

Labour's Scottish Parliament Candidates for Edinburgh are setting out a new way of doing politics. A People's Pledge will be at the heart of their campaign and agenda in parliament – drawn up in our streets and communities – putting peoples' priorities first.



For the last 8 years, Scottish politics has been dominated by the constitution. Discussion of powers and institutions has drowned out all other debate, getting in the way of delivering for the people of Scotland. The Scottish Parliament has been good for Scotland, but we think it is time to stop talking about powers and start using them.

People are frustrated with politics and we want to fix that. Our pledge as Labour's Edinburgh candidates is to take forward a different approach and a fresh agenda. We want to put people, communities and Edinburgh front and centre of everything we do as candidates and hopefully representatives for the city.

Our Pledge to the People of Edinburgh

We are going to work with people in our communities - listening to their priorities and concerns - to build **a Peoples' Pledge** that will set out what we will do as this city's representatives. It will be guided by the following principles:

1) Building better services for Edinburgh

The teachers, nurses, doctors and other people who work in our public services do an outstanding job. But we know things can be better. Investing in public services is what Labour does in power. We want to work with people to build a plan to make our public services better and stronger in Edinburgh.

2) Making politics work for people and communities

Politics has become too remote and too disconnected from peoples' lives. We want to open up the process of politics and make sure everyone can have their say and get involved. We will be asking what people want from their representatives and what they want politics to deliver.

3) Building an economy that works for all

Edinburgh has a prosperous and vibrant economy, but not everyone in this city benefits from this. We want to work to build an economy that is strong, building on our successes here but also delivers for everyone who lives and works in this city.

How we will Build our “Peoples’ Pledge”

Over the coming months we will be doing the following to develop and build our contract with the people of Edinburgh

1) Survey

Through the coming months we will be conducting a city wide survey and listening exercise to listen and talk about the issues that concern people.

2) Campaigns

Over the coming months, we will launch key campaigns based on what has been said and what change people want to see.

3) Publish

In the spring we will publish our contract with the people in Edinburgh. This will be our commitment to the people of Edinburgh, setting out how we will take their priorities forward and how we will serve this city.

We will work with local people, community groups, charities and local businesses to build make change from the ground up. For too long politics has been something that has happened to people, our People’s Contract is our commitment to change that. It’s about making politics work for people.

Quotes

Kez

"A Scottish Labour Leader I am determined that we make better use of the powers the Scottish Parliament already has to create jobs and training opportunities to make Edinburgh a more successful city. We need to build on the skills and talents of our young people which is why for me investment in education from pre school, through to college and university is vital for our future."

Sarah

"We're already using people's feedback to focus our campaigning work. Whether it's meeting the challenge of new social care services, investing in NHS services, new affordable housing, policing or new sustainable transport infrastructure we need strong Labour voices standing up for Edinburgh in the Scottish Parliament. "

Lesley

" Edinburgh needs MSPs who will be a strong and effective voice for Edinburgh. The six Labour Candidates are working together in the coming months before the Scottish Parliament elections to listen to the voices of Edinburgh voters"

Cat.

"We want to speak to people across the city about local issues - what they love and what they don't about their areas. Our survey on Community, City and Country will ask voters about policing, schools, social and health care, environment and many other issues. We're excited to hear from people across the city and build on the responses in our Peoples' Pledge."

Blair.

"One of the main things the Edinburgh constituencies have in common is that they contain some very affluent areas and some very deprived areas. For that reason, we cannot have a one-size-fits-all approach to campaigning. We need to identify the different communities in each constituency, listen to their concerns and work together as a team to find tangible solutions."

Daniel.

"Politics has to change. It needs to stop talking at people and start listening and helping. Our peoples' pledge is about putting people front and centre of politics. In the past politicians have been guilty of telling people about bad things they should feel bad about. As Labour's Edinburgh candidates, we want to change this: we will work together to make our campaign about listening to people and working with them to achieve real change – locally, nationally and especially for Edinburgh."

Biographies & Contact Details:

Edinburgh Central: Sarah Boyack



Sarah Boyack was first elected to the Scottish Parliament in 1999. She was appointed by Donald Dewar to the first Cabinet as Minister for Transport, Planning and the Environment. She served as Cabinet Minister for Transport and Planning for Henry McLeish and then as Environment Minister for Jack McConnell. In her time in office she delivered legislation to set up Scotland's first national parks, established Free Bus Travel for Older People and kickstarted huge investment in new railways.

She is an experienced Parliamentarian, having served as Convenor of the Environment Committee in the second term of the Parliament and having chaired cross party groups on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. She has served in Labour's Shadow Cabinet since 2007 covering Environment and Rural Affairs and Local Government.

She has also built a reputation on campaigning for community safety, party flats and statutory notices. Before she was elected she was a chartered Town Planner and working in local authorities in London, Stirling and then lecturing at Edinburgh College of Art/Heriot Watt.

Email: Sarah.Boyack.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
Telephone: 0131 348 5751
Twitter: @sarahboyackmsp

Edinburgh Eastern: Kezia Dugdale



Kezia is the leader of the Scottish Labour Party and is a Labour and Cooperative member of the Scottish Parliament for the Lothian Region. She previously served as Scottish Labour's Shadow Minister for Youth Employment and as Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. Kezia has been selected as the candidate for Edinburgh Eastern, where she's lived for the past decade, for the 2016 Scottish Parliament election

Kezia has built a reputation as a campaigning MSP, setting up the Debtbusters campaign across Scotland aimed at cracking down on and tackling payday loan companies street by street. This campaign was successful in pressuring the Scottish Government to start producing 'wealth warnings' on the dangers of these predatory legal loan sharks, got them banned from many local authority computers including public libraries and led the charge in forcing the Scottish Government to change the law around debt and introducing the Fast Track Debt Assistance Scheme.

Email: kezia.dugdale.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
Telephone: 0131 348 6894
Twitter: @kdugdalemsp

Edinburgh Northern & Leith: Lesley Hinds



Lesley is the Labour and Cooperative candidate for N=Edinburgh Northern and Leith. Born and educated in Dundee, teacher, Lesley has lived for the past 38 years in North Edinburgh with my husband and three children. A teacher by training, Lesley has a reputation as one of the most effective Labour Councillors, with a strong track record of delivery and focus on her constituents. She has represented the most deprived communities in the city and now one of the most affluent and has held senior positions ranging from Council Leader and Lord Provost, to her current role as Convenor of Transport and Environment Committee.

Email: lhinds@blueyonder.co.uk
Mobile: 07778 413 792
Twitter: @lahinds

Edinburgh Pentlands: Blair Heary



Blair Heary has lived in southwest Edinburgh for twenty-eight years. He grew up in Colinton, attending Bonaly Primary School and later Firrhill High School. He studied Geography at The University of Edinburgh and then Screenwriting at Screen Academy Scotland. Blair worked in the social sector for seven years, including roles with Oxfams Care and Sleep Scotland. He also worked for Bupa Hospitals, Spire Healthcare and Endemol UK. Blair currently works for two Glasgow MSPs and lives in Bonaly.

Mobile: 07792 371 897
Email: blairheary@gmail.com
Twitter: @BlairHeary

Edinburgh Southern: Daniel Johnson



Daniel is a Labour candidate with a strong business background and a focus on policy development. He is Managing Director of the Studio One and Paper Tiger group of shops in Edinburgh. He started his career in financial services and holds degrees from St Andrews and Strathclyde Universities in philosophy and management respectively.

Daniel was instrumental in refounding Scottish Fabians. The Fabian Society was an important organisation at the foundation of the Labour Party in 1901. Daniel took the organisation from a dormant position in Scotland to being an important focus for policy discussion and new thinking for the Labour Party in Scotland.

Living with his wife, Jackie, and young daughter in the constituency, he has strong local roots. He grew up in South Edinburgh and his first job after leaving university was working as a constituency case worker for the local Labour MP for Edinburgh South.

Email: Daniel@danieljohnson.org.uk
Mobile: 07803150057
Twitter: @d_g_johnson

Edinburgh Western: Catriona Headley



Catriona (Cat) Headley grew up in Orkney before attending the University of Glasgow to study law. She moved to Edinburgh in 2008 and works as a solicitor at Digby Brown, representing injured people in a wide range of negligence actions, with a particular focus on workplace accidents. She was President of the Scottish Young Lawyers' Association from 2010 – 2012. Catriona joined the Scottish Labour Party in 2013 after becoming active in the Scottish independence referendum debate. She was the local campaign leader for Better Together in North & Leith. Catriona was selected as PPC for Edinburgh Western in June 2014 and is a member of the GMB union.

Email: miss.c.headley@gmail.com
Mobile: 07854714198
Twitter: @cat_headley