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National Policy Forum Elections 2012 North West Region Youth Representative

I'm a student at Lancaster University who is standing to be your NPF Youth Representative. I'm a member of Lancaster and Fleetwood CLP and my membership number is L1182579.

At the General Election too many people felt that we had lost our sense of purpose and were no longer on their side. We must listen to our activists, young and old, who between them have had thousands of conversations with voters since 2010. Only by listening to them, and to the needs of voters who turned away from us, can we build a truly progressive agenda for the future.

Priorities

The relentless attacks by this Tory-led government are destroying the aspirations of young people. The next Labour government needs to fulfil these aspirations. If elected to the NPF I will fight to make sure that we broaden the opportunities that are available to young people - we must make our society fairer and more equal.

Living wage: We must support workers suffering from the rising cost of living, particularly the lowest paid. We need a living wage nationwide of £7.20 an hour, with no reduced rate for the under-24s. Young people deserve a fair day's work for a fair day's pay.

Paid internships: An internship is a job like any other and young people should not be forced to work without pay. I support the campaign by *Intern Aware* to end unpaid internships and will fight to make sure paid internship opportunities are made widely available.

Marriage rights for all: It was a great achievement of the Labour Party to introduce civil partnerships in 2004 but it is time that LGBTQ couples had the opportunity to legally marry, in a civil or a religious ceremony, if that is what they desire.

My other policies include:

- Effective price regulation on rail companies;
- Tackle the greed of our energy companies;
- Support co-op housing;
- More incentives for childcare in the workplace for women;
- Banning payday loans and protection against loan sharks;
- Support HS2;
- Establish a National Investment Bank;
- Justice for Hillsborough victims;
- Better apprenticeships (both hi-tech and traditional).

Experience

I've been an activist ever since I joined the Party:

- General Secretary of Lancaster University Labour Club 2011-2012;
- Organising visits from shadow ministers Mary Creagh and Luciana Berger;
- Part of the campaign team which won 11 council seats in Lancaster and Morecambe at the 2011 local elections. This included gaining University Ward, which is now represented by two Labour Students.