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| **Applications are now open for a Labour Party Women’s Development Programme** We are delighted that following a successful initial programme last year; the Labour Party National Executive Committee is funding a 2nd Women’s Development Programme across the whole of our area. Our key aim is to encourage participation at all levels in the Labour Party to help address under-representation. Any woman can apply but in particular we welcome applications from young women, BAME women, disabled women, lesbian and transgender women, and any women who feel there are barriers in place which makes them feel they cannot participate - maybe not having gone on to further or higher education, caring responsibilities or just a lack of confidence.*“I think that the programme is a fantastic opportunity to share ideas, build confidence and increase opportunities for the women of Sheffield. I have learnt a lot about myself from taking part”.* Jenny (participated in the first programme, 2018)The programme is delivered by Lisa Read of Real Clear, a Labour Party member and experienced coach and trainer.  Below is a letter from Real Clear which gives more detail and tells you how to apply.In solidarity and sisterhood,Terry BarrowEqualities and Development Officer, Sheffield Local Campaign Forum.**Letter from Real Clear:**Dear Colleague, **An Exciting Opportunity for Women Members.**We are delighted to have been awarded money by the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party to run a Women’s Development Programme with a difference.  The programme was the first of its kind for the Labour Party when it was set up last year. The aim of the programme is to inspire more people like you to be part of, and contribute to, our party and our communities. Perhaps by getting more involved in your local branch, perhaps in a community organisation, perhaps as a councillor or an MP. We have worked with Labour MPs, MEPs and councillors across the country and we think that the best representatives know how to listen, have lots of empathy and can get along with people. They know their own mind but are ok with knowing that not everyone will agree with them. **If that sounds like you then we would love to hear from you.** You might be surprised at what you can do. **What makes this different?****Us.** A little bit of that difference is about us as training providers. Real Clear [www.realclear.co.uk](http://tangent-taz-prod.tangentlabs.co.uk/c/5b045b22e4b08a52a9efb741/13a122e2-7ba1-4079-8b70-36435d696714/labourcc-prod/4f59bf63-67e4-4ead-b63b-397c227512c6/http%3A//www.realclear.co.uk/) was set up by 3 Labour Party members –to help our people to develop the skills and confidence to do their jobs even better, to take on new challenges and to change their bit of the world. **You.** Most of the difference in this development programme however is you. The programme is aimed at people who wouldn’t normally think of themselves as a future branch or CLP officer or a councillor. We want to hear from people who haven’t stood for election. Perhaps they lack the confidence, perhaps they think “I could never do that” or that it “isn’t for people like me”.  **The Programme**The training will cover: * Managing Challenging Behaviour
* Emotional intelligence
* Leadership skills
* Effective communication
* Self-confidence and resilience
* Understanding different personalities
* Decision making
* Public speaking

You don’t have to commit to become a councillor, an MP or even the assistant minutes officer in your ward. You just have to come along. And bring a pen. The programme will run over six sessions, on the following Saturdays:* 7 September
* 21 September
* 19 October
* 2 November
* 16 November
* 30 November

They will start at 9.30am and finish at 12.30pm, and will be held at The Circle, Rockingham Lane (just off Division Street in the City Centre), which is fully accessible. Tea, coffee and water will be provided. We have some funds available to assist with extra costs you might have. If you will have to pay for any caring costs please let us know. We may also be able to help with some other costs for example, if you need specific transport because you are disabled. Please ask. **Application Process:**Complete the attached form and email it to lisa@realclear.co.uk.**Important: To be eligible to apply, it’s important that you’re able to commit to at least 4 of the dates because places are strictly limited.**The closing date for applications is 31st July 2019. You will be informed of the outcome of your application within 2 weeks of the applications closing. I look forward to hearing from you,Kind regards,Lisa |

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