



✕ Please Vote

Joney Faragher

Manx Labour Party candidate for Douglas East,
House of Keys General Election,
Thursday 23rd September 2021

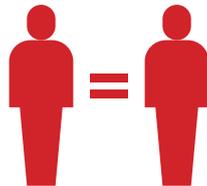
I am committed to reducing obstacles that stand in the way of people achieving their potential. Aligning our policy and outcomes with wellbeing rather than growth is one big way to address inequality, but we need to look to a raft of adjustments that will make life easier and happier for the vast majority of us – because it is simply a fact that we are only as strong as our community, and we gain strength from those around us. More equal societies are better for everyone: this is the underpinning value of all my policies.

My Vision



Lifelong education:

importantly, education should not be limited to these early years nor just to traditional academic success: there are many different ways to be 'clever' and many different ages that we become aware of what we want to pursue. Vocational and skills-based learning in schools during teenage years would be of huge benefit to our young people. Extending grants for 'mature' students to undertake vocational training would ensure that we are closing in on the impacts of traumatic childhood experiences, which can affect the school years.



Ending poverty:

in a wealthy community like the Isle of Man, there should be no foodbanks or homelessness. We need to urgently get to the root of these issues. Why are people struggling to make ends meet to the extent of using a foodbank? Why are people choosing between heating, and food? These questions have complex answers but that is no reason or excuse to shy away from answering them, and enacting research-based policy that will reduce the impact of the root causes of poverty.



A 'just transition' to sustainability:

like the rest of the world, our island is facing the climate crisis. We acknowledged the climate emergency in 2019 but have done very little about this. I propose using a Manx Green New Deal to ensure the transition to a carbon-neutral society is fair to everyone, that nobody is left behind and that all economic benefits from the transition are shared by our whole island community. The Green New Deal gives us the opportunity to really be at the forefront of change and economic success.



Quality housing for all:

everyone should be able to have a home. I would advocate for: 'not-for-profit' housing; the difficulties for first- and second-time buyers; maintenance and renewal of Local Authority housing issues; and government support towards insulation and environmental home improvements, alongside training for construction firms. Our island needs more affordable, warm, energy-efficient housing, and these issues need to be tackled using a comprehensive National Housing Strategy.



Agile working environments:

people with young families who want to work should be supported to do so. Both women and men should be able to request the flexibility to complete their working day at the time, and in the place, that works for their situation. There are currently highly skilled people who want to contribute more, but are unable to due to the outdated 'way of working.' With employers on board, I believe that everyone would reap the benefits of agile working.



Mental wellbeing:

our mental health services have many brilliant practitioners, but the service is chronically underfunded. With a tragic rise in suicides recently, this issue could be a key tracker of the success of our social policy. Our focus needs to be research-driven: community-based support workers, services that can confidently communicate with each other, affiliated prevention and postvention services with trained staff.

My Top Priorities



Education: Inclusivity is the key word here. Everyone should be able to access education and training that will support them in achieving their potential, at whatever age they are ready to do so. People's early experiences can too often negatively impact their outcomes. **We must stop leaving people behind: flexible and responsive education and training is the future.**



The Climate Crisis: We need all of our representatives to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible and that the benefits are shared amongst all of us. **The switch to a greener economy is coming, so let's take control before someone else does.**



Health and Wellbeing: By focusing upon the wellbeing of our citizens we will improve health. Early intervention schemes are proven over and over again to be the most efficient use of money. An honest exploration of the root causes of poverty, and the pressures of covering financial bases felt by low- and middle-earners alike is needed. The interplay of all these issues impacts upon mental health, so this will go some way towards addressing the crisis in that area too. **I will offer compassionate, people-based approaches that are based upon best practice.**



Social Care: Housing is in crisis and too many people are in effective poverty. We are missing opportunities to enhance our island with younger people and other diversity, by not taking a sensible, people-based approach to these issues. **I support research-backed policies that will benefit our island.**

About Me

I am a working mother of three sons, and I know the challenges working families are facing. I still feel I was very lucky to get on the property ladder a few years ago, and like so many of us, working to a budget is a way of life for me. I believe that a more even distribution of wealth is needed to ease the burden on working people.

I was born and raised in Douglas. I feel a natural affinity with Douglas East as my first home and the place I played and roamed as a child and got to know like the back of my hand. Many of the issues in the area as I was growing up and as a young adult are still issues today.

I attended Ballacloan, Fairfield (now HBN) and Ballakermeen schools. I then studied a Bachelor of Arts with Honours at Liverpool University and a Master of Arts at Sheffield University. More recently, I completed Teacher Training (for Primary age) here on the Isle of Man via UCM in partnership with Chester University.

As a younger adult I always worked two or three jobs (you may have guessed it – saving for a deposit for a house!), which has given me a range of work-based experience. I now work for a local charity with children who are bereaved. My main area of experience is with vulnerable families and it is this experience over many years that has formed and solidified my views upon social inequalities. Time and time again, I have seen that people's chances in life can come down to luck – or the opposite of that, misfortune, yet our society is set up in such a way that people facing misfortune can have the double whammy of being blamed/judged/disadvantaged for that. I really do know the issues people are facing, I am passionate about being there for people and making things fairer.

I love our beautiful island, but that doesn't mean I am blind to the issues we have. I want our Isle of Man to go from strength to strength, and to do this we need to become more appealing to younger people, we need to strengthen and diversify our tourist industry and economy, we need to make sure that all citizens are benefiting from our economic successes – not just a few.

I am the Leader of the Manx Labour Party, having been elected to this role in June 2020. Prior to this, I was the Green Issues Coordinator for the Party, and collaborations in this role led to the formation of the IOM Climate Change Coalition. Throughout both my political, and my professional life I have formed working partnerships with people of all ages and from all backgrounds. I understand the issues people face. I have noticed most people want similar things for our island: access to good education and life chances, reliable healthcare, decent housing at fair prices. These aren't divisive issues. The MLP has stood with Manx people for over a century and we will continue to do so.



Get in touch

joneyfaragher@gmail.com

478406

www.facebook.com/Joney-Faragher-for-Douglas-East-MHK

MANX LABOUR PARTY

FOR AN ISLAND STRONG & FAIR