

A NEW LEADERSHIP

LABOUR SOUTH EAST MEMBERS MAGAZINE WINTER 2020

EXCLUSIVE

Keir Starmer

“My job, as leader, is to
rebuild trust in our party
as a force for change.”

PG 03

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THE ROAD TO 2024 IS THROUGH THE SOUTH EAST

It was the privilege of my life to be elected leader of the Labour Party in April. It came at a moment like no other in our lifetime. This pandemic has highlighted the desperate fragility of the state's safety net and the damage the Tories have been doing to our country for the last decade: from our chronically underfunded NHS and care services, to our neglected social security system and the lack of protection for the self-employed and small businesses.

These are just some of the many issues facing our country, issues

I am determined the next Labour government will fix. But to do that, we have to win. Being from the South East myself, I know that the route to winning runs straight through our region. It is a large and diverse part of the country and we need to be able to speak to its voters and win more seats here. We have seen before the difference a Labour government makes to families and communities across the whole of the South East; from the south coast, all the way up to Milton Keynes. Our mission as a movement is to make that happen again.

My job, as leader, is to rebuild trust in our party as a force for change. To do that, we first need to listen, and earn the right to be heard.

My job, as leader, is to rebuild trust in our party as a force for change. To do that, we first need to listen, and earn the right to be heard. It is only by understanding the root causes of our four successive election defeats that we can finally begin the process of rebuilding, to put Labour back on the path to power and help deliver the vital change that our country desperately needs.

Across the South East issues such as a lack of affordable housing, rising transport costs and local economies devastated by Covid19 need urgent

action and a government that will listen. It needs a government that will provide opportunity, fairness and compassion. These values will define my leadership and the approach of the next Labour government.

I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible as soon as circumstances allow. But in the meantime, keep safe and well, and look after yourselves, your neighbours and your community.

**Keir Starmer,
Leader of the Labour Party**



WELCOME TO LABOUR SOUTH EAST

I want to begin by thanking you for being a member of the Labour Party. Whether you are a new or longstanding member your involvement in our movement is so important.

Though the South East isn't always considered to be natural Labour territory, our members make sure we are always present across our communities. It is because of the dedication of members like you that we continue to return Labour representatives across the South East. During the 2017 General Election, we saw a historic win in Canterbury, and despite the national swing in 2019 we held on to all of Labour's key seats in our region.

We also have hundreds of brilliant Labour Councillors working hard for their communities across the South East. They've been at the front line of helping vulnerable people during this pandemic, ensuring support is provided

to local businesses, and campaigning for support for local services.

Since becoming Shadow Chancellor in April, I have been working to hold the government to account on their economic response to the pandemic. This has involved working with trades unions and organisations from across our movement on our jobs campaign. The UK's recession has been the deepest in Europe and without a change in course, we will see even more jobs lost. And of course, the UK is missing many opportunities to build back better, and support the green jobs of the future.

**Anneliese Dodds,
Shadow Chancellor**



A MESSAGE FROM ANGELA RAYNER, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR PARTY

When Keir and I were elected by hundreds of thousands of Labour members, we made a commitment to do whatever it took to win the next election. To do that, we will need all of the collective strength of our Party and our movement in the months and years ahead.

We can all see the trail of destruction that the Tories have left behind in the wake of their austerity policies and chaotic handling of the coronavirus crisis. We have seen the impact this

has on the lives and livelihoods of people across the South East region. From our care homes, to those who have lost their jobs, to the exam results of our young people it's the same old story: incompetent, out of touch and out of their depth.

As Deputy Leader and Chair of the Labour Party, it is my responsibility to make sure that we have an election winning machine ready to take the fight to the Tories next May and beyond.

The South East is a vital region for our Party and the road to Number 10 goes straight through the South East. There are eight great MPs in the region, but if we want a Labour Government, we need more.

While the South East may be seen by some as a Conservative strong hold, we know full well that the South East is a diverse and in desperate need of a Labour Government. We need to win back voters from Milton Keynes, to Crawley, to Southampton and all across the Kent coast. Our challenge is to connect with people from all backgrounds, towns, cities and villages.

We all recognise that we face an enormous challenge to rebuild trust and regain support. But, make no mistake, it is a challenge we will meet together.

The local elections taking place next year are the first step on that path as we rebuild and recover. We'll be electing councillors, county councillors and police and crime commissioners in May in the biggest set of local elections we've ever seen. Every vote and

"There are eight great MPs in the region, but if we want a Labour Government, we need more."

every ward counts, but it is especially important that we gain majorities on Crawley and Milton Keynes Councils and we will need all our members to support the campaign to achieve that.

In the wake of the coronavirus crisis we need strong Labour representation in local government to rebuild our communities and make sure that the most vulnerable in our society do not shoulder the burden of this crisis.

Our Labour members have been on the front line throughout this crisis. Whether that has been volunteering at a food bank, working in our public services, or as a councillor supporting your residents. We must build on the unity and solidarity of the last few months and use that to inspire us through the months and years ahead as we fight to regain the support of voters and form the next government, starting in May 2021. We owe it to the people of the South East and we won't let them down.

VIRTUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

11-14 November 2020

“The event will be free for all members in the region to attend.”



As we're unable to hold a formal Regional Conference this year as planned, we wanted to invite all of our members to join us for an online series of events instead.

Events will take place on the evenings of the 11, 12 and 13 November, concluding with a packed day of activity on Saturday 14 November.

We'll have speeches from key politicians, panel discussions, policy sessions, training and more. The event will be free for all members in the region to attend. More information and a timetable will follow in the coming weeks but for now, please save the dates and we look forward to seeing you there.



Members in focus

Labour party members across the Region have been working hard to support their communities during the Coronavirus crisis. We're proud our membership have been at the forefront of supporting those most in need.

One example of Labour members making a difference is in Adur, West Sussex.

THE GATEWAY HUB

The Covid-19 outbreak has shown the glaring inequalities within our society and communities. Here in Adur, as everywhere else, we saw vulnerable people with little or no income being forced to suddenly isolate meaning they now struggled to afford the essentials they needed.

Local people and party members knew something needed to be done and these people needed supporting. We began by befriending local businesses and mapping neighbour networks across Adur, noting who needed support and who was offering that support.

While not all volunteers were Labour members, at the core of the groups drive is Labour values. The values that we achieve more together than we do

alone and that we need to support the most vulnerable in society.

We worked with local businesses, who kindly provided free flyers to help spread the word and provide financial support to set up a phone line for vulnerable people to get in touch. We also set up two Facebook pages for peer-to-peer advice, information & support which reached over 2,000 people across Adur.

One thing that the Coronavirus crisis has shown is that Labour values are engrained within our communities. As the group grew the need and donations increased, Shoreham Academy kindly provided us with a base at the Gateway. We also saw the community come together running a successful crowdfunding campaign raising £10,000

to cover essential costs and purchase vital produce.

The team we've helped set up consists of seven coordinators and 40 plus volunteers. Together, we've launched a bank of essential items covering several areas, baby and child care, self-care and home care essentials. We've also provided children's clothes, uniforms, toys, games, books furniture and even homemade birthday cakes.

We've worked hand in hand with the local foodbank, helping to support families in food poverty. During the summer months, we ran a Summer Lunch Club – feeding over 150 local children every week for 6 weeks. Providing them with fresh food for packed lunches. 62 families in the area sought help with feeding 138 children during the summer holidays.

The Coronavirus crisis has pushed people across the country into financial trouble. As a community we've been able to help people across Adur in their time of need. For me I am living my Labour Values, solidarity with people in need, collective action with our community through practical help and advocacy, to bring about social justice and fairness. And at the same time exposing and challenging the systems which are causing such hardship, to create positive change and empowerment.

If you've found the story of our mutual aid group inspirational or encouraged you to help your community and have any questions or would like any further information, don't hesitate to contact me:

Cllr Debs Stainforth debs.stainforth@adur.gov.uk



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN MP DURING COVID

BY PETER KYLE,
MP FOR HOVE AND PORTSLADE

Since I was selected as a candidate in 2013 for Hove and Portslade the thing I've enjoyed the most, and the thing I'm most proud of, is the open door policy of my constituency office. I fought tooth and nail to obtain a shop, rather than an office, so that anyone passing by can pop in for a chat or where anyone in trouble can instantly head to me for help. Too often politics is shrouded by mystery, and I loved the fact my constituency base brought politics to the highstreet; and that I was accessible to everyone and anyone who wanted help or to ask questions, or share their views with me. So the hardest thing about my job during the pandemic has been to close the constituency base and say to people that they can't visit - that they must telephone or email. I've improved things slightly by being able to Zoom and Skype with constituents but there's nothing quite like meeting people in person and seeing my team spring to life to help.

Like many people, life revolves around conference calls and my diary is now full of Zoom 'join a meeting' codes and telephone calls. It's frustrating, but at the same time because the meetings are invariably shorter, I've found that it has released a lot of time for me to get on top of my brief as a Shadow Minister in the Justice team. So I've been devouring books and papers on the subject to build on the knowledge I had. So a lot of my day is now devoted to speaking to people involved in youth justice and domestic abuse to see what can make the system work better for victims so that Labour can have a robust and sensible manifesto on the issues to take to the public at the next election.

Earlier in the year I was one of the first people to speak out about the way the government had ignored care homes during Covid, leaving the most vulnerable to the virus in our society at risk. I haven't stopped trying to speak

"The hardest thing about my job during the pandemic has been to close the constituency base and say to people that they can't visit - that they must telephone or email."

out for the staff and patients in these homes. The government have treated them as the poor relative to the NHS and this is wrong; low paid agency staff in care homes do an amazing job and yet the government hadn't even considered the importance of testing them before they travelled around different homes on their shifts. So I'm writing this having just done a TV interview (over Zoom!) with Philip and Holly on This Morning about the need to still improve the support we give to care homes.

As I finish writing this, I'm about to log into another conference call on tidal energy and how we can harness tidal power locally to generate clean energy. Outside of Covid there are so many exciting projects I'm championing and this is one that I'm very keen to speak out on.



End violence and abuse against retail workers



Let's work together to ensure the Government takes real action to protect retail workers from violence, threats and abuse.

Help us get there by signing and sharing our petition.

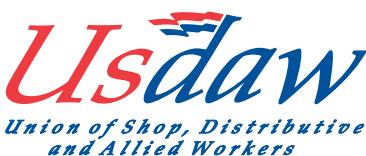
Sign the Petition at petition.parliament.uk/petitions/328621

For more information or to join Usdaw visit our website www.usdaw.org.uk/fff or call **0800 030 80 30**

General Secretary: **Paddy Lillis** • President: **Amy Murphy**

Divisional Officer: **Sue Merrell** • Usdaw, 89-91 Middleton Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 6RF

Divisional Officer: **Nigel Scully** • Usdaw, Unit 12/13 Regent Gate, 83 High Street, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire EN8 7AF



IMPORTANCE OF BAME VOICES IN POLITICS

By Councillor Naushabah Khan

This year has bought many challenges to our local communities, but it has also offered an opportunity for much needed reflection and resetting. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, in particular, has bought to the forefront the continuing need for societal change when it comes to the treatment and opportunities for those from a Black and Ethnic Minority background.

Our politics should not be immune to this change and if anything, the recent protests and the spotlight they have placed on race based inequalities, have reinforced the need for better black and ethnic minority representation across our political structures.

As a champion of equality and someone who has served as a Labour Councillor since 2015, for me the need for our better diversity in our council chambers has always been a priority. But this year has shown me there is no time for complacency, the fight for better BAME representation is urgent and must be taken seriously.

The reality of the situation was starkly highlighted to me, following a recent debate in the Medway Council Chamber. A motion was presented at a full council meeting, to review the names of local monuments and place, largely driven by calls to change the name of a car park, named after Britain's first slave trader -John Hawkins.

During a debate the Conservative Leader of the Council used the term 'lynch mob' to refer to BLM supporters. Given the historic connotations of the term and the nature of the debate, a more inappropriate and offensive term would be difficult to find in this context.

Charitably, this could have been considered to be clumsy language or lack of historical and cultural knowledge. At first, however, the Leader not only refused to apologise for the offence he had caused, but further remarked that he had 'thought long and hard' before using the term- suggesting an intent to cause offence.

"This year has shown me there is no time for complacency, the fight for better BAME representation is urgent and must be taken seriously."

Other Conservative members then proceeded to provide their insights, with one providing the dictionary definition of the term 'lynch mob,' while suggesting any challenge to its use was 'virtue signalling.' Needless to say, those who chose to comment so vociferously did not identify as BAME. The irony of being told by those who are unlikely to have experienced first-hand the ugly side of racism, that such language has consequences, certainly was not lost on us that evening.

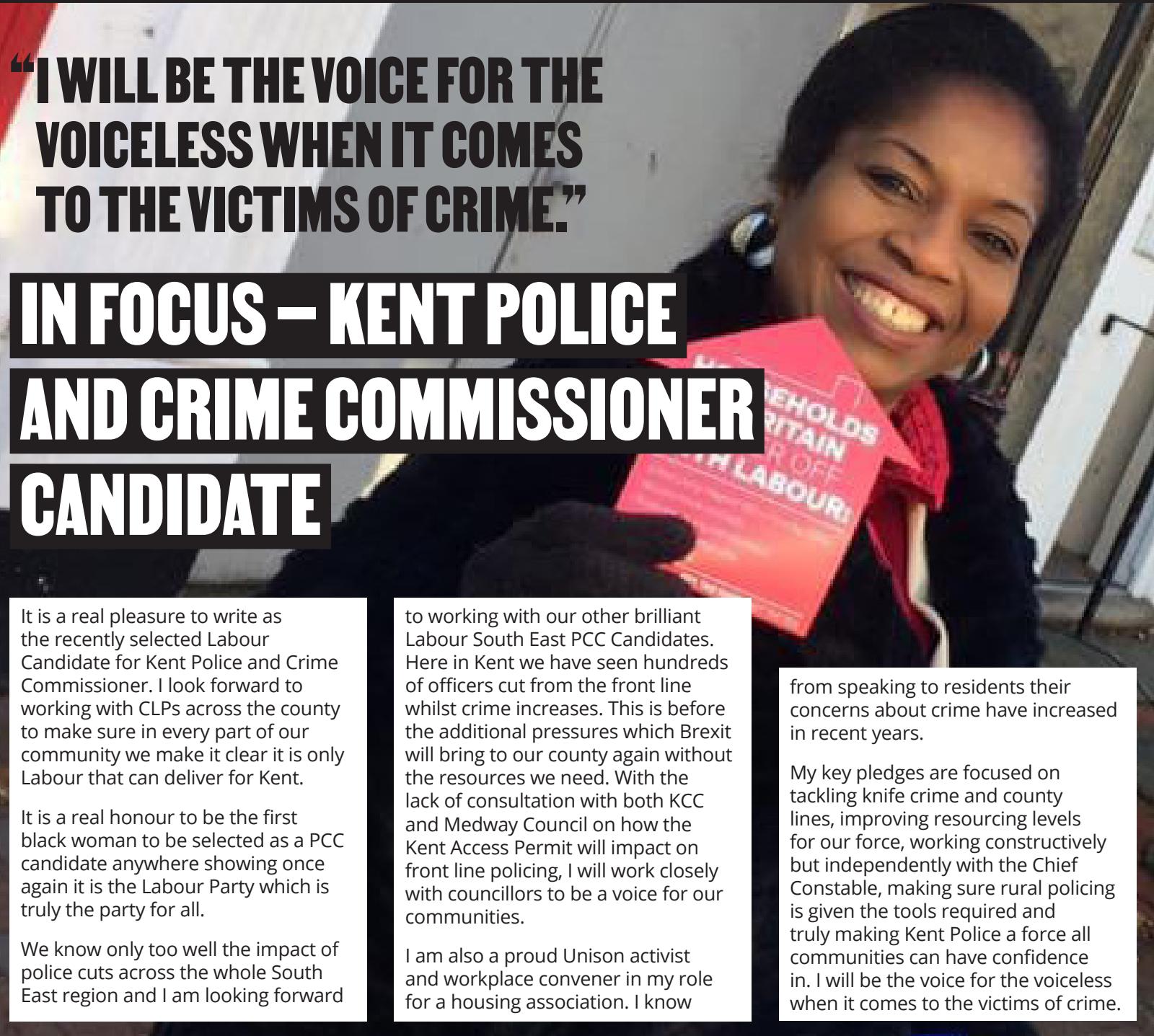
As a BAME councillor, I left that meeting feeling a combination of angry, unwelcome and, in all honesty, a little sad. This was an official Medway Council meeting broadcast to the public and this



is how the Tory leadership had chosen to present itself.

But while experiences such as this can be off-putting and may leave us feeling despondent, they should in fact provide us with the very motivation we need to change the face of our politics. Putting yourself forward for elected office, taking up key decision-making roles, where you have the opportunity to influence and transform our society.

Nothing can better redefine our political structures, than BAME people standing to represent themselves. That's why we should take those opportunities whenever they present themselves and agree to be the change we want to see.



"I WILL BE THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS WHEN IT COMES TO THE VICTIMS OF CRIME."

IN FOCUS – KENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE

It is a real pleasure to write as the recently selected Labour Candidate for Kent Police and Crime Commissioner. I look forward to working with CLPs across the county to make sure in every part of our community we make it clear it is only Labour that can deliver for Kent.

It is a real honour to be the first black woman to be selected as a PCC candidate anywhere showing once again it is the Labour Party which is truly the party for all.

We know only too well the impact of police cuts across the whole South East region and I am looking forward

to working with our other brilliant Labour South East PCC Candidates. Here in Kent we have seen hundreds of officers cut from the front line whilst crime increases. This is before the additional pressures which Brexit will bring to our county again without the resources we need. With the lack of consultation with both KCC and Medway Council on how the Kent Access Permit will impact on front line policing, I will work closely with councillors to be a voice for our communities.

I am also a proud Unison activist and workplace convener in my role for a housing association. I know

from speaking to residents their concerns about crime have increased in recent years.

My key pledges are focused on tackling knife crime and county lines, improving resourcing levels for our force, working constructively but independently with the Chief Constable, making sure rural policing is given the tools required and truly making Kent Police a force all communities can have confidence in. I will be the voice for the voiceless when it comes to the victims of crime.

This will be an unprecedented election with the restrictions that CoVid continues to bring. If I can ask you to be ready to do three things to make this campaign a success.

1 - SHARE LABOUR SOCIAL MEDIA

This election more than any other will be online, please share all Labour social media from the PCC campaign, from our Local Government candidates and from the national party too.

2 - CALL FIVE A WEEK If every member across Kent calls just five residents a week between now and 6 May, we can cover the whole county (even if we have Christmas and New Year weeks off!!) If you have never phoned residents before you can find out more here (either training link or website page)

3. REGISTER FOR A POSTAL VOTE

Nobody knows what the situation will be like in May. By registering for a postal vote, you are making sure you have the maximum opportunity to Vote Labour in all elections happening in May.

If you want me to attend your virtual branch, CLP or trade union branch meeting to talk about the campaign, do not hesitate to get in touch.

See you on the campaign trail
- omololly2002@gmail.com

Stay Safe, Lola Oyewusi

HAZARD PAY NOT HAND CLAPPING!

For those of us walking the streets on deliveries, the pandemic and lockdown has turned so much of what we do upside down. The end to van sharing, staggered start times, wearing masks in shops and businesses, and maintaining distance from customers, all while facing a significantly increased workload in terms of parcels going to people stuck at home. All parts of the Royal Mail Group have seen vulnerable members forced to stay home while shielding, previously safe systems of work become untenable, and the tragic loss of some treasured comrades.

Throughout lockdown, gradual re-opening, and what appears to be a second lockdown coming down the pipe, postal workers from collections, processing, logistics, distribution, and back out to deliveries, have all been working hard to keep our newly home-based workers supplied, keep business orders getting to their destinations, and along with the incredible labour of our diligent telecoms comrades in the CWU, keep the country connected.

As the public lined the streets clapping for key workers, showing their gratitude, the government has offered us nothing. I don't want applause from the PM and his ministers, not when they have the power to reward key workers for facing up to the challenges of this pandemic, despite the hazards. And there's that key word: hazards. We've endured hazardous health conditions in order to keep this country running, and it's about time we had a serious talk making statutory hazard pay a reality.

**"I don't want
applause from the
PM and his ministers,
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key workers for facing
up to the challenges of
this pandemic."**

JORDAN HARTLEY, CWU



CO-OP HUNGER CAMPAIGN

With as many as eight million people struggling to put food on the table regularly, food poverty afflicted many in the UK even before the coronavirus crisis. Austerity and Universal Credit's five week wait created a wave of food poverty. The Government's response to coronavirus has turned that wave into a tsunami. Since lockdown, there has been a dramatic increase in foodbank demand, with others relying on Covid19 support groups and the generosity of friends and neighbours to feed themselves and their family. For those struggling to feed their children the return to school was welcome relief, but since then we have seen children who are self-isolating at home go hungry, in many cases having had the lifeline of Free School Meals withdrawn.



James Butler
Co-operative Party
Campaigns Officer



It goes without saying that the answer is a change of Government and a fairer economy – but in the meantime what can be done? We know that Labour, and Labour & Co-operative Party members and councillors are behind many of the new foodbanks which have popped up, hard at work in community kitchens and community shops that do such good work, and out delivering food to those self-isolating. It is vital that we highlight this righteous work, but for those on the ground the demand can feel overwhelming. We have tried hard in the Co-operative Party, Labour's sister party, to offer some practical steps that councils can take to tackle food poverty.

We think every council should consider appointing a lead member for food poverty, work towards setting up a Food Partnership, and develop a food action plan. Within councils, food poverty cuts across departments. A single identified lead member can draw those different strands together providing a more joined-up approach to hunger internally, and a single contact point for organisations outside the council. A Food Partnership brings together the many statutory and voluntary groups working on food poverty

alongside responsible retailers and food producers under one umbrella to ensure a more co-ordinated approach on the ground. And a food action plan takes a measure of the problem and identifies gaps in provision. These three pillars embody what co-operation is about – people coming together in a common cause to deliver real change.

As one might expect, Labour-run councils have generally proved more receptive to our asks, but there appears to be a growing cross-party consensus on the ground that local authorities should play a pivotal role in co-ordinating the response to hunger. We have seen Conservative-run authorities (albeit sometimes reluctantly, as in Medway) accept the arguments put forward by Labour & Co-operative councillors, and of course we have seen support for these proposals accepted by Green and Lib Dem councillors too.

With best practice examples from around the country and a model council motion, our recently published booklet which can be found on our website, www.party.coop, can help you as Labour members and councillors deliver much needed change in your communities.

The modern union for a changing world

We're working to create a better world of work in the South East of England.

We know the world of work is changing with a focus on flexible working as well as thousands turning to self-employment.

And we're supporting our members through those changes, from guidance and advice around securing flexible working to a bespoke offering for our self-employed members.

As the economy continues to change we are changing too.

Visit **Community-tu.org/join** to get us in your corner.

www.community-tu.org • Email: servicecentre@community-tu.org

The importance of Labour in power

It seems like an age ago but just 23 years ago in our region we won seats in all areas of the Region (except Surrey). Some were planned but others were a surprise to both Regional office and even to the National Party as Tony Blair led the Party to an emphatic and landslide General Election victory including the biggest number of South East MPs ever elected.

Why does this matter? Here is an important point for all those who aspire to be Councillors or indeed MPs for the Labour Party of today. For many of the public they will associate only with national Leaders and one of the tricks that John Prescott used to say to MPs is remember you are the leader of your community not just responding to the Party members!

Being a Labour councillor or MP brings with it responsibilities to the ward or constituency which must be taken seriously as they are the people who have elected you and matter most. But the benefit of having a Labour Government or Labour Councils must not be underestimated. It makes change easier for local representatives. This does not ever mean that a Councillor or an MP is a delegate from a CLP or its Executive as it is critical that the councillor or MP puts the public first and takes into account all other views as well.



IVOR CAPLIN

Hove MP 1997-2005
and former Labour
Government Minister

In my 8 years as the first ever Hove Labour MP I set about bringing real change to our schools. This was made easier because it coincided with the "Education Education Education" policy of that 1997 Government. This meant that in that 8 year period all schools in my constituency saw benefits and many of those changes such as new classrooms got Cabinet visits (organised by the Regional Office of course) in order to publicise the work that Labour was doing in the constituency.

We should never underestimate this work and it applies today where we have Labour Councils doing great work despite the Tory Government constantly trying to undermine this work. Their role is crucial to showing the public what we can do when we are in control of an authority.

So if you have aspirations to be an elected representative yes it may take time but it is an important role you will be fulfilling. It is actually less about party politics and much more about

"The benefit of having a Labour Government or Labour Councils must not be underestimated. It makes change easier for local representatives."

the service and improvements you can bring as that local voice to the people who matter most - the public.

As we as a Party are taking strides towards the next General Election there will be many electoral opportunities once elections are permitted again and we should fight these on the basis of the decency and values that Keir Starmer mentioned in his Leaders speech in Doncaster.

To win national Government we have to win more seats in our region and all our ambitions must be to do so.

Just think how you will feel waking up with MPs across the region and a Labour Government as we did in 1997! Never to be forgotten but let's make it happen across our region again.

What Region has been doing during Covid

We have all been getting used to new ways of working and connecting over the course of the past few months. Whilst we haven't been able to meet in person, we have still been eager to help provide you with the tools to win in 2021 and to give you access to extra opportunities as South East members. Below is an update of some of the things we've been up to across the region.

We held the Summer Training Series with sessions ranging from Planning Your 2021 Campaigns, aimed at helping you prepare for the local elections, to Campaigning 101, an overview of Labour Party campaigning and techniques for new activists. There were 13 sessions in total and we had over 1,200 members RSVP.

We held a Welcome to The Labour Party session for those who had more recently joined the Party. It was great to have so many new people attend and learn about what it's like to be a Labour Party member – welcome to all our new members, it's great to have you on board!

We have also hosted a range of on-line events. For example, we held an Opposition Labour Group Leader session, a regional National Policy Forum event and a The Future of Football event in Portsmouth alongside colleagues from the Shadow Culture Media and Sport team, this event was not only attended by Labour Party members but importantly also by key voters.

We've also been busy hosting visits across the region. We are grateful to have virtually hosted our newly elected leader Keir Starmer in Southampton for a Call Keir event, where he connected with voters and also in person in Milton Keynes where he spoke to key workers and got to meet robots who help deliver essential supplies to those in need during lockdown. We can't wait to bring Keir to more areas in the South East in the future!

As well as Keir's visits to the region, the Shadow Cabinet has also been busy. The South East's very own Shadow Chancellor Anneliese Dodds has made several visits, including to



Gatwick in Crawley. Rachel Reeves made a visit to a Kent lorry park to see some of the impact Brexit is having on our region, and Shadow Defence Secretary John Healey joined Portsmouth's Stephen Morgan MP for a virtual Armed Forces visit, reaching out to armed forces communities all across the South East.

Faye Hartgroves – Regional Organiser

"Whilst we haven't been able to meet in person, we have still been eager to help provide you with the tools to win in 2021 and to give you access to extra opportunities as South East members."

Upcoming Events

SOUTH EAST VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Our first ever Virtual Regional Conference. Open to all South East members and will include training, speeches, Q&As, zoom panels and discussions. Week commencing 9th November, more information to follow!

SOUTH EAST AUTUMN TRAINING SERIES

An autumn series of training events. Sessions will be centred on campaigning and the 2021 local elections. More information will be communicated to members in due course.



2024 CLUB

Next year there are an unprecedented number of elections across the UK, every person in the South East will have at least one vote on the 6 May 2021.

By signing up to our 2024 club you're helping Labour South East build back support in key areas that will put Keir and Labour into Number 10. The support of 2024 club members is a crucial resource needed to help finance our campaigns.

As a member of the 2024 club you'll be entered into a quarterly draw for special bespoke prizes, as well as updates on how your money is being used to help put Labour in power.

If you sign up to be a 2024 club member by the 9 November you'll be entered into a prize draw for a signed Keir Starmer Conference Speech.

laboursoutheast.org.uk/2024-club/



Help Labour South East build back support in key areas that will put Keir and Labour into Number 10.

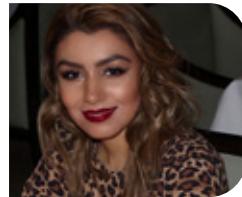
MEET THE TEAM

The South East is the biggest region in the country, covering 84 constituencies and over 67,000 members. We're a small but committed team that's working hard to provide the support needed to help our members across the region and challenge this incompetent Tory Government. We're here to help and support local party's hard work in winning Labour victories in the South East.



ELLIE BUCK
(Acting) Regional Director

Ellie has worked for the Labour Party for over 7 years. Starting in the South West Region, and undertaking secondments to Wales and GLU, before joining the South East team at the start of 2018. In her spare time Ellie paints and bakes. She has an extensive music knowledge, and is the person you want on your team for the music round in a pub quiz. Known to be partial to a Yorkshire tea, if your campaign is in need of some extra help, baked goods and a mug of tea are the trick to getting something from the regional budget.



SAT BHOGAL
Regional Administrator

Sat has been working for the South East Region for over a year. Before working in the South East Region Sat worked in Staff services, based in Southside, Head Office. Sat looks after the arranging of the affiliation fees, budgets and finance for the region, deals with general enquiries and all other administrative duties.



FAYE HARTGROVES
Regional Organiser

Faye has worked for the Labour Party since 2013 and before joining the South East team was a Regional Organiser in the West Midlands and South West regions. A keen traveller, outside of work she can far too often be found browsing for cheap flights and planning her next trip. At the beginning of this year, Faye started learning Japanese and also took up crafting during lockdown. When not trying to tick things off her travel bucket list or visiting Hobbycraft, she can be found unwinding down the pub with friends or watching the latest true crime documentary with a gin in hand.

KEEP IN TOUCH

✉ Labour South East
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105 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6QT

✉ southeast@labour.org.uk
☎ 0118 923 9400
☛ [@SELabour](https://twitter.com/SELabour)
☛ facebook.com/SELabour



SCOTT HORNER
Regional Organiser

Scott has worked for the South East Region for just over a year, previously working for MPs in London and the West Midlands. When not fighting for a Labour victory, Scott is fighting on the battlefields of years gone by in an English Civil War re-enactment. He also puts the rest of us to shame as the most active member of the team, playing in a Gaelic football team. Don't be fooled though, he's not Irish but is in fact from the suburbs of Salford.



ALEX MITCHELL
Regional Organiser

Alex joined the South East Regional office in the summer of 2018. Prior to that he spent a number of years in the South East working as a Local Organiser and in the Campaign Technology Team at Labour HQ.

Alex spends his spare time cheering on AFC Wimbledon where he is a Director of the club's foundation. When he's not cheering on the Dons, he can be found serving up a storm in the kitchen (with the occasional glass of wine in hand) – make sure you ask for his infamous Rendang recipe, you won't be disappointed!



EMILY KING
Community Organiser

Emily has worked for trade unions for over 15 years before coming to work for Labour as a Community Organiser. Emily is also a mum of two and live in Brighton so at the moment she spends her spare time walking on the seafront, or binge watching real crime dramas with her teen daughters!