

Berkshire & Surrey

Berkshire & Surrey CLP delegates to Regional Conference will have the chance to elect two representatives to the South East Regional Board – at least one must be a woman. Attached are the statements of those candidates who have been nominated by CLP's within Berkshire & Surrey.

Delegates will also be able to vote for two South East Representatives on the National Policy Forum (NPF) – at least one must be a woman. Statements from those candidates that have been nominated by CLPs in the South East, and by Affiliated Organisations, are also attached.

The nominated candidates are listed below:

Regional Board Reps:

Nada Al-Sanji

Nominated by: Maidenhead CLP

Shelley Grainger

Nominated by: Guildford CLP

Patrick McDonald

Nominated by: Maidenhead CLP

National Policy Forum Reps:

Karen Constantine

Nominated by: Canterbury CLP; GMB; Mid Sussex CLP; Unite

Fiona Dent

Nominated by: Co-operative Party

Tom Hayes

Nominated by: Co-operative Party

Carol Hayton

Nominated by: Brighton Pavilion CLP; Crawley CLP; GMB; Hastings & Rye CLP; Horsham CLP; Hove CLP; Mid Sussex CLP; North East Hampshire CLP; Oxford East CLP; Oxford West & Abingdon CLP; Unite

Sue Ledwith

Nominated by: Oxford West & Abingdon CLP

Chris Percival

Nominated by: Gosport CLP

LABOUR PARTY SOUTH-EAST REGIONAL BOARD



NADA AL-SANJARI

Seeking election for **Berkshire & Surrey**

Being a teacher with 15 years experience in state schools and FE colleges, I see first-hand the urgent need for a Labour government to bring justice to our neglected communities. As this country maintains its position as one of the wealthiest in the world, the experiences of people using food banks or choosing between heating and eating are ones that rarely make the headlines. Berkshire and Surrey is a region that has a similar story.

I joined the party on the basis of the socialist values that spoke about these issues and was committed to representing the poorest. What unites us as members is our belief in social justice. We know that the 'success' of a government must be measured in how the poorest are doing, not how well the wealthiest are doing.

Maidenhead CLP
Membership: L1467321
Vice President Reading
Trades Union Council
Trade unions: NEU & Unite
nalsanjari@yahoo.com

As members who campaign and have discussions within our communities, we need to have a greater role in shaping our party. It is this belief in grassroots activism that has motivated me to step up and play my part in this process of democratising the party.

Very few people become activists because of a burning urge to understand the rule-book or the convoluted mechanisms of political parties!

However, being member-led will galvanise us when we have direct input into our party and feel invested into realising our hope of a socialist Labour government.

I am really excited about getting more involved with neighbouring CLPs and encouraging members to participate confidently and collaboratively in their CLPs.

We have to do more to be a party that reflects the diversity of the people we are representing. What can we do to better engage young people? What are we doing to encourage participation of parents on low income? How are we creating opportunities for greater involvement of our minority ethnic communities? As an immigrant to this country from war-torn Iraq, I am acutely aware of impact of the silent pain suffered by people with no voice and plenty of fear. It is these discussions that I hope to have with neighbouring CLPs that will result in a truly representative member-led party.

I am a dedicated trade unionist, elected as Vice President of Reading Trades Union Council for the second year. I am also ambassador for Reading Pride and a listening volunteer and schools outreach speaker for a national mental health charity. I also organise for Berkshire Women's Aid.

As an activist with Berkshire Disabled People Against Cuts, one of my main aims is to look at making our party accessible to all members and finding innovative ways to achieve this so that we do make a meaningful difference. Representing the views of disabled people should be one of our priorities as this group is arguably the most under-represented in public/politics, yet suffer the consequences most harshly.

Our party has been through testing times. My approach to conflict is always to refer to the rules and engage members so that we stay true to our democratic principles and uphold our Labour Party values.

I hope you will support me in having the opportunity to encourage member engagement in our region and to further our socialist ideals through solidarity, integrity and comradeship.

Please also support Shelley Grainger of Guildford CLP



Shelley Grainger

Membership number: L1375436
Secretary, Guildford CLP

Member of Unite the Union
Member of The Co-operative Party
email: shelley.grainger@guildfordlabour.org

Seeking your CLP's nomination for the South-East Regional Board.

In my 20's I worked for various independent record labels. After legal studies as a mature student, I began volunteering for Citizens Advice in 2010 and moved into a succession of paid jobs within the organisation: I am currently a Session Supervisor at Citizens Advice Woking.

I watched in real-time while the welfare reforms brought in by the Coalition Government have taken their toll on the most vulnerable in society. I have seen at first hand the burden of regulatory change and needless penny pinching falling on the disabled, frail and mentally ill and seen the effect of the hostile environment on migrants.

Watching the swift dismantling of our Welfare State prompted me to join the Labour Party in 2015.

We need to win seats in the South-East to win nationally at the next General Election. Our 2017 manifesto demonstrated that effective democratic socialist policies will appeal to the electorate and serve us *all* well when Labour are next in government. A shift to environmentally and ethically-led policies appeals to people, not as 'populist' ideas, but as practical policies that are popular across the country with middle and working-class voters, including people in our area.

Why you should vote for me

My background in advice and knowledge of employment law and the ACAS codes would, I hope, be useful to the Regional Board. As the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy has said, disputes should be dealt with in a way which is "*...consistent with... natural justice, proportionality... fact-based verified evidence, transparency, reasonable time-scales and [with a] right of appeal...*" Decisions should be made in accordance with The Human Rights Act 1998, guided by the disciplinary codes adopted by the NEC.

I am also interested in looking at selection criteria for local Council and Parliamentary candidates, who should always be chosen by their local CLPs and affiliates.

To move towards equality, we need more women, BAME and LGBT+ candidates. I would also like to see more candidates selected with relevant experience of living in and working with ordinary working class and middle-class communities, rather than invariably choosing candidates with a string of successes in high-status careers and volunteer roles.

I am standing for the South-East Regional Board to ensure the Regional Office competently supports our CLPs to campaign effectively, foster member involvement and develop local policy. I wish to make sure the Regional Office staff have enough resources, training and time to provide this support effectively to CLPs across the region. We need to recognise the unique needs of our many and varied CLPs and listen to their requests and feedback, in order to improve the way Labour Party structures operate.

Please also nominate Nada al-Sanjari of Maidenhead CLP

I have served on the South East Regional Board for the last two terms. My record of attendance is very good. I have raised many concerns that the Berkshire and Surrey members have asked me to. I have been involved in parliamentary candidate selection, making sure this was carried out in a fair and open manner. I have dealt with local authorities candidate appeals.

I had the great honour of taking on the Prime Minister last year at the General Election. I was proud of our campaign on our fantastic manifesto and in Maidenhead we almost doubled our vote.

I hope Berkshire and Surrey members allow me to continue serving them on the Board.

Pat McDonald