

George Lindars-Hammond for NEC Disabled Members Rep

For an accessible party and an accessible society



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Who am I and why am I standing?

I have hemiplegia, a form of cerebral palsy which has hugely shaped my life. I've always sought to turn around the things I can't do to focus on what I can achieve for myself and others. My experience means that I've always passionately fought for an equal platform for disabled people.

I have had a huge range of experience in standing up for and representing people. As a lifelong Labour activist, I've held roles at branch and CLP and in my union. I've proudly been a Councillor in Hillsborough, Sheffield since 2012 and I am Sheffield's Cabinet member for Health and Social Care. As Council cabinet member for social care, am passionate about transforming our services for Disabled people that need our services to thrive. As a teenager, I helped create and run a youth club for autistic young people. At University, I was elected to represent Disabled Students at the Students Union. I worked hard to refound a moribund Disability committee and by collective organisation we began a long path to better services for all students.

My first job was working for Disability Sheffield, a Disabled People's User-led Organisation as an Employer Engagement Worker, working to increase the employment of disabled people in Sheffield. After this, I became an activist and trustee for Disability Sheffield, remaining on the board for five years and helping the organisation grow in difficult times. Wherever I've lived and worked, I've always stood up for Disabled people and raise voices of Disabled people to create change. We have a huge opportunity with this new position to drive change for Disabled people inside the party and in society.

We need an NEC that will not only represent members but also set up our party to win the Government we desperately need. This means supporting our leadership's vision and collectively working to gain the trust of the British people.

What do I want to do on the NEC?

Our party has achieved a lot for Disabled people but within the party, we still have a long way to go. Just three members of the current PLP defining as Disabled we have far to go to represent Britain. No matter whether we are physically disabled or living with a mental health condition, Disabled people must be able to see a party that speaks to our experience. We should recognise that many of our representatives may be Disabled, but they need more support to recognise and talk publicly about their experiences. This for me would be a priority. However, we must recognise that in order to have the transformation we need, we require firm actions in supporting Disabled people's involvement from grassroots to Government and policies that will transform this.

My pledges - I will campaign for:

1. A disabled person on every shortlist at a national and local level
2. The creation of a Labour Party access fund - money ringfenced to enable Disabled's people's full participation in every part of party activity
3. Truly accessible meetings and decisions - members should be able to participate in meetings, suits them best - in person, online or via a phone call.
4. Disabled members places on the National Policy Forum and the accessible society to be the heart of our policy platform

Who is backing me?

I'm proud to be backed by people across our movement. I've been endorsed Open Labour, by two of our biggest unions, Unison and GMB, Members of the Commons and the Lords and CLPs up and down the Country.

