

Be an effective CLP Women's Officer

Building a Party for Women

The Women's Officer is the key representative of women members on the executive of the CLP, and works to ensure that women are fully involved in the work of the local party, as well as, taking a leading role in making sure that the campaigning work of the constituency reaches out and engages with women voters.

As Women's Officer, you need to be friendly and approachable, organised, able to run events and above all be prepared to work hard to ensure that women members have a real voice within the local party.

The key responsibilities of this role include:

- Making sure that women members are included in all of the party's activities and that meetings are relevant and accessible to women.
- Reaching out to women in the wider community through local campaigns, and working with women's organisations in the constituency to engage women voters, highlight issues, and get a better deal for local women.
- Bringing women together to empower each other and gain the knowledge and skills they need get involved.
- Running events for women members, including training, policy development and social events.
- Working to recruit more women into the Labour party and helping to make sure that women members make the jump from member to activist.
- Listening to women's views and ensuring that they are reflected in Labour's policy making.

This role is varied, exciting and can make a real difference to your local party - not just to women members but in terms of how the whole CLP operates. You can choose how to focus your role and what to make your priority depending on what sort of activities that **local members want to see.**

There are many different strands to the work of a Women's Officer, but fundamentally the role comes down to two key aims:

- building a party for women - this means working to make sure that women in your local party are supported, involved and engaged
- campaigning with women - playing a leading role in making sure that your local party campaigns to win women's votes

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Building a party for women

Part of your role will focus on making sure that the voices of Labour women are heard within your local party. In your role you may want to consider the following activities:

- Email all women members introducing yourself as the Women's Officer and providing your contact details. You will be able to get this information from your CLP Secretary.
- Set up a women's forum in the constituency, if one does not already exist. This then provides a team to support you in your work.
- Welcome new women members when they join through a one to one chat, emails, telephone contact or social events.
- Organise training to encourage women members to become more involved in the party and in community activity - for example as party officers, school governors or local councillors. A good start would be to survey the interests and training needs of women members.
- Encourage women in your constituency to attend Annual Women's Conference and other national events.
- Work with constituency and branch chairs to ensure party meetings are accessible, interesting and relevant to women. Accessible times, central locations, and a welcoming atmosphere are very important.
- Work with other executive members of the CLP to ensure that women's concerns are included in policy debates; organise local policy forums for women members with the wider community
- Actively encourage women to contribute to discussions, and stand for election to the CLP Executive and other positions.
- Consider holding a social event for women in your CLP to get to know each other and discuss priorities or areas of concern.

Women in the Community

The other part of your role involves looking outside of the party to women in your local community, and exploring what you can do to make sure Labour is effectively engaging with women voters.

You may want to consider doing the following:

- Set up a campaign team to recruit local women who have expressed support for the party.
- Set up a team to canvass amongst women, run street stalls, or target campaigns at particular groups of women, such as young mothers or older women.
- Make contact with local branches of women's voluntary organisations, set up consultation meetings, exchange speakers and run joint campaigns.
- Ensure that women from the local women's sector are invited to contribute towards policy discussions.

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- Speak to trade union women in your CLP about encouraging women in the workplace to join and become active in the Labour Party.
- Lead a campaign that affects women in the local area and identify key stakeholders in the community that can get involved, such as local women's organisations.

Useful Links and information

The Labour Women's Network is a membership organisation providing expert training to Labour women considering seeking selection, as well as campaigning for 50:50 representation at every level of the Labour Party.

Website: www.lwn.org.uk Email: contact@lwn.org.uk

If you have any questions about the role of Women's Officer please contact the Labour Party's National Women's and Equalities Officer on equalities@labour.org.uk

For further advice and training

The Labour Party has a huge range of training and best practice examples available. If you would like to know more about being a CLP Women's Officer please visit:

www.members.labour.org.uk/training-academy