

Being an effective CLP Disability Coordinator

Your CLP may wish to elect a Disability Coordinator to represent disabled members in the CLP. This job description outlines the key responsibilities of the role.

The Disability Coordinator is the key representative of disabled members within the CLP, and works to ensure that disabled members 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 disabled voters.

As Disability Coordinator, you should be friendly and approachable, organised, able to run events and above all be prepared to work hard to ensure that disabled members have a real voice within the local party.

The key responsibilities of this role include:

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

This role is varied and exciting, and you can make a real difference to your local party through this position. 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.

In the work of a CLP Disability Coordinator there are two key aims:

- Building an inclusive party for disabled members-this means working to make sure that disabled members in your local party are supported, involved and engaged.
- Campaigning with disabled people- playing a leading role in making sure that your local party campaigns to champion the voices of disabled people.

To help build an inclusive party for disabled members, you may want to consider doing some of the following:

- Welcome new disabled members to the CLP, through emails, telephone contact or social events. You can encourage your CLP to issue an equalities monitoring form so that disabled members can self-identify.
- Organise training to encourage disabled members to become more involved in the party and in community activity - for example as party officers, school governors or local councillors. You could start by surveying interests and training needs of disabled members.
- Familiarise yourself with Disability Labour, the party's national affiliate representing disabled party members. There may be national events that you and other members may be interested in attending.
- Work with constituency and branch chairs to ensure party meetings are accessible and relevant to disabled members, using the information this guide.
- Work with your CLP Executive to ensure the concerns of disabled people are reflected and included in policy debates-this may include organising local policy forums or events.
- Ensure disabled members are supported to contribute to discussions and stand for the CLP executive and other positions.

The other part of your role involves looking outside of the party to your local community, and exploring how your CLP can engage with disabled voters. You may want to consider organising the following:

- Make contact with local branches of disability organisations, set up consultation meetings, exchange speakers and run a joint campaign in the local community.
- Organise local policy forums and discussions for disabled members and supporters with the wider community.
- Lead a campaign that affects disabled people in the local area and identify key stakeholders in that can get involved, such as local disability charities and organisations.

If you have any questions about the role of CLP Disabilities Coordinator get in touch with the National Women and Equalities Officer on equalities@labour.org.uk.