

New life and aspirations for the party and constituents of Manchester Central

Patrick Vernon

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Making a difference for local communities

“ **Labour in Manchester Central** needs a parliamentary candidate who is a proven, strong, energetic campaigner with a passion and commitment to social justice and tackling inequalities in education, health, housing, and environment. A person who can address equality issues with the skills to unite and build bridges in a diverse and vibrant constituency.

I am experienced in organising and leading campaigns, nationally as well as at council level. My established media skills and ability to motivate members to get involved, to make a real difference to Labour's chances to hold and sustain **Manchester Central**, will be an asset.

I have already started to meet the people who will make the difference and when selected I promise to hit the ground running with a strong campaign to support both parliamentary and local elections.

I hope you will vote to give me the chance to be a strong Labour candidate, and then MP, for **Manchester Central**”

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What can I offer Manchester Central

- Leadership experience and vision
- Politically savvy and insight
- Natural campaigner and communicator
- Strong commitment to social justice and tackling social exclusion
- Trained and experienced in conflict resolution and mediation
- Team builder
- Track record on equality issues
- Experience of handling the media and public meetings
- Knowledge of running front line services

Patrick Vernon

Leader and campaigner for Manchester Central



Labour Party experience

- Labour member for over 20 years
- Elected Councillor for Queensbridge Ward in May 2006 and former Chair of Health Scrutiny in the London Borough of Hackney
- Play Champion for London Borough of Hackney
- Next Generation Labour Councillor Programme
- Former Vice Chair of Local Government Committee for Hackney Labour Party/Formal Branch Secretary of Lea Bridge Ward
- General Committee Hackney North & Stoke Newington, former member Hackney South & Shoreditch, Ethnic Minority Officer for Hackney North/Vice Chair Hackney North Ethnic Minority Forum
- Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) Labour Executive Committee and Policy lead.

Other life experience

- BA Hons, LLM in Law and Law Society Finals
- Member of UNISON, UNITE, Socialist Health Association and Cooperative Party
- Extensive senior management experience (Strategic Adviser for Department of Health, Manager for Citizens Advice Bureau, Regional Director for South East England for Mind, Director at Brent Primary Care Trust, Operations Director for Volunteer Reading Help and Chief Executive of North West London Community Foundation)
- Currently Chief Executive of The Afiya Trust a national charity promoting the health and well being of marginalised communities
- Former Non Executive for Camidoc, a GP led social enterprise
- Former Non Executive for East London and City Health Authority
- IDeA Peer Reviewer on Public Health and Local government
- Clore Fellow, film maker and leading expert on family genealogy
- Founder of the 100 Great Black Britons Campaign-www.100greatblackbritons.com which made Mary Seacole a household name. The site is now used as a resource in the national curriculum
- Established successful social enterprise and publishing company

Committed to Manchester Central

I don't pretend to have local roots here in Manchester but I was a student in Manchester and lived in Hulme and volunteered at the local CAB after completing my law degree. I do have some local knowledge of the issues and challenges facing the constituency based on experiences of working with various charities over the years. I will work with the local party and the community to improve the life chances and quality of life for everyone. Recently in my role as Chief Executive of the Afiya Trust I worked with Kate Green MP to launch Living in the Margin campaign, highlighting the impact of cuts in local authority social care budgets.



Patrick pays his respect to Mancunians who given their lives in all world conflicts. Patrick recognises the contribution of the brave men and women who have given their lives and of those living with the physical and mental scars of war and conflict. Patrick was against the invasion of Iraq and the length of time our troops have spent in Afghanistan. It is time we bring our troops home.

Patrick's pledges to Manchester Central Labour Party:

I'll start campaigning as soon as I'm selected and will establish a base in Manchester

I'll work hard to get Labour Councillors elected in the elections in May

I will use my experience to raise the profile of the key issues facing the constituency

I will establish a recruitment drive of members and supporters from the local community to be part of the campaign team

Work with the local party to do fundraising and social events

I will be transparent to local people and the party regarding expenses and budgets designated, if successful as the local MP.

Patrick's political views

“ When you select a parliamentary candidate you are not just picking someone for their campaigning skills, you are also choosing a potential political representative of **Labour** in your constituency. It's therefore important to know where they are coming from politically. Too many politicians try to hide their real views or tell members what they think they want to hear. I'm not like that – I prefer to tell it as it is and earn people's respect for my honesty and hard work. I am very proud to be a Socialist and left of the party. But I am also a team player. I will gain your views and perspectives on issues to reflect local members' concerns and aspirations in Parliament and challenge when necessary.

The **Labour Party** in the past has delivered a lot for ordinary people in **Manchester** – a minimum wage, increased spending on schools and hospitals, more jobs, lower interest rates, greater commitment to environment and equality issues. However, to win the by-election we need to campaign with new ideas and vision to engage and support a growing class of people and communities who have little or no stake in society. We need to demonstrate that Labour is still committed to social justice for everyone and not just for the rich and privileged. We have to go out and campaign on what unites us all in a period of the privatisation of the NHS, cuts in services, mass unemployment and poverty for young people, families and pensioners.”

Contacting Patrick

“ I have already spoken to local Party members and enjoyed meeting many of you. However, if you have any questions for me or issues you want to raise with me before deciding who to support, please give me a call on **07976 731 539** email **patrickvernon@btconnect.com** or twitter **@ppvernon**. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the selection meeting in the Methodist Central Hall, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ on Monday 16 April starting at 7.00pm.”

www.patrickvernon.org.uk

