

Unite Executive Council Election. Vote: Lesley Mansell, Health seat



Hi, I am standing for an Executive Council Health seat in our great union. I've worked at Southmead Hospital for the last 10 years, as the Equality manager and am the Unite lead rep and Vice chair of the Bristol NHS Health branch.

My commitment is to get the best deal for you, campaigning as a team with Suzy and Steve to:

- Secure better wages and conditions that reflect the social importance of all our jobs
- Challenge redundancies and work towards creating more jobs
- Ensure we get the best deal for the NHS and staff from this government
- Secure our NHS and social care to ensure free treatment for all
- Halt privatisation
- Bring back services into a publicly-owned NHS
- Increase the number of hospital beds

How I became involved in the Union movement - When I worked in engineering, I joined TASS and became the senior shop steward very quickly. I learned a lot about the issues that we face at work and how to negotiate with management to secure improvements.

I also worked with a group of women to set up a Women's Centre and succeeded in gaining government funding for this. The centre welcomed women from all sections of the community and was a vibrant project. It also highlighted some of the difficulties that women face.

Throughout my time in the Trade Union and Labour movement, I have endeavoured to encourage others to gain the necessary skills so they could bring about the changes they wanted. Time and again, experience has shown that we can achieve far more if we work together.

I went to University where I gained a BA Honours degree in Sociology, I became lead rep for the faculty. It also gave me time to support the Miner's Strike and the print workers at Wapping.

Awarded TUC Women's Gold badge

Equality Work - 1988 saw Thatcher's infamous section 28 go into law, I led the Leicester Section 28 campaign, then fought for LGBT+ rights through the trade union movement. I played a key role in establishing the Lesbian and Gay network (MSF 1989) which is now part of the formal structure, campaigned for this to be included in the remit at the TUC, where I sat on the first Lesbian and Gay Committee (as it was then). I then led the move to include Trans and Bisexual people as well.

I also became the Chair of the Regional Women's committee and supported others for Disability, Race and LGBT+.

Unite and other roles - I moved to Bristol to work at the council and became Vice President of the Region (MSF).

I have represented the union at conferences for the Labour Party and TUC.

Over the years I have continued to represent members at all levels, locally, regionally and nationally, setting up conferences, training and other events.

West of England Metro Mayor - In 2017 I was selected by Labour party members to stand for this. There was a great team on this campaign, Unite and other unions fully supported it. Sadly, this was lost by only 2% in spite of out or 9 constituencies, only 3 of them were Labour.

North Bristol Trust - I have succeeded in recruiting more new members than in any other health body in England (2019), worked with the JUC and successfully defeated the move to privatise our Facilities service, where most of our lowest paid and BAME staff work, recruited and supported new reps and secured RRP for Estates members.

Regional and National Committees: Health, LGBT+ Labour Party Liaison. Branch Vice Chair. Vice Chair and TULO rep (North East Somerset CLP). Parish Cllr.

Conclusion - I will continue to challenge, consult, arbitrate and negotiate to get the best deal for you - whatever your job is and wherever you work!

Please vote for the team committed to work for you:

Lesley Mansell and Steve Thompson. Suzy Abachor, (elected unopposed)

Do get in touch for more information Lesley Mansell or

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<https://www.unitedleft.org.uk/unite-executive-council-elections-2020/>