment, can have the due care and attention which they truly need
- Be an ally to all women and minority groups in order to make the party a better place for everyone

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I hope I get your vote!

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Helen Grout

CLP: Clwyd South

Personal Statement

I am currently the Women's Officer and Women's Forum Chair in Clwyd South CLP and am active in supporting women within the party and our community.

I have been a member of the Labour Party for nearly 30 years and have recently become more active after my children have grown up.

Outside of the Labour Party I work for a National charity, and am a trainer for various subjects. I also have a PGCE qualification. I returned to education as a mature student and feel it is essential that women are able to access training and education opportunities throughout their lives.

I would like to become a committee member and represent women from all over the country.

I have various skills that would be useful in this role, fundraising organisation, teaching and training, problem solving, negotiation and many others that would be beneficial.

I am a passionate advocate for equality and the rights of all, and would like to support my sisters to develop and achieve their potential.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Erica Lewis

CLP: Lancaster & Fleetwood

Personal Statement

Like many members of the Labour Women's Network (LWN), I'm passionate about supporting women, and particularly Labour women, to strengthen their leadership skills. I also think it is vital to challenge and change the structures that exclude and fail to recognise women's leadership, acknowledging that for many women the barriers and prejudices are intersectional.

I have been involved in women's leadership development work for more than 20 years. I started as a twenty-something leading a national women's organisations and fascinated by the question of how I could support more women to take on leadership roles. I have contributed to local, national and international training programs, and I wrote my on Phd on women's leadership development.

I've worked and volunteered with all sorts of women's organisations, from grassroots collectives, to large women's charities, organising protests, advocacy campaigns and participating in UN forums. I've served on committees/boards in both Australia and the UK serving variously as member, treasurer and chair. This experience is supported by a law degree from the Australian National University, and a Master of Public Administration from the Kennedy School at Harvard.

I joined the Australian Labor Party in 1993, and joined the Labour Party here in 2014. I've contributed to the leadership of two successful general election campaigns. Between the 2015 and 2017 elections I led the office of Cat Smith MP. I'm currently the Leader of Lancaster City Council, a member of the LGA Labour Women's Taskforce, and a member of the LWN training team.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Linda Lewis

CLP: Swansea East

Personal Statement

I have been a Labour supporter all my life and a Labour member for over 25 years but have only really become active in the last 12 years. Since then I have been branch secretary, branch delegate to CLP and on the CLP Executive, CLP observer to the local council, panel secretary for local council elections, campaign agent for four local councillors (who were all elected) and secretary of the local Women's Forum.

As a member of LWN I promote its work at every opportunity and encourage others to join and take advantage of their training programmes. Like a lot of women I have experienced resistance in some of my roles but these training sessions help to overcome this.

Locally and nationally I support and participate in groups that deal with women's issues e.g. period poverty, pension injustice for 1950's women, campaigned for baby leave to include parents who adopt and encouraged the local council to sign #powerpledge. Also, more support for women who want to take on positions but have child care or other caring responsibilities. I have unsuccessfully unfortunately tried to encourage the branch and CLP to adopt a more flexible approach for meetings to accommodate carers or members with disabilities, suggesting that technology may be a way forward to allow them to participate from home. I haven't given up!

I would like to become a committee member to be a voice from the women in Wales but to represent all women and the issues we face.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Maggie McCutcheon

CLP: Northampton North

Personal Statement

As an active member of the Labour Party (35 years) I am proud of the advances we've made in improving women's representation at all levels. We've still a long way to go in some areas and I am keen to become directly involved in the national effort to achieve these goals. I know from personal experience, as the eldest of five children, that girls and women continue to have to fight harder than men to achieve parity and be recognised for this. An MA in Women's Studies illuminated the structural nature of barriers we face.

My professional background as a general and mental health nurse demonstrated girls and women often bearing the brunt of responsibility at difficult times in the life cycle. Equality of responsibility and support for continuous development is crucial.

Work experience includes academic (research and teaching), Board member positions in voluntary sector organisations, Local Government and Primary Care Trust. Prior to recently retiring I worked as an NHS children's and maternity services commissioner including managing joint budgets with local authorities. All my work has included involvement and training responsibilities.

This year I graduated from the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Programme which was, and continues to be, a very informative learning experience. I have been elected to leading roles in my local party - Branch Chair, Vice Chair Campaigns, CLP, and conference delegate. I am flexible, practical, hands on and enjoy strategic planning and implementation.

I would dearly like to contribute to the excellent work of LWN

LWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Abena Oppong-Asare

CLP: Erith and Thamesmead

Personal Statement

Sisterhood and the progression of women within the Labour Party is at the very core of my values. We have a long way to go in securing women's rights, and the work LWN does is crucial in striving for our equality.

I am running to be re-elected to the LWN Management Committee to use my skills and networks to amplify LWN's standing within Labour movement. I've been a committee member for the last 2 years with a focus on providing training for the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Scheme and LWN Leadership Weekend Schools. I have been involved in LWN's campaigns on baby leave, sexual harassment and all women shortlists. I regularly mentor and support Labour sisters to help them achieve personal and professional ambitions within the Labour Party and beyond.

I formerly served as a Councillor in the London Borough of Bexley. I am the co-author of 'Stand Up and Be Counted: Be a Councillor', a publication encouraging and providing practical advice for women from diverse backgrounds to stand for council. I proudly lead and participate in Labour Party Conference events and I am deeply committed to diversity of participation and representation.

My practical experience as a councillor, campaigner, community leader and champion of women's equality and BAME equality will profoundly inform my role on LWN.

I would love to be re-elected on to LWN; serving again will enable me to share my deep commitment and enthusiasm to the vital work LWN does for women's equality.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Kathryn M Salt

CLP: Bolsover

Personal Statement

We empower each other, because we are Women.

We fight for change in order to make a difference, because we are strong Women.

We take action in order to end period poverty, pension poverty, and food poverty, because we are united Women.

We fight for inclusiveness and our voice to be heard, because we are powerful Women. We ensure that we are represented on all political and democratic bodies because we are Women of action.

We listen, we hear, we organise and we reach out to our communities, because we are awesome Women.

United we will ensure change, and our voice will be a collective, because we are strong empowered, amazing, supportive women.

Thank you

Kathryn M Salt MBE

Bolsover CLP

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LWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Rt Hon Jacqui Smith

CLP: West Worcestershire

Personal Statement

I am proud to have been the first woman Home Secretary, to have been a Labour MP for 13 years and a Labour Minister for 10. Labour Women's Network and Emily's List helped to make this happen for me and I want to continue my work on the Management Committee to ensure that other women are able to play their part and have their voices heard at all levels of the Party and as elected representatives.

I was honoured to be elected to serve as a member of the LWN Management committee in 2010 and am proud of my contribution to the great progress that we have made over the last nine years. In particular, I am a regular trainer on our courses; I drafted the case for All Women Shortlists and I have used my experience and contacts to support our growth, our fundraising and our campaigning.

Since joining the Party at 16, I have served as a constituency officer, National Secretary of Labour Students, a local councillor, on the regional and national executives. I have known the best of times as a politician – and some of the worst! I want to use my experience to ensure that women throughout the Party are supported, encouraged and celebrated. I need your vote to continue this work on the management committee and to contribute to building more training opportunities; more events around the country and an even stronger voice for women.

LWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Jackie Taylor

CLP: West Bromwich East

Personal Statement

I am very active in the Labour Party and currently hold public office as a Councillor and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport in Sandwell. I am currently a Regional Board Member and Executive member of the Association of Labour Councillors West Midlands.

I use my communication skills to advocate policies and ideas on behalf of members in my region. I was previously a member of the West Midlands National Policy Forum and was on the first cohort of the Jo Cox Leadership programme.

Leading and motivating teams is a key part of working within the Labour Party at all levels. We achieve so much more together than we do from working alone – It's part of our values. The most rewarding thing about working with teams is celebrating successes and highlighting the individual parts that contribute to a success. That's what real leadership is about.

Labour Women's Network has produced the most successful public servants in all spheres of public life. I ask for you to allow me to give back. The ladder for me is not invisible. I would like sisters to join me.

Finally, I am standing for LWN's management committee because I want to use my skills and knowledge to improve female representation throughout the Labour party. I already have experience of increasing black female representation outside London.

Facebook: Jacqueline Taylor

Mobile : 07950285181

Twitter: @JackieTVilla

LWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Amelia Tighe

CLP: Vauxhaul CLP

Personal Statement

As a working class born woman from Yorkshire, ensuring the LWN is accessible to our membership is something I am passionate about. Every Labour Party member that identifies as a woman deserves to feel a part of the LWN, to feel like they contribute and to experience the sisterly solidarity I have over the years.

The LWN changed my life a few years ago when I took part in the first cohort of the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Scheme - I discovered the true meaning of sisterhood. What it taught me has led me to partaking in founding projects such as Women in Westminster which in July brought together 200 women who worked in different areas of politics together to build a network and support system.

I want to offer my experience to LWN on effective campaigning using social media. In 2017 I managed Yvette Cooper's social media during the 2017 GE and prior to that I managed social media for a national campaign. The importance of social media during elections has increased significantly. Training aspiring candidates how to use social media to win elections and selections is crucial.

My main aim would be to increase regional diversity on the LWN. I want to see LWN meetings and events in every region & as a proud GMB member I'd love to see us link up more with our unions.

Please feel free to send me a DM on Twitter @ameliarosetighe or FB with any questions or for a chat!

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITION

Name: Caroline Walsh

CLP: Eltham

Personal Statement

In the last 5 years and half years Caroline has been at the forefront of and active in local, regionally and national campaigning in the Labour & Coop Parties at all levels & in key roles. On the ground and online. Ongoing campaigning includes all transport accessibility, rail, disability awareness, greater inclusion in all levels of society and NHS.

Caroline stood in her local council elections last year and has documented the difficulties of being involved in Labour Party as someone with a disability, particularly a disabled woman.

She continues to be very vocal about the negative impact on disabled women's health due to the lack of access to appropriate toilet facilities.

She also continues to raise awareness of sepsis after having it 3 times.

Globally, there is an pandemic and women's sepsis particularly after childbirth in developed countries isn't as widely known about as it should be.

She co-wrote the motions on disability equality now included in Open Labour's Position Paper and passed at London Coop Council. She is co-organising an event in September around the same issues.

Caroline would like the opportunity to be part of an inclusive team breaking down the barriers for all women in our Party.