

**Luke
Akehurst**
for NEC



Contact Me

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About Me

My name is Luke Akehurst, and I'm standing to be your representative on Labour's NEC. I'm a Labour Party member in Oxford, having previously been a member and activist in Canterbury, Bristol, and London. I was born into a passionately Labour-supporting family. My grandparents set up Gravesend Labour Party in the 1920s, and every generation have been party members since. My motivation for becoming politically active myself was anger about the inequality, unemployment and cuts to public services I could see as a teenager in the Thatcher years. My parents were on benefits and lived in social housing and I couldn't understand how someone who worked as hard as my dad could be on such low pay. I joined Labour on my 16th birthday in 1988, so this is my 32nd year as a member.

My Experience

In over 30 years of Labour Party membership, I've had the immense privilege of fulfilling a number of roles across our movement. Here are just some of the highlights:

- Labour Party member since 1988.
- NEC Member, representing CLPs, from 2010 to 2012.
- Parliamentary Candidate for Aldershot in 2001 – increasing the Labour vote against the tide – and Castle Point in 2005 – exposing a racist local Tory campaign in the national media.
- Hackney Labour Councillor from 2002 to 2014 and Chief Whip for seven years – a key player in bringing political stability which has led to massive service improvements in a previously failing hung council. Chair of Health Scrutiny 2010-2014.
- Campaign Manager in the Hackney Borough elections in 2002, 2006, 2010 and 2014, increasing the number of Labour seats from 29 to 50, and in the London elections in 2008 and 2012.
- Vice-Chair of Hackney North CLP for 13 years (previously a CLP Officer in Bristol West CLP). Membership Secretary of Oxford Labour Party 2015-2017.
- Member of the London Labour Regional Board, elected by CLPs, 2008-2010.
- Full-time Agent for Rt Hon Frank Dobson MP in the 1997 General Election and prior to that National Secretary of Labour Students.
- Member of Unite, the Co-operative Party and the Fabian Society.
- Active trade unionist for 27 years – including seven years as a member of Amicus London Regional Political Committee

Why You Should Nominate Me

- I'm a strong supporter of Keir Starmer and will work on the NEC to make his leadership a success and reunite and rebuild the party.
- I bring over 30 years of frontline campaigning experience as a candidate, councillor, organiser and activist to the NEC's main task, planning how to beat the Tories. I organised campaigns in Hackney that took Labour from 29 seats to 50.
- I am a passionate fighter for the NHS having overcome a life-threatening neurological illness caused by a tumour, five months in hospital, and subsequent disability.
- I have extensive experience of decision making in the party at every level: NEC, Regional Board, CLP officer, Council Chief Whip. In every role I have been praised from across the party for fairness and defending democracy in taking decisions, openness and accountability in reporting back to members.
- I was a key player as Chief Whip in the team that turned Hackney from a chaotic failing hung council to a flagship Labour council providing high quality public services for some of Britain's poorest and most diverse communities.
- I have vocally stood up to antisemitism and bullying over the last five years. We need people on the NEC who will have zero tolerance of behaviour that has shamed and damaged our party.