

Chris Riley



Workplace

Pudsey Data Centre

Posts Held

Around 5 years ago there were no active reps in my workplace. I encouraged another colleague to stand at elections with me and we both became reps.

Since joining as rep I have built up a committee of which I am currently chair. The committee has grown in recent years and has led to an increase in members, members have also found that they are receiving more help and support.

In July 2008 I joined the group functions exec committee to give colleagues in the division a greater voice and provide reps with an improved support structure.

In February 2009 I joined the LGBT Advisory committee. I helped shape our motion and attended the TUC Conference.

In October 2009 I became the co-chair of the LGBT Advisory committee. Together we have already built on the foundations, we have recruited a number of colleagues and set out a profile of purpose and what we wish to achieve. As co-chair we are looking into training possibilities to build our vision of a support centre.

Any particular knowledge/experience which you feel may be useful for your position of PEC member

I have worked in the IT service sector for over 10 years and fully understand the arising issues that impact on my sector as well as others.

I am the champion for the rights of all colleagues, not just those from diverse backgrounds. I do have specific expertise in LGBT Rights, but wish to develop and broaden this further within the PEC equality and diversity role to cover all areas.

Within my role, I have found that people from my sector often treat me as the first port of call if they have issues

within their workplace and this has enabled me to develop my knowledge of how the company and union work.

Election Statement

As the company restructures, members with vital IT skills feel their jobs are at risk of being outsourced or offshored to India. These concerns need a voice on the PEC.

Since joining HBOS six years ago, I have continually sought to make a real and meaningful difference to my colleagues' working lives. It began as part of a departmental working party tackling issues including morale, pay and progression.

Later I extended this support, knowledge and experience beyond my department. As a rep I have built a team of like-minded colleagues in Pudsey and have significantly developed communication channels to our membership.

In 2008 I was involved in giving the many IT colleagues working in Group Functions a greater voice by setting up a divisional committee. This provides increased support for workplace representatives and members.

More than ever, I believe it is vital that Accord works to ensure the company listens to colleagues of all ages, genders, races, sexual identities and disabilities. It is my vision that Accord creates diversity support centres to better understand issues arising for these groups of colleagues to further develop policies and procedures. I have begun this work by joining as co-chair of the LGBT committee.