

Cat Arnold**Candidate Statement**

I was elected as CLP representative on the Labour Party's NEC in 2024. As part of a women's-only slate, our objective was, and remains, to ground our party in social and environmental justice, equity, and democratic accountability.

I bring experience across the Labour Party's remit as: elected councillor, CLP Executive member, and General Election campaigner. I also lead two charities. My campaigning experience was a major contribution to my NEC election. Despite limited funding, we ran an effective and efficient campaign that built support and delivered success. I am an active member of SERA, Co-operative Party West Sussex Branch Secretary, and sit on the LCER executive. In my day job as charity leader, I work with over 50 volunteers, that teamwork and setting the vision is a strength that can be called upon for any negotiation or campaign.

My first year on the NEC has focused on building trusted relationships while clearly voicing concerns on the welfare bill, the protection of workers' rights, and the need for genuine co-production in any reform of SEND provision. I have also driven improvements to safeguarding policy and procedures through the NEC.

Following the arrest of a former local MP, young people in Brighton and Hove raised historic, previously unrecognised safeguarding issues with me. This resulted in clear accountability for safeguarding responsibilities, improved treatment of victims, expanded training, and the introduction of specific two-way communication processes for the local area.

I am committed to increasing access to the party, its positions and systems, for those protected under the Equalities Act, while recognising the intersectionality of lived experience. I am not afraid to ask difficult questions rooted in good governance, democracy, and Labour values.

At a critical moment for our party's moral direction, we must retain members and inspire a younger generation facing an escalating environmental crisis, that we are the party to be in and vote for. Through Mainstream, I will amplify members' voices and continue to provide clear reporting and open, pluralistic dialogue across the party, via unions and the affiliated groups.