

## **Deputy Leaders Pilot - Report to Steering Committee**

Mandu worked with the Steering Committee to develop the Deputy Leader pilot because she wanted us to dismantle the antiquated and macho idea that political leadership has to be a heroic, individual, survival-of-the-fittest pursuit, rather than something that we all can and must practise, working collaboratively on terms that work for, not against us.

Mandu believes not only that many hands make light work, but that women working together will change the world. With the backdrop of Covid-19 and its devastating aftermath, the stakes are higher than ever and our mission is more important and urgent than it's ever been. As a movement we need stamina, resilience and ingenuity for the struggle ahead.

Christine, Hannah and Tabitha have worked alongside Mandu to serve and represent our members, and to help deliver our mission and Mandu's priorities for the party, which include: growing, strengthening and diversifying our movement; ensuring our sustainability; developing our people; and increasing our influence and impact by running successful campaigns and winning elections. They bring masses of knowledge, experience and energy to these roles. The team comes from a richly diverse range of backgrounds that reflect society in ways rarely seen in the history of political leadership in this country.

### **Work completed:**

#### **Growing, strengthening and diversifying our movement**

Membership engagement:

- InConversation launch event
- Two 'New Branch Starter' events
- 24 Branch Visits + 3 London Hub & 1 Northern Hub visits = 28 total
- Caucus/Network support & participation
- Led work on LGBTQI Network event
- GRA Consultation (TM)
- KIT meetings - HBB chaired 2, supported following Chair (Jane Whild), & attended every KIT since June

Developing/Strategy work:

- Reviewed outcomes of 'Blue Sky' sessions
- WEP Academy planning
- Policy Committee Review
- Comms Support when staff furloughed
- Developed work plans with CO staff: HBB and Cath re Election Plans, TM and Alice re fundraising

#### **Ensuring our sustainability**

Fundraising:

- Two fundraising events
  - Recruited participants
  - Curated event

- Developed crowdfunding campaign
- HNWI meetings
- Met Electoral Commission to understand limitations around trusts (so we use our fundraising capacity wisely)

#### Tech development:

- Developed unmet needs listening program to understand members requirements
- Rationalised tech solution requirements to fit budget

#### Evidence to Committee on Standards in Public Life:

- How the Electoral Commission's rules impact small parties

### **Increasing our influence**

#### Media & Comms:

- Sky News (HBB)
- BBC News (TM)
- 'Badass Women's Hour' TalkRadio (TM)
- Shelagh Fogarty LBC (TM)
- Kevin O'Sullivan TalkRadio (TM)
- Radio Derbyshire (TM)
- BBC Radio Manchester (TM)
- iNews x2 (TM)
- Guardian (TM)
- The Independent
- Yorkshire Post Feature (HBB)
- Yorkshire Evening Post x2 (HBB)
- Disability News Service (HBB)
- ++ Social media profile raising
- Open Letter to Sadiq Khan re London Recovery Group
- 2x planned speaker engagements, with payment to WEP (HBB)

#### Evidence given to Barnet Fairness Commission:

- How to End VAWG
- How to implement WE policies across the borough

#### Conference:

- Preparation for chairing panels and fringe events (All)
- Speaker/panelist contacts (HBB & TM)
- Campaigns Coven preparation (HBB & TM)
- Party Business Practice Sessions (All)

### **What we have learned:**

- Having a team selected for their skills, knowledge and experience allowed the DL team to respond quickly to the impact of Covid on our operations. The staff team were largely furloughed as the pilot launched, the DLs were able to support Mandu,

Hannah and Amy in a range of ways from comms, strategy development and membership engagement.

- Branches want stronger connections with CO, Leadership and each other - they have appreciated us sharing ideas/methods from other branches and having the opportunity to feed back.
- Branches want to develop their campaigning skills and often only need a little direction, having the experience of the DLs to lean on has helped them to understand how to do this, who can support them in the party and the confidence to self organise.
- It can be challenging to contact individual branches via their emails to organise meetings etc - varying levels of response.
- Time commitments for roles; work covers more than the two days a month initially expected.
- Appetite for 'Youth Movement' in the party - students attending branch meetings across the UK.
- A largely warm welcome of the pilot.
- The members assembly took a considerable amount of TMs time to lead, develop and deliver.
- In areas such as fundraising and campaign development the teams skills were a positive addition to the CO team enabling work in these areas to move quicker.