

Mayoral Area: Tees Valley

Party: Labour

Candidate name: Jessie Joe Jacobs

Twitter: @JessieJoeJacobs

1. ***If elected, how will you champion social workers in your area?***

During the Covid Crisis, many people went above and beyond, to stand with our communities during the crisis. Many were the unseen heroes such as social care workers. I want to celebrate and reward those heroes, giving them the recognition they deserve through:

- A Mayor's Awards celebration event to recognise their invaluable hard work.
- Creation of the Local Heroes Card, a discount and rewards card for all key workers and unpaid carers.
- My backing for carer-friendly policies through the Good Work Charter.
- Working to achieve a £10 minimum wage for all key workers.
- Giving carers (paid and unpaid) priority access to social housing and affordable homes schemes.

2. ***Directly-elected Mayors can use their position to effectively champion national issues on behalf of their constituents. If elected, will you use your influence to raise issues relating to social work with national Government?***

Yes, I'm committed to this, please keep an open dialogue with me over issues you'd like my support with in lobbying government.

3. ***If elected, will you (when suitable) make representations for the investment in social work recruitment, education, and retention initiatives?***

Yes - as above please keep an open dialogue about what you would value support with.

4. ***If elected, will you promote equality and diversity in your area?***

Yes please see the ['People' section of the manifesto](#) which details the 'get on scheme' and the 'good jobs charter' as well as the plans I will put into place to confront gender inequalities in our society.

5. ***If elected, will you seek to tackle poverty and the causes of poverty in your area?***

Yes, there are clearly problems which are beyond my reach at a metro mayor in terms of the Conservative Government's punitive benefits system, however I intend to revitalise and encourage the social entrepreneurs of our region through a Good Business Hub, whereby we will grow the Tees Valley's social and community economy, empowering businesses, individuals and communities to turn their entrepreneurial ideas into sustainable business plans for social and economic benefit. I also intend to train up 10,000 people within climate industry skills.

6. ***If elected, will you seek to tackle homelessness and the causes of homelessness in your area?***

Yes - I've committed to support the #EveryoneInForGood Campaign from Homeless Link

7. Please write no more than 300 words on what you would like our members to know about your candidacy

My name is Jessie Joe Jacobs. I am a Teessider, charity founder, campaigner, regeneration leader and I am proud to call the Tees Valley my home. We have incredible people and communities that have each other's back.

For too long we have been left behind from underinvestment in public transport, public service cuts and a rolling back of people's rights and powers. This has caused wide-scale poverty, lack of opportunity and deep-rooted inequalities which means your future is too often decided by the postcode you live in or the street you grew up in. We must tackle this head on, if we are to secure the future we need.

Having spent years delivering change at a local and national level, I know change is possible. I have developed projects, organisations and services that have lifted people out of poverty, improved health and well-being, created new businesses and reduced unemployment.

I understand the absolutely monumental task of taking on the three biggest issues of all our lifetimes:

To rebuild after the devastating global pandemic.

To address the spiralling out of control inequalities, locally, nationally and internationally.

To stop the large scale irreversible damage caused by the climate crisis.

I have an ambitious plan to build a thriving economy from the bottom up: investing in local business and industries old and new to deliver jobs for decades to come.

Across everything I do, we will ensure no one is left behind, we protect the vulnerable and the planet.

The possibilities for this region have never been so clear. The opportunities are many and the responsibility for so many future generations now rests on our shoulders. The opportunity to bring about real, transformative change is too great, timing too crucial, possibilities too important and the need too great, to get this wrong.

[Note you can read the full manifesto here](#)