



2025 NORTHERN **POWER** WOMEN AWARDS

6th March 2025

Manchester Central Convention Complex

Co-Headline Partners:



#NPWAwards

#WEAREPOWER

This year, we're not just celebrating ten years as a business... we're making history!

This year is special; a decade of driving change, breaking barriers and amplifying voices. What began in 2015 as Northern PoWEr Women (fuelled by passion, energy, and a bold vision) has evolved into a movement - not just a moment.

That movement is We Are PoWEr; a dynamic force accelerating gender equality and increasing social mobility. We've influenced policy, shaped industries, and created new pathways, far beyond what I imagined ten years ago.

We've faced challenges - economic shifts, political changes, and a global pandemic - but our community never wavered. The North has remained a beacon of resilience, innovation, and progress. We didn't just survive difficult times - we adapted, we innovated, we expanded.

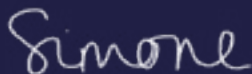
When the world shut down, we opened doors. PoWEr Collective CIC was born, proving that nothing can stand in the way of a community determined to rise. And rise we have.

This past year alone, we've witnessed incredible PoWEr Exchange events, built PoWErful partnerships, expanded PoWEr Up Networking, and broadcast from our brand-new studio - where our voices, our stories, and our impact continue to grow.

Tonight we celebrate the trailblazers, change makers, and fearless advocates shaping a fairer, more inclusive world. With over 1,600 nominations, new and expanded award categories, and 77 industry-leading judges - this is our biggest year yet! To every nominee, partner, and our unstoppable PoWEr community - YOU are the heartbeat of this movement. Your passion, resilience, and determination fuel everything we do. We see you, celebrate you, and thank you!

We're not just reflecting; we're also looking ahead. The next decade brings an even bigger future - more partnership opportunities, more influence, and more change for good. Our movement continues. The next 12 months are going to be full of action, celebrations, announcements, and ways to get involved. As we enter this era, we're launching our NEW PoWEr Pack alongside our NEW PoWEr Programmes focused around core topics such as Advocacy, Entrepreneurship, and Early Talent. We're calling on every one of you to step forward, step up, and be part of this next wave of impact.

So, let's celebrate in true Northern PoWEr style - loud, proud, and ready to take on whatever comes next.



Honorary Captain Simone Roche MBE RNR

Founder & CEO of We Are PoWEr, Northern PoWEr Women Awards and Power Collective CIC

Because together, #WeArePoWEr



1 Award Winning
Digital Hub

wearepower.net

13k

Users
on our digital hub

2.2m

Social Value
generated

10,600

Nominations
over 9 award years

7,500

Attendees
over 9 award years

240

Events
facilitated

175k

Social Reach
so far

120k

WeArePoWER
community members

250k

WeArePoWER
podcast listens



10 years of
We Are PoWER
started as Northern PoWER Women



Worked with more than

50
organisations

Scan the QR code to complete your
profile, view our upcoming events and
everything WeArePoWER!



or visit wearepower.net/home

#WEAREPOWER

714

Finalists
recognised

400

PoWER List
alumni

200+

Mentored
finalists by industry experts

441

Future List
alumni

48

Advocacy List
alumni

500+

Industry-
leading judges



We proudly invest in women

Bank of America supports the economic empowerment of women at our company, in our communities and around the world. We partner with organizations to provide 1.3 million hours of training to more than 135,000 women entrepreneurs, along with access to capital to help them build their businesses.

Within our company, women make up over 50% of our global workforce — and we continue to recruit, develop and help them succeed within our organization.

To learn more, visit bankofamerica.com/women

*What would you like the power to do?**

BANK OF AMERICA 

Become a **WEAREPOWER** partner

...a trusted, purpose-driven and respected community

PoWEr Partnerships are tailored to amplify your organisation's impact and brand, align to your unique needs and values, expand your influence, attract top talent, and drive real change.

PoWEr Exchange



PoWEr Up Networking



PoWEr Voices



PoWEr Panels



NPW Awards
Partnerships



PoWEr
Circles



Advocacy
Programme



PoWEr
Pack



PoWEr
Podcasts

As the global landscape shifts...
collaborating, convening and working together is essential!

Together, **WE** can create a better future for all.

Contact us to find out how we can PoWEr forward your organisation and teams : partnerships@wearepower.net

Thank You To Our Judges...

Adele Robinson

Venture Stream

Advita Patel

CommsRebel

Alaw Gwyn Thomas

Bank of America

Alex Cousins

Connected Places Catapult

Alexandra Knight

STEMAZING

Alison Dunn

Society Matters Group

Alix Bolton

Walker Filtration, part of the
Atlas Copco Group

Ammar Mirza CBE

SME Centre of Excellence

Asia Sharif

NatWest

Asma Iqbal

Chadwick Lawrence Solicitors

Charlie Charlton

Newcastle Helix

Chris Gray

Actica

Chris Maguire

BusinessCloud

Debbie Cook

English Football League

Debbie Francis OBE

Loram UK Ltd

Dr Deborah Lawson

Disability Advocate

Dr Jan Brown

Liverpool John Moores
University

Dr Marnie Millard OBE

Portfolio Non Executive Director

Dr Penny Trayner

Clinical Neuropsychology
Services Ltd

Edel Owen

Barclays

Elouise Leonard

Northumbrian Water

Emma Humphries

Bentley Motors

Fiona Hull

Construction Q Ltd

Gill Hunter

Square One Law

Graham Lucas

Michael Page

Hailing Harper

FengLing Productions

Heather Waters

Greater Manchester Business
Growth Hub

Jayne Little

Skills 4 Ltd

Jenn Hazlehurst

Forvis Mazars LLP

Jenny Coyle

Italia Conti / Freelance

Jenny Taylor-Smith

Asda

Joanne Henry

National Institute for Health and
Care Research

Kate Ross

Connected Places Catapult

Khayyam Jumani

J.P. Morgan

Kiera Byland BEM

Special Olympics

Krystina Pearson-Rampeearee

BAE Systems / AviateHer

Laura Griffiths

Bank of America

Laura Smethurst

Aldermore Group

Liz Kingston

BT Group

Lori Hoinkes

Manchester Central Convention
Complex

Maggie Chen

Girls in Charge

Mari Shaw

Private Nanny

Michelle Eagleton

Freelance Presenter

Mike Blackburn OBE

The Growth Company

Monica Mwanje

Inclusion and Diversity in
Nuclear

Natalie Reeves-Billing

Builder Books UK

Natalie Roberts

Bank of America

Nazir Afzal OBE

University of Manchester

Nicola Johnson

Bentley Motors

Nicola Wood

The Wonderful Wig Company

Nicole Burstow

Bridgemere Group

Nina Hossain

ITN

Paul Jackson

Barclays

Paul Kallee-Grover MBE

Ki Partnerships Ltd

Peter Pamphlett

Supported by Sarah Calderbank
DanceSyndrome

Professor Laura Serrant CBE

Laura Serrant Limited

Professor Teresa Anderson MBE

Jodrell Bank, The University of
Manchester

Rachel O'Donnell

Mace

Raina Heverin

SupplyWell & ReCulture

Richelle Schuster

Creaticity

Rosina Murdoch

Deloitte

Ru Ashworth

Ideas by Ru

Hosts & Entertainment

Ruth Shaw OBE

Premier League Charitable Fund

Saeeda Ahmed

Sustainable Cities Global Ltd

Sam Tasker Grindley

Sedulo Nexus

Sandhya Nagaraju

Connected Places Catapult

Sarah Perris

Perris-Myatt

Seb Randle

The Helpful Space

Sharon Smith

Tetra Tech

Siwan Smith

Princes Limited

Sonia Bate

Edit Development

Tasnim Khalid

Private Client Solicitors

Tracy Brabin

Mayor of West Yorkshire

Tricia Williams

Northern Trains

Victoria Price

Alvarez & Marsal

Vik Gartside

PZ Cussons

WO1 Kim Wyche

Royal Navy



Nina Hossain

NPW Awards Host

ITN's Nina Hossain is an award-winning journalist with nearly 30 years of broadcasting experience. Nina anchors the ITV Lunchtime News and News at Ten. Throughout her career, she has covered all the major news stories, presented on every election overnight programme since 2015, and fronted special programmes and podcasts on topics including politics, terror attacks, the Grenfell Tower fire, the pandemic, and the invasion of Ukraine.



Simone Roche MBE

NPW Awards Founder & Co-Host

Visionary leader, CEO of We Are PoWER and a driving force for good. Inspiring transformative action and amplifying voices to create lasting, inclusive change. Honorary Captain in the Royal Navy.



Michelle Eagleton

Purple Carpet Host

Broadcast journalist for over 20 years, working in TV and radio.

Michelle has reported live from numerous red carpets and covered an array of awards ceremonies from the BAFTAS to the British Soap Awards. Her career has seen her interview a number of high profile celebrities.



Leo Freeman RSLI

BSL Interpreter



Dr Penny Power

DJ

Our resident NPWA DJ Dr Penny Trayner is a multi award-winning consultant clinical neuropsychologist based in Manchester.

In 2009, she founded a specialist community-based neuropsychological rehabilitation service for children with acquired brain injury, serving patients and families across the UK.



Royal Northern College of Music

Entertainment



Public Spotlight

Individuals
All Genders

The public figure who uses their platform as a catalyst for positive change, consistently amplifying voices and championing causes that promote equality, equity and inclusion.

Previous Winner

2024 Winner - Tracy Brabin



NORTH EAST

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE DL

Paralympian, Crossbench Peer
Sport

Paralympian. Crossbench Peer in the House of Lords. Motivational speaker, broadcaster and mother.

Awarded the title of 'Dame' for her services to sport.



NORTH WEST

Jane Couch MBE

First Female Licensed Boxer, Campaigner
Sport

Took on the British boxing world for the right to fight in the professional ranks becoming the first licensed female boxer in the United Kingdom in 1998.



NORTH WEST

Molly McCann

Combat Sports, Equality Advocate
Sport

Professional UFC flyweight fighter. Raising awareness about mental health issues and is a strong advocate for combating the stigma surrounding mental health.



NORTH WEST

Dame Sarah Storey DBE

Paralympian, Policy Advocate for British Cycling
Sport

British cycling advocate who promotes road safety and access to cycling for people with disabilities and women. A former Paralympic cyclist and GB's most decorated female Paralympian.



YORKSHIRE

Melanie Brown MBE

Domestic Violence Advocate and Campaigner, Singer
Singer / Songwriter

Recognised with an MBE in the 2022 New Year Honours list for her unwavering commitment to supporting survivors and raising awareness of domestic abuse.



NORTH EAST

Vicky Pattison

Influencer, Women's Health
TV Personality

Championing women's health, Vicky has raised vital awareness and spoken at Parliament to advocate for better understanding and support.

Empowerment Champion

Individuals
All Genders

The individual at any career stage who actively empowers others.

This award celebrates those who uplift and elevate others by using their PoWEr for good; this can be using their influence, sponsorship, personal relationships or passion to support others.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Previous Winners (previously Levelling Up Leader)

- 2024 Winner - Alison Dunn
- 2023 Winner - Nickala Torkington
- 2023 Commended - Nicky Chance-Thompson MBE
- 2023 Judges Special Award - Isobelle Panton
- 2022 Winner - Steph Edusei
- 2022 Commended - Sharon Davies
- 2020 Winner - Beckie Taylor
- 2020 Commended - Alison Fisher
- 2020 Judges Special Award - Hema Radhakrishnan
- 2019 Winner - Adrienne Kelbie CBE
- 2018 Winner - Erika Rushton
- 2017 Winner - Jane Farrell
- 2016 Winner - Donna Hall CBE
- 2016 Commended - Charlotte Sweeney



NORTH EAST

Ann Stonehouse QAEP

Founder, Chair and
Business Owner
Assist Women's Network
x @AnnStonehouse

Dedicated to women's empowerment and laying a solid foundation for the visibility of women. Leader of a team of innovative volunteers to drive change and make a real impact on our community of Tees Valley Women and our next generation.



NORTH WEST

Asma Begum

Founder and CEO
Soul Sisters: Empowering
People

Coach, Activist and Advocate to amplify the voices of domestic abuse survivors, inspired by my journey to protect my son.



NORTH EAST

Dr Reem Hasan

Chief Medical Officer and Wellbeing Guardian
InHealth
x @DrReemHasan

Proud Geordie, trailblazer, advocate, and champion for wellbeing, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and committed to transforming healthcare. Passionate about creating a healthier, fairer future for all.



YORKSHIRE

Laura Boocock

Group Manager Strategic Development
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
x @Lauraboocock

Firefighter, dog mum, and disruptor. Passionate about serving the community of West Yorkshire and empowering women to be their whole amazing self at work.



NORTH WEST

Louise Stephenson

Partner
DRAX North Team

Empowering women across the North of the UK by building communities of like-minded leaders. Passionate about showcasing role models, inspiring future generations, and driving lasting change for gender equality.



NORTH WEST

Melissa Johns

Actor, Writer & Co-Creative Lead
TripleC
x @MelissaJohns_1

Driving change for disabled people in the arts and screen industries and championing body image and empowerment of disabled women and disabled lived experience leadership.



NORTH WEST

Katie Winstanley

Group HR Director
Morson Group

FCIPD-qualified HR Director passionate about driving transformation through people-centric strategies, fostering inclusive cultures, and embedding equity in leadership and recruitment.



NORTH WEST

Linda Aylmore

Finance Director
The Office of Nuclear Regulation

A skilled, commercial, finance & business executive and non executive director working in the nuclear industry for 20+ years. Champion for ED&I. Improver of talent, processes & systems. Value creator & strategic thinker. Planning for growth.



NORTH WEST

Maggie Chen

Founder
Girls in Charge Initiative / Oxford Intercultural Communication & Education Group / Shut Up & Dance

Impact entrepreneur and honorary Northerner empowering women through games. Passionate about shaping future leaders, and creating inclusive opportunities. Proudly advocating for education and policy innovation to drive progress.



NORTH EAST

Susan Mulholland

Writer and Creative Producer
Freelance

Passionate believer in the power of stories. Empowering and elevating others through creativity. Proud to be from the North East.

One To Watch

Individuals
All Genders

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

POWER Pack

The individual showcasing exceptional talent and potential in a new role within a community or organisation, showcasing a commitment to championing equity, equality and inclusivity.

Previous Winners

- 2024 Winner - Tasnim Khalid
- 2024 Commended - Asia Sharif
- 2023 Winner - Nimrah Munir
- 2023 Commended - Lauren Rosegreen
- 2022 Winner - Debbie Rogers
- 2022 Commended - Claudia Bartholomew
- 2020 Joint Winners - Bianca Robinson and Elicia Curtis
- 2020 Judges Special Award - Kiera Byland BEM
- 2019 Winner - Jayne Hynes
- 2018 Winner - Faye Jenkins
- 2017 Winner - Kriti Sharma
- 2016 Winner - Grace Dyke



YORKSHIRE

Abigayle André

Automotive Journalist, Creator & Presenter
She Talks Cars

The UK's first female Muslim, mixed-race, autistic, and ADHD car journalist. Passionate about making the automotive world accessible to all.



YORKSHIRE

Dr Maria Hussain

Associate Professor in Management & Organisations
University of Leeds

Radical changemaker and thought leader; advocating for equitable outcomes for all Northern women.



NORTH WEST

Ella-Grace Gregoire

Managing Director
Gracia Group

A social impact, performance, and wellbeing consultant at Gracia, specialising in creative solutions for mental health and communication challenges.



NORTH WEST

Latoya Robinson

Pro Bono & Social Impact Advisor
Clyde and Co.

Empowering communities through access to justice, committed to making a positive societal impact, dedicated advocate for underrepresented voices within the legal profession.



NORTH WEST

Laura Howard

PGR Archaeology / Co-Chair Disabled Staff Network / Co-Chair Challenging Research
University of Manchester
x @LauraAnnHoward

Proud disabled, working class, Northern woman. I'm determined to improve access for disabled and working-class people who want to enter higher education. Proud to advocate for our amazing members.



NORTH WEST

Foluso Falade

Founder
Brandin' It

Featured on BBC The Apprentice, 'Brandin' It'. Aims to inspire the next gen in business by giving them the platform to create their own brand.



NORTH EAST

Laura Evans

Treatment Works Manager
Northumbrian Water

Scientist, engineer and wastewater specialist, passionate about gender equality and bringing about change.



NORTH WEST

Louise Walden-Edwards

Sports Professional, Founder & Academy Director
VO:ICE Fitness & Wellbeing Academy
x @britishicedance

Multi award-winning sports, fitness & wellbeing professional and a busy working mummy advocating inclusivity, collaboration and women in sport, with a deep passion to help facilitate change through knowledge, education, compassion and kindness.

Micro Organisation

1-10 Employees

The organisation dedicated to nurturing an inclusive culture as a key component of its growth strategy whilst creating an environment where diversity thrives with a sense of belonging and empowerment for every individual.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Previous Winners

- 2024 Winner - Split Perspectivz CIC
- 2024 Commended - STEMAZING
- 2023 Winner - Safer Date
- 2023 Commended - Freedom4Girls
- 2022 Winner - Rugby Football League
- 2020 Winner - Innovate Her
- 2020 Commended - The Women's Organisation
- 2020 Judges Special Award - Electric Bazaar
- 2019 Winner - Construction Q
- 2018 Winner - Draw & Code
- 2017 Winner - Airco
- 2016 Winner - Heald Ltd



NORTH WEST

DanceSyndrome

x @DanceSyndromeUK

Creates real change and opportunities for people with learning disabilities, using dance as a vehicle, in a unique, groundbreaking way which doesn't exist anywhere else. Transforming lives for people with learning disabilities.



DefProc

NORTH WEST

DefProc Engineering

x @defproceng

An award-winning innovation partner recognised for our technical expertise and commitment to turning ideas into market-ready products.

You think it, we make it.



YORKSHIRE

Leeds Dads

Supporting families. A volunteer-led group helping dads connect with preschoolers under UNESCO's 1000-day child development campaign, promoting well-being, strengthening bonds, and building a supportive community.



NORTH EAST

Power of Women

x @Powerofwomen_

Lifting, shifting, and empowering the aspirations of girls and women in Tees Valley and beyond.



NORTH WEST

Purpose Agency

Where purpose meets influence, and relationships are at the heart of everything we do. We specialise in commercial representation, PR, and brand strategy to help our talent grow their personal brands, increase visibility, and expand their influence.



NORTH WEST

Weird Jungle Sound Engineering

A creative mastering collective founded by Katie Tavini and Brendon Harding with a singular mission: to help artists release the best sounding version of their music.



NORTH EAST

Nuvo Wellbeing

x @NuvoWellbeing

An award-winning social enterprise established in 2008 to encourage increased fitness levels, personal development and healthy lifestyle choices – helping people and communities to feel positive, be active and live well.



NORTH WEST

Pro-Business Consulting Limited

A forward-thinking consultancy providing regulatory and quality support to both the Med-Tech and Pharmaceutical industry. PBC helps the manufacturers to get their innovative, life-changing & often life-saving products from conception to market.



NORTH EAST

The Verve Foundation

Investing in the future of finance, making it a more diverse, accessible and welcoming place to be.

Agent of Change

Individuals
All Genders

The individual who is personally committed to creating meaningful and lasting change in gender equality, equity and wider inclusivity through leading the way for others whilst making lasting impact.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Previous Winners

- 2024 Winner - Jayne Little
- 2024 Commended - Cat Wildman
- 2023 Winner - Lee Chambers
- 2022 Winner - Laura Wood
- 2022 Commended - Dianne Richardson
- 2020 Winner - Michelle Hands
- 2020 Commended - Louise Clarkson
- 2020 Judges Special Award - Gina Martin
- 2019 Winner - Joeli Brearley MBE
- 2019 Commended - Stacey Copeland
- 2018 Winner - Rob Mukherjee
- 2018 Commended - Nazir Afzal OBE
- 2017 Winner - Emma Keith
- 2017 Commended - Hazel O'Keefe
- 2016 Winner - Steph McGovern
- 2016 Commended - Fay Best



NORTH WEST

Becky Rich

Ambassador, Spokesperson
and Campaigner
DanceSyndrome

Passionate about raising awareness of the abilities & talents of people with disabilities. Demonstrates the importance of accessibility, inclusion, equality & respect for all people.



NORTH WEST

Dr Chrissi McCarthy

Managing Director
Centre of Behavioural
Equality Ltd

Ardent about embedding equality, diversity and inclusion into our everyday, starting in the workplace; from watercooler to boardroom. Bookworm, LEGO fanatic, terrible but enthusiastic chess player.



NORTH WEST

Jess Bates

UK/I Skills, Employment and Education Lead
AtkinsRealis

Advocacy, innovation and direct action. A strategic leader transforming education, industry, and policy for lasting social value.



NORTH WEST

Kate Stewart

Managing Director
The Sandon Group

Serial entrepreneur: defied the odds. Working at 14, kicked out at 15, 17 with a baby. Overcame darkness to own a company, host Hollywood blockbusters, and invest in property. Open about battling depression, a testament to resilience and ambition.



NORTH WEST

Madeleine Penfold

Photographer & Director
Madeleine Penfold Studios Ltd
x @madz_photo

Visionary photographer & director with a passion for capturing the immense potential of sports to achieve social change.



YORKSHIRE

Ros Jones

Business Coach
Ros Jones Business Coaching

Passionate advocate of speaking out about domestic abuse and the workplace in the North, and restoring balance back into business to build a kinder economy where everyone can thrive.



NORTH WEST

Jo Clarke

Senior Manager
Chase De Vere

Committed to changing the law for victims of domestic abuse.



NORTH WEST

Kay Wesley BSc FCIM

CEO / Councillor & Mayor
Kanga Health Ltd /
Congleton Town Council

Changing politics to prioritise equality, diversity and inclusion, first with the Women's Equality Party and now as Founder and Leader of the new Equality Party.



YORKSHIRE

Melissa Simmonds

Health Equity Community Network Leader
Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust
x @Mis-Taught

Devoted mother and fierce advocate, working tirelessly to create a world where Black autistic children thrive, diversity is embraced, and no one is unseen or unheard.

Inclusive Innovation

Team, Service or Organisation
Two Awards: People Focused and Tech For Good

The group that empowers others to contribute, participate and benefit from game changing innovation that has accelerated equality, social inclusion and diversity to benefit all.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Previous Winners

- 2024 **Winner** - National Institute for Health and Care Research
- 2024 **Commended** - DanceSyndrome
- 2023 **Winner** - Ability Consulting (NW) Ltd
- 2023 **Commended** - BioGrad
- 2022 **Winner** - Women in Social Housing
- 2022 **Commended** - Girls in Charge
- 2020 **Winner** - The Halo Project
- 2020 **Commended** - Flourish Together CIC
- 2019 **Winner** - Women in Nuclear
- 2019 **Commended** - GENEq
- 2018 **Winner** - Swapbots

PEOPLE FOCUSED



YORKSHIRE

Babyballet Limited

x @_babyballet

Mother and daughter team. Passionate about babyballet to make it into the award-winning reputable concept it is. Over 100 franchised and licensed schools teaching over 25,000 children every week in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.

TECH FOR GOOD



YORKSHIRE

CAPSLOCK Education Ltd

Developing cyber skills, improving diversity and addressing the cyber skills gap.



NORTH WEST

Digital Advantage

Discovering hidden talent and developing neurodiverse women and girls for the Tech industry.

• dotty about •
BRAILLE

NORTH WEST

Dotty About Braille

x @dottyabtbraille

Personalised, accessible braille greetings cards, gifts, letters and labels, aimed at visually impaired people.

WEEKEND CLUB
**Girls on
the go**

NORTH WEST

Girls On The Go

Making the UK a less lonely place for women of all ages.



HOUSE OF
BOOKS & FRIENDS

NORTH WEST

House Of Books & Friends CIC

x @books_n_friends

Tackling loneliness and social isolation, one book at a time.

SMART
WORKS
LEEDS

YORKSHIRE

Smart Works Leeds

Supporting and empowering Women of Yorkshire into work through confidence and clothes.

Digital Voice
for communities

NORTH EAST

Digital Voice For Communities

Show the world, tell the world, change the world.

Digital Voice works with participants often excluded from digital media.

Welcome to
NO AXON

NORTH WEST

ND Axon Ltd

Unleash Human Potential. ND Axon is a pioneering technology company at the intersection of healthcare and workplace inclusivity, dedicated to transforming how neurodiverse conditions are diagnosed, understood, and supported.

nitelight CIC

NORTH EAST

Nite Light CIC

x @nitelightcic

Supporting the most vulnerable throughout the Tees Valley. Helping with access to free basic essentials from food, clothing, hygiene essentials and digital services. Filling gaps in services to offer direct support helping to reduce poverty.



NORTH WEST

Maxwellia Limited

Widening access to medicine. We know how products can be enhanced to make a real difference to people's lives.

Large Organisation

1000+ Employees

The organisation that demonstrates a commitment to accelerating gender equality and creating an inclusive workplace.

This award recognises forward-thinking strategies in recruitment, development and retention of talent, which promote diversity and create an environment where all individuals thrive.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Previous Winners

2024 Winner - Northumbrian Water

2023 Winner - Deloitte

2022 Winner - Grant Thornton

2020 Winner - Michael Page

2019 Winner - Wigan Council

2018 Winner - Sky Home Service

2017 Winner - Sage UK Ltd

2016 Winner - Northern Rail



NORTH WEST

Bentley Motors Ltd

x @BentleyMotors

We drive an inclusive and collaborative environment where everyone is empowered to reach their full potential.



NORTH WEST

DWF Law

A leading global provider of integrated legal and business services which is purpose-led and driven to deliver positive outcomes with our clients, colleagues and communities.



NORTH WEST

Ikea

At IKEA, we believe that equality is a human right. We are committed to creating a more equal everyday and our goal is to become truly gender equal. We want every co-worker and customer to thrive and cultivate a diverse and inclusive culture.



NORTH EAST

LNER

x @LNER

LNER's vision is to become the most loved, progressive, and responsible way to travel and employer for generations to come.



NORTH WEST

Nuclear Waste Services

Making nuclear waste permanently safe, sooner.



NORTH EAST

px Group

Creating a thriving future together by embedding a culture that is aligned to our purpose and is inclusive to all employees throughout their career with us from the moment they consider joining us and in every action we take during their time with us.



NORTH WEST

J.P. Morgan

The World's Best Private Bank. Right here in the United Kingdom.



NORTH WEST

Network Rail

x @networkrailMAN

We are putting passengers and freight customers first. Creating a network that is safer, more reliable and efficient than ever before.



NORTH WEST

Nugent

Providing a lifelong pathway of care and support for individuals and communities in need, from birth through to end of life.



NORTH WEST

Royal London

As a proud, modern mutual we're able to take a longer-term view. We can focus on delivering positive, enduring change on behalf of our members and customers and their families, helping to protect the standard of living for this and future generations.

SME

11 - 250 Employees

The organisation that demonstrates a commitment to accelerating gender equality and creating an inclusive workplace.

This award recognises forward-thinking strategies in recruitment, development and retention of talent, which promote diversity and create an environment where all individuals thrive.

Previous Winners

2024 Winner - Square One Law

2023 Winner - NTS

2022 Winner - ANS Group

2020 Winner - Informed Solutions

2019 Winner - ThoughtWorks

2018 Winner - Spencer Group

2017 Winner - Mediacom North

2016 Winner - Brother UK



NORTH WEST

Connectus Business Solutions Limited

Mitigating cost, complexity and risk for our customers whilst being totally committed to a fully inclusive and diverse team environment centred around respect and support for everyone.



NORTH EAST

Cygnets Law

x @cygnetslaw1

Empowering lives, building brighter futures. Dedicated to delivering expert, compassionate legal support, we stand as a pillar of strength for our community, ensuring everyone's voice is heard and their rights are protected.



NORTH WEST

Gallaway Construction

Building for a sustainable future. An ISO accredited and successful multi-disciplinary Construction and Civil Engineering organisation, undertaking major construction projects throughout the UK.



NORTH EAST

Sunderland Software City

We support and grow the North East tech sector by helping people explore careers, start businesses and grow their organisations.



NORTH WEST

Vital Heating Solutions HVAC

We're so much more than just a Renewables, LPG, HVAC, Plumbing & Heating business... in an industry historically driven by men, we're proud to be shaping a future that welcomes & empowers women, driving change in heating & renewable energy!



NORTH WEST

SaverA UK

x @saverauk

Working to end 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices, including forced/child marriage, FGM and conversion therapy, and providing life-saving services for those at risk, regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, sexuality, or gender.



NORTH WEST

The Rugby Football League

x @TheRFL

Rugby League is more than a sport - we are a united sport that delivers entertainment, drives commercial value, and improves the lives of our communities.

Outstanding Entrepreneur

Individuals
All Genders

The entrepreneur who is driven with a passion and purpose to grow and develop their business to achieve success whilst making a positive impact in their sector and/or community.

Previous Winners

- 2024 **Winner** - Hayley Roberts
- 2024 **Commended** - Raina Heverin
- 2023 **Winner** - Dr Natalie Kenny
- 2023 **Commended** - Zandra Moore MBE
- 2022 **Winner** - Liz Ashall-Payne
- 2020 **Winner** - Sara Davies MBE
- 2020 **Commended** - Dr Jun Zhang
- 2019 **Winner** - Kimberley Waldron
- 2018 **Winner** - Sam White
- 2018 **Commended** - Stacey Dennis
- 2018 **Judges Special Award** - Dame Julie Kenny CBE DL
- 2017 **Winner** - Cheryl Latham
- 2016 **Winner** - Rachel Ray
- 2016 **Commended** - Sally Fielding



NORTH WEST

Ayaan Mohamed-Ali

Founder and CEO
Digitech Oasis
x @ayaantalkstech

Digital product innovator challenging gender gaps in STEM. Digitech Oasis has experienced remarkable growth expanding its client base to span 68 countries worldwide.



YORKSHIRE

Claire O'Connor

CEO
Babyballet Limited
x @_babyballet

Passionate about bringing fun and inclusive ballet to everyone, entrepreneur Claire has developed an award-winning global children's brand and franchise business based on her unique idea, 'babyballet'.



NORTH WEST

Kerrie Capelli

Founder and CEO
Kerrie Capelli

Transform your hair, transform your life with Kerrie Capelli. From a 2-chair salon in NW England to a UK & USA powerhouse with a warehouse, training academy, and global reach. Born from rebranding during Covid, we empower beauty professionals worldwide.



NORTH WEST

Christina Taylor

Founder
Purpose Agency

Purpose-driven entrepreneur, passionate about social mobility and diversity. Empowering young people and women to thrive through opportunity, representation, and business as a force for positive change. Dance lover, storyteller, and barrier breaker.



NORTH WEST

Elissa Corrigan

Founder
Elle Sera

Owner of award-winning female health supplement company Elle Sera. Passionate and vocal about tackling women's health issues. I empower individuals to take control of their hormonal health and overall well-being.



YORKSHIRE

Victoria Tomlinson

Chief Executive
Next-Up

Serial entrepreneur and change agent. Inspiring society and corporates to rethink retirement and use the skills of 50+ generation.

Disruptor For Good

Individuals
All Genders

The individual bravely challenging conventions, standing up for inequality and breaking down barriers.

This award celebrates those who boldly defy the status quo and shake things up in pursuit of a more equitable society.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

BT Group



Previous Winners

2024 Winner - Nicola Wood

2024 Commended - Laura Earnshaw

2023 Winner - Syima Aslam MBE

2023 Commended - Heather Jackson

2022 Winner - Nazir Afzal OBE



NORTH EAST

Dr Lucy Reynolds

Disability Advocate / Founder
and Director
[We Are All Disabled](#)

A social entrepreneur, public speaker and academic researcher. Proud to be disabled and passionate about disrupting the narrative around disability to create positive cultural change.



NORTH WEST

Emma Abbasi

Founder
[Dearbump](#)

Femtech Founder | Maternal Health | Developer | Women's Health | HealthTech | Innovator and advocate empowering women through technology. Passionate about transforming maternal health and driving gender equity in innovation.



NORTH WEST

Eve Canavan BEM

Co-Founder and National Coordinator of Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week Perinatal Mental Health Partnership

Giving women the support they need within healthcare and voluntary sector. Educator to ensure women are aware of their healthcare rights, promoting equality of care and opportunity.



YORKSHIRE

Lorna Armitage

Co-Founder CAPSLOCK

Proud Northerner and relentless advocate for equality, diversity, and removing barriers in the cyber sector. With over 15 years experience in cyber, driving a movement to reshape the industry and unlock untapped talent.



NORTH WEST

Sue Blackwell

Co-Founder / Trustee DanceSyndrome x @sueblackwellDS

Spreading joy and happiness by inspiring The Art of the Possible & creating a beacon for change through DanceSyndrome. International Thought Leader, Speaker, Writer, Disruptor for Good: Equity, Inclusion & Learning Disabilities.



YORKSHIRE

Yasmin De Nardo

Head of Technology Academy KPMG x @ydenardo

People, Talent & Employer Brand Leader. Early Careers specialist, passionate about the retention and development of talent in the North. KidsCode Creator, Board Member, Speaker and force for gender equality inside and outside of the workplace.



YORKSHIRE

Katy Deacon

Managing Director Towards Belonging Ltd

A chartered, wheelchair using engineer. Bridging the gap between the disabled community and the engineering industry to ensure that engineers understand how to design for everyone.



NORTH WEST

Sarah MacGregor

Head of Social Sustainability Sunbelt Rentals UK & Ireland (Ashtead Group)

Driven by my purpose to prevent future victims of crime, I'm proud to unite cross-sector partners to create meaningful, sustainable change through innovation, collaboration & positive disruption - growing forests & changing lives, one prison at a time!



NORTH WEST

Victoria Holden

Director Northern Lily CIC

Social entrepreneur passionate about inclusive education, community growth and creativity, with a deep connection to nature, social impact and innovation.

Mentor Of The Year

Individuals All Genders

The individual who has positively and significantly influenced the success of others whilst championing the values of mentoring beyond their usual responsibilities. Someone who is passionate about their mentee's personal and professional growth.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Previous Winners

- 2024 Winner - Jenny Coyle
- 2024 Commended - Chloe Fletcher
- 2023 Winner - Lyndsay Geraghty
- 2022 Winner - Ali McGrath
- 2020 Winner - Zandra Moore
- 2020 Commended - Rachel Fitzsimmons
- 2020 Judges Special Award - Sally Orange
- 2019 Winner - Gill Hodgson
- 2019 Commended - Jacquie Johnston Lynch
- 2018 Winner - Zara Crane-Davies
- 2017 Winner - Denise Chilton
- 2016 Winner - Dermot Boyd



NORTH WEST

Catherine Gladwyn

Virtual Assistant Trainer Mentor
Virtual Assistant Limited

Helping women go from employment to enjoyment.



NORTH EAST

Elizabeth Gibbison

Associate Solicitor
Irwin Mitchell LLP

Proud Northerner, Mam, Networker, Mentor, Lawyer, Volunteer, and Disability and Inclusivity Champion.



NORTH WEST

Helen Tonks MBE

Managing Director
Hydraulics Online Ltd
InspiresMe Consulting Ltd

All-weather, time-served confidante, sounding board, collaborator, silver-lining creator and mentor - bringing inspiration, clarity and confidence to current and next-gen leaders, individuals and organisations throughout the North and beyond.



NORTH WEST

Nina Lockwood

CEO & Founder
Intuitive Talent Solutions

Proud founder & CEO of Intuitive Talent Solutions. An eternal optimist, who is fascinated by people and gets a huge buzz out of making meaningful connections. An advocate of using intuition as well as spreadsheets ... and sometimes instead of.



NORTH EAST

Rachel Brown

Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
Northumbria University
x @RachelLBrown78

Passionate Senior Leader dedicated to advancing EDI and accelerating inclusive practice in the North East. Proud to mentor and advocate for my amazing mentees and develop them - removing barriers and enabling progression.



NORTH WEST

Lizzie Iveson

Product Manager
Barclays
x @lizzie_iveson

Passionate networker, dedicated mentor, advocate for gender equality and champion of mental wellbeing. Proudly empowering others to thrive and inspiring positive change, guiding colleagues to unlock their full potential through mentorship.



NORTH EAST

Paula Harrison

Director
Layers Studio Ltd

Relationship builder, collaborator, and mentor passionate about nurturing and retaining talent in the North of England. Proud to support this through mentoring in formal and informal capacities, and advocating for better visibility of female leaders.



NORTH WEST

Tarifa Simpson

Partner, Head of Due Diligence,
Healthcare & Life Sciences
Forvis Mazars LLP

M&A, diligence and life sciences expert, dedicated to equity through mentoring and supporting social mobility. Proud mother of Muslim faith and Indian descent, nurturing my dual-heritage family. Walking, weight-training and audio-books energise me!



Person With Purpose

Individuals

All Genders

Three Awards: Private Sector, Charity/CIC and Public Sector

The individual who is driven by a genuine desire and purpose to create real change in the world and better the lives of both individuals and communities.

Previous Winners

2024 Winner - Dr Deborah Lawson

2024 Commended - Debra Cartlidge

2023 Winner - Shabana Khushi

2023 Commended - Professor Diana Anderson MBE

2022 Winner - Alison Madgin

2022 Commended - Colette Devlin-Smith

2020 Winner - Freema Chambers

2020 Commended - Vicky Ringer

2019 Winner - Kirsten Mitchell

2018 Winner - Kim Leadbeater

2017 Winner - Ema Wilkes

2016 Winner - Jacquie Johnston Lynch

2016 Commended - Kate Cairns

PRIVATE SECTOR



NORTH WEST

Catherine Millan

Company Director
Be What You See Consultancy
x @cath_millan

Proud Northern homegrown entrepreneur, driven by the belief that 'I can' is more important than IQ. Passionate about dismantling workplace discrimination, championing equity for all, and helping businesses to create psychologically safe workplaces.



NORTH WEST

Elizabeth Cameron

Equality Diversity & Inclusion Consultant
Elizabeth Cameron Equality Ltd
x @Lizzieitis

Accelerating transformational change in culture & practice in the area of equalities.



NORTH WEST

Luna Munoz

Founder
Luna Leadership
x @Lunacmunoz

Growth (r)evolution consultant helping women & GEM (global ethnic majority) to take big ideas from small evolutions to revolutionary impact. Fiery activist for equality & early intervention with tidal forces to rival the moon's.



YORKSHIRE

Dr Andrea Cullen

Co-Founder
CAPSLOCK Education Ltd

Business co-founder, cyber educator and consultant passionate about diversity, and opening up career opportunities in cyber.



NORTH EAST

Kayleigh Laverick

Founder
Mamma Social Co

Social entrepreneur & founder of Mamma Social Co the Mothers Modern Village - changing the landscape of parenthood one walk at a time.



NORTH WEST

Nicola Gleave

Founder
Worn by Us
x @NicolaGleave

Making a difference. Love working with people, building new relationships and collaborating to create new opportunities. Disrupting the fashion resale industry, inspiring change and delivering new approaches to benefit brands and communities.

CHARITY / CIC



NORTH WEST

Aishley Bell-Docherty

Artistic Director
Skool of Street

Empowering young creatives in Blackpool. We strive to shift the cultural landscape by supporting, training, and uplifting emerging talent, ensuring they have access to opportunities to grow, thrive, and shape their creative journeys.



NORTH WEST

Gillian Ashcroft

Founder
Exceptional Care

Visionary leader transforming social care, and driving change. A multi-award-winning entrepreneur, philanthropist, and advocate for vulnerable individuals. She inspires through resilience, innovation, and compassion-driven action.



NORTH EAST

Juliet Sanders

CEO
Feeding Families
x @Feedingfamilie1

Rather surprised accidental charity founder and leader, who didn't buy into the critics but kept getting up and trying. I discovered we can all do amazing things if we believe we can.



NORTH EAST

Steph Capewell

Chief Executive
Love, Amelia

Advocate, nurturer, and champion for children and families in poverty. A proud Northerner, passionate about promoting equal opportunities, ensuring every child has the best start in life and the chance to thrive.



NORTH WALES

Ali Wheeler

CEO
WeMindTheGap

Empowering young people, connecting communities, fostering belonging, and building resilience to create a social movement to end inequalities.



NORTH EAST

Jo Milne

Founder
Cure Usher Syndrome
x @jomilne10

Female founder, inspirational speaker. Published author, PPIE consultant, DEIA campaigner, public health policy consultant, the face of Dual Sensory Loss, an authentic, grounded and aspiring proud Geordie.



NORTH WEST

Louise Clague

Donor Recruitment Manager
DKMS
x @louiseclague

Cheeky by nature and profession. Saving lives one cheek swab at a time. Fuelled by personal loss. Growing the stem cell register, tackling its biggest challenge: diversity, an inequality we CAN change. Driving change. Giving hope, passion, energy.



NORTH WEST

Tahera Khanam

Founder
Better We CIC

Female entrepreneur, community activist, job creator, climate change activist, networking lover, fundraiser.

PUBLIC SECTOR



YORKSHIRE

Dr Agam Jung

Consultant Neurologist
**Leeds Teaching Hospitals
 NHS Trust**
 x @AgumJung

Clinical neurologist, medical educator, passionate about providing the best clinical care in the best environment at The Rob Burrow Centre for MND at Leeds.



YORKSHIRE

Georgina Ralph

Crew Commander
**West Yorkshire Fire and
 Rescue Service**

Fuelling change within West Yorkshire. Fighting fires, advancing equality and serving with purpose.



NORTH EAST

Odeth Richardson

Head of Service Occupational
 Therapy
**Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals
 NHS Foundation Trust**

Passionate advocate for social justice and inclusion. Purposefully being the rainbow in other people's clouds, supporting them to reach their goals, fulfil their potential and realise their dreams.



NORTH WEST

Viktoriia Murych

Community Development
 Coordinator
Lancashire County Council

Connector, advocate, and community builder dedicated to helping refugees find belonging, hope, and a new sense of home. Proud to empower displaced people to thrive in their new lives.



YORKSHIRE

Dr Saira Ali

Team Leader Landscape
 Design and Conservation
Bradford Council

Championing equity through sustainable design - reshaping public spaces to reflect diversity, empower women and girls, promote access to nature and wellbeing, while tackling the challenges of climate change with innovation and resilience.



NORTH WEST

Jen Deeney

Deputy Director of Nursing
**Liverpool Heart & Chest
 Hospital**

Turned personal tragedy into a force for change, championing safety in construction to prevent workplace accidents. Through advocacy, film, and fundraising for The Lighthouse Club and Liverpool Women's Hospital, driving meaningful impact and inspiration.



NORTH WEST

Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP FRSA

CEO / Exec. Director / Curator
**MACFEST (Muslim Arts and
 Culture Festival)**

Multi-award-winning peace & gender activist. Acclaimed novelist and cultural collaborator. Championing arts, creativity and inclusion. Passionate about celebrating women, engaging youth, and connecting local communities.



YORKSHIRE

Zoe Dodd

Peer Support Lead
**Sheffield Health and Social
 Care NHS Foundation Trust**
 x @zoelou2325

Passionate about bringing lived experience into the NHS and breaking down barriers and stigma. Dedicated to using my own experiences of CSE to improve things for others.



NORTH WEST

Alison Benn

Project Director
Astrazenca Pharmaceuticals
x @AlBenn06

Engineers improve lives in countless ways, and I want young women and girls to know that engineering can be a rewarding career path for them.



NORTH WEST

Alison Ross MBE

Chief People and Ops Officer
AutoTrader UK

Built my career at AT and been part of our gravity defying transition from traditional media company to a progressive technology business. I couldn't be more proud of the community we have built and our values.



NORTH WEST

Cath Cummings

Detective Chief Inspector
Merseyside Police

Senior Investigating Officer experienced in leading high profile complex criminal investigations, determined to influence, inspire, motivate and empower our next generation. Passionate about inclusion, valuing difference.



NORTH EAST

Dr Emma Banks

CEO
ramarketing

A champion for women's health and equity at work, fostering growth and creativity, and proudly embracing the vibrant culture of the North East – doing all I can to disrupt bias with purpose and heart.



YORKSHIRE

Alison Lowe OBE

Deputy Mayor Police and Crime
West Yorkshire
West Yorkshire Combined
Authority
x @alison_4life

Recognised nationally for work to eliminate violence against women and girls and also in reducing race disparities in the areas of stop and search, use of force and in disciplinary processes.



NORTH WEST

Carolyn Ngiam

Technology Chief Controls
Officer
Barclays

An advocate for change, passionate about paying it forward in helping others learn, grow and develop in their careers and accelerating gender equality.



NORTH EAST

Chi Onwurah

Labour Member of Parliament
Newcastle Central and West
x @ChiOnwurah

Science-focussed Geordie, proudly representing the people of Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West and working hard to deliver positive change.



YORKSHIRE

Freda Shafi

Cultural Consultant
Freda Shafi Creative Consulting

Cultural diversity champion and more.

Recognising experienced individuals who use their position, power and purpose to promote the importance of gender equality, equity and inclusivity in every facet of their work, leaving an undeniable mark on society.



YORKSHIRE

Gaynor Carpenter

Property Director
Network Rail

Property professional, connector of people, passionate about regeneration and development with an eye on creating opportunities for communities to thrive.



NORTH WEST

Jo Ahmed MBE

North West Practice Senior Partner
Deloitte

x @joanneeahmed

Proud Northerner passionate about people and place and ensuring equality of opportunity for all. NW business leader and diplomat supporting social mobility and diversity of careers.



NORTH WEST

Kelly Warburton

Chief Commercial Officer
GCRE Ltd (Global Centre of Rail Excellence)

Proving that rail isn't just a man's world. Knack for turning conversations into collaborations, loves sharing experiences and learning from others, keeping the rails of progress rolling.



NORTH WEST

Kirsty Bennett

CIO
Bentley Motors

Leads the global IT & Security Operations, Service Management, Data Office, IT Strategy & Architecture and IT Portfolio Delivery for the luxury automotive brand, Bentley Motors.



NORTH WEST

Gillian Ashcroft

Founder
Exceptional Care

Visionary leader transforming social care, and driving change. A multi-award-winning entrepreneur, philanthropist, and advocate for vulnerable individuals, she inspires through resilience, innovation, and compassion-driven action.



NORTH WALES

Katie Gallagher OBE

Managing Director
Manchester Digital

Currently run two successful not-for-profit tech support organisations which play a key role in the development of the region's tech and cyber eco-system. An experienced founder and strategist with an entrepreneurial mindset.



NORTH WEST

Kerry Phillips-Bland

MD
Barclays

Over 30 years' experience working in Technology, Regulatory and Risk Mgmt Change Delivery roles. Passionate about driving gender equity - equal opportunity for all. Sponsor of Barclays NW gender network. Co-sponsor Barclays women in cyber network.



YORKSHIRE

Lindsay Gordon

Legal Director
League Managers Association
x @LindsaySGordon

Experienced employment lawyer and passionate advocate championing the rights of football managers and coaches across the men's and women's professional games.



YORKSHIRE

Lucy Prior MBE

Business Growth Director
Trough-Tec Systems
x @LUCYlucyprior

Described as a “Broker”; I instinctively connect people, create & foster relationships. I am determined to contribute towards a more equitable society, to advocate for others & champion the North.



YORKSHIRE

Nasreen Karim

Solicitor
Platinum Partnership Solicitors
x @Ppsolicitor

Solicitor, entrepreneur, passionate about business, thinking out of the box, accelerating gender & ethnicity equality. Proud to support women in business and a real foodie.



NORTH WEST

Rachel O'Donnell

Business Unit Director
Mace

Collaborative leader who is passionate about the North West and the nuclear sector in general, and a keen supporter of developing other women into senior roles.



NORTH WEST

Sarah Walker

Chief Executive
Cisco UK & Ireland

Seasoned executive, proud mum, inspires partnerships with industry, government, and academia to build an inclusive, digital UK and Ireland. Proud advocate for women in tech and passionately driving change.



NORTH WEST

Munazza Jamal

CTO Programme Director
Barclays

Drives strategic initiatives with exceptional thought leadership, enhancing the organisation's equity. Champions others, encouraging an inclusive workplace.



NORTH WEST

Professor Aline Miller

Professor and CEO
University of Manchester
x @alinefmiller

Professor @University of Manchester | CSO @Unit M | Growing globally leading inclusive regional innovation ecosystems | Supercharging the bioeconomy in the NW.



YORKSHIRE

Rupinder Ashworth

Strategy Consultant, NED,
Coach
Ideas By Ru

Creating meaning for people & organisations through coaching | consulting | ideas.



NORTH EAST

Steph Edusei

Chief Executive
St Oswald's Hospice
x @stephedusei

Transformative Leader Driving Impact in Healthcare, Business & Community; CEO, St Oswald's; Director, NE Chamber of Commerce; Diversity & Inclusion Advocate; Chair, Eliot Smith Dance; Creator, Black All Year.

Recognising experienced individuals who use their position, power and purpose to promote the importance of gender equality, equity and inclusivity in every facet of their work, leaving an undeniable mark on society.



NORTH WEST

Victoria Gee

Chair
Vistage UK

Passionate about helping leaders navigate challenges, grow through shared insights, and unlock their full potential. Committed to diversity and inclusion, creating lasting impact in both leadership and life.

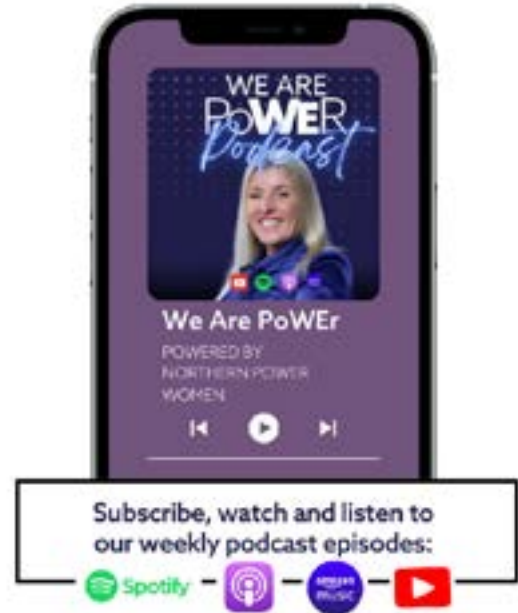


NORTH WEST

Victoria Kirby-Keyes

Senior Digital Communications
Manager
Jaguar Land Rover
x @KirbyVictoria

Award-winning storyteller, passionate about actively promoting stories of women within automotive.



Start Something Powerful.

Careers at Bentley Motors

We believe in an inclusive and collaborative environment where everyone is empowered to reach their full potential.

careers.bentleymotors.com





NORTH WEST

Aimee MacFadyen

Project Manager
Cavendish Nuclear

Empowering diversity and fuelling change in nuclear by championing the attraction and retention of diverse talent. Passionate about breaking down barriers in a traditionally male-oriented field.



NORTH WEST

Alyxandra Murdock

Lead Civil Engineer
Solway STEM Academy
& Amentum

Creative, passionate and motivated, dedicated to generating impactful STEM learning opportunities. "Talent is everywhere, with opportunity we allow it to thrive."



NORTH WEST

Anouschka Van Mourik

Commissioning Engineer
Sellafield Ltd

Engineer and changemaker. Inspiring STEM, advancing gender equality and shaping a diverse future for nuclear.



NORTH WEST

Caralyn Moulding

Head of L&D
Weightmans LLP

Problem solver, reflector and change champion. Not afraid to take the path of maximum resistance to get the best results. Advocates for inclusion, in particular for neurodiversity, with the aim to empower others to be their true selves.



NORTH WEST

Christina Taylor

Founder
Purpose Agency

Purpose-driven entrepreneur, passionate about social mobility and diversity. Empowering young people and women to thrive through opportunity, representation, and business. Dance lover, storyteller and barrier breaker.



NORTH WEST

Alisha Evanson

GB Gymnast / Coach / Mentor
British Gymnastics /
Cheshire Gymnastics
x @aj_evanson

A Great Britain gymnast who hopes to inspire generations of young gymnasts to follow their dreams!



NORTH EAST

Amy Swan

Co-Founder and Creative Director
Active Families North
East CIC
x @ActiveFamNE

Proud Northerner, innovator, leader, creative thinker and advocate who empowers through female-led solutions. Passionate about driving community well-being and physical activity.



NORTH WEST

Beth McKenna

Event Manager
Downtown in Business
x @beth_mckenna

Event manager, Future Impact Board member, cockapoo lover who enjoys travelling across the UK for numerous DIB events and networking with like-minded individuals from various sectors across the country.



NORTH WEST

Carly Phillips

Founder
Carly Marie Marketing

A proud Stockport millennial who went from feeling stuck on maternity leave to mum-preneur!



YORKSHIRE

Daniela Sealy

Senior Surveyor -
Workplace and
Accommodation
Network Rail

Passionately contributing towards the corporate workplace evolution.

Recognising the trailblazers, change-makers and future leaders who are already leaving a significant impact on their organisations and communities whilst accelerating gender equality, equity and inclusion.



NORTH EAST

Emily Andrews

Assistant Planner
Origin Planning Services

First-class BSc Geography graduate with two years' experience as a planner, combining practical expertise with academic rigor. Currently completing an MSc in Urban Planning. I bring a dynamic, forward-thinking approach.



NORTH WEST

Issy Hobson

Footballer and Student
Everton Football Club

Youngest-ever goalscorer in the WSL after netting a stoppage time equaliser for Everton.

Proud Everton season ticket holder and woman footballer.



NORTH WEST

Jennifer Jacques

Private Banker
J.P. Morgan

As a dedicated Wealth Manager, I am committed to empowering clients through tailored financial strategies while championing diversity and inclusion to create a more equitable future for all.



NORTH EAST

Jo Milne

Founder
Cure Usher Syndrome
x @jomilne10

Inspirational speaker, DEIA advocate & campaigner, published author, PPIE consultant, public health policy consultant, the face of Dual Sensory Loss, an authentic, grounded and aspiring proud Georgie.



NORTH EAST

Katelyn Young

Head of Marketing, Brand & Communications
Samuel Knight International

Dedicated to empowering women to thrive in Renewable Energy careers while also devising innovative strategies to support organisations with their DE&I.



NORTH WEST

Hannah McLean

Information Security Officer
Manchester United Football Club

Experience working across a wide range of sectors on engagements relating to Data Privacy, Third Party Assurance, Cyber Essentials and NIST frameworks, Business Continuity and Operational Resilience.



YORKSHIRE

Jennie Read

Business & Project Support Manager
CDS

Passionate about empowering women in digital agencies. Championing diversity and leadership through initiatives and founding an internal CDS female network.



NORTH WEST

Jessica Page

Marketing Projects Lead
Delamere Dairy

Empowering women to break barriers, embrace resilience, and lead with confidence. Marketing pro, entrepreneur, and advocate for change, inspiring the next generation through coaching, storytelling, and championing success.

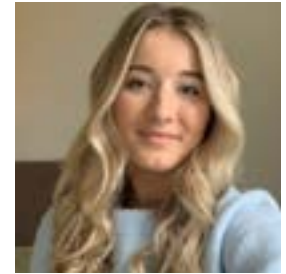


NORTH WEST

Joyce Teifouet

Legal and Commercial Advisor
Morson Group

Pursuing a career in Law is a challenging yet rewarding endeavour but I have always been passionate about inspiring others, no matter their background, and showing them that if I can do it they can too!



NORTH WEST

Katie Arathoon

Public Relations Exec.
Castore

PR strategist and mental health advocate, dedicated to driving authentic communication. Proud to empower professionals on their mental wellbeing journey while shaping the future of sports branding at one of the UK's fastest-growing companies.



NORTH WEST

Kiara Orchard

Assistant Project Manager
Sellafeld Ltd

Passionate about project delivery and inspiring the younger generation to achieve their potential. Dedicated to improving inclusivity and gender equality in the North West, where everyone can bring their best selves.



YORKSHIRE

Manasa Vemulapati

Performance Engineer
Sky

Innovator and advocate. She blends her technical expertise with a passion for driving meaningful change. She inspires women to embrace their potential, and make impactful contributions to the Tech industry.



NORTH WEST

Megan Evans

Student Recruitment Officer
University Academy 92 (UA92)

Advocate, Pageant Queen, and ADHDer passionate about widening access to higher education, championing environmental sustainability and creating a supportive network where we rise together, not tear each other down.



NORTH WEST

Mollieanne Joyce

Student
LJMU

Passionate and proud advocate for young people who have experienced the care system and have had challenges in the younger years. Works with the community to change the stigma around children in care.



YORKSHIRE

Natasha Logan

Diversity Projects Officer
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

Driving change, building bridges: championing DEI for a future that includes us all.



NORTH WEST

Kirsty Rhodes

Client Principal / Business Development Director
AND Digital

A force for good. Culture, Transformation, Relationships.



NORTH WEST

Marianna Vaszilyiv

Project Lead
United for Ukraine

Advocate, mentor, and curator passionate about empowering communities and breaking barriers. Champion for women's leadership, inclusion, and resilience, committed to creating opportunities and positive change across diverse communities.



YORKSHIRE

Minoti Parikh

Founder, Lead Consultant and NED
TPL Experiences
x @minotiparikh

I am passionate about building inclusive and resilient teams, organisations and communities.



YORKSHIRE

Naomi Ilagoswa

Director of Strategic Partnerships & External Projects
The Growth Company

A trailblazer and change-maker, creating positive, lasting change in the lives of thousands across the North of England. Driven by a passion to fight against injustices and create a level playing field.



NORTH WEST

Nawal Arshad

Delivery Lead
Barclays Bank UK

I am a woman and I get to define what that means, which for me is empowering change with every step, redefining boundaries, and celebrating unique perspectives for a brighter, inclusive future.

Recognising the trailblazers, change-makers and future leaders who are already leaving a significant impact on their organisations and communities whilst accelerating gender equality, equity and inclusion.



NORTH EAST

Nichola Thornborough

Operations Lead / Associate Manager
Accenture (North East)

Innovator, collaborator and mentor with a passion for learning. Proud to live and work in the North East!



NORTH WEST

Olivia Hale-Ross

Technology Resilience SME
Barclays

A passionate advocate for diversity in tech and cyber. Dedicated to empowering the next generation to create opportunities, learning and different routes for young people.



YORKSHIRE

Rae Evans

Brand Manager
Axiologik

Bringing creativity, positivity, and storytelling to life. Skilled in SEO, PPC, CRM, and more. I lead initiatives and customer journey improvements, D&I policies, and brand strategy to drive growth.



YORKSHIRE

Saba Maskin

Principle Energy and Sustainability Engineer
WSP

Changemaker focused on holistic environmental improvement, reducing carbon and optimising energy. Promoting sustainable solutions, inspiring change with a positive global impact.



NORTH WEST

Shade Obiti

Software Engineering Apprentice
Accenture UK

Technology Degree Apprentice | Cybersecurity Enthusiast | Passionate about amplifying underrepresented voices.



NORTH WEST

Nimra Zafar

Journey Developer
NatWest Group

Passionate about innovation and digital transformation. Striving to empower the younger generation by promoting diversity and gender equality, across the Financial & Digital Industry.



NORTH WEST

Paige Louise Williams

CEO
P Louise

A social sensation and beauty CEO who grew up on a council estate and now owns a global cosmetic brand.



NORTH WEST

Rhian Owen

Talent Development Advisor
Boohoo Group PLC

Proud to have created a Talent Development Programme with webinars. These sessions empower colleagues, foster inclusivity, and provide practical tools to lead diverse teams while inspiring growth and confidence.



YORKSHIRE

Sabby Jivanji

Senior Product Manager
Sage Publishing
x @sabby_kaur_

Focused on developing diverse, accessible and effective digital products. Passionate advocate for gender equity through advancing opportunities and inspiring career pivots for women working in Tech.



NORTH WEST

Sherelle Fairweather

Digital Strategy Lead
Manchester City Council

Champion for digital equity and social change, that supports people to live full lives. Loves to connect the dots and creating space for others to find their purpose and celebrate who they are.



NORTH WEST

Sophia Ben-Yousef

Management Consultant
Accenture

Management Consultant specialising in the Low Carbon Power Generation & Capital Projects sectors. Passionate about gender equality, founded and leads Accenture's North West gender network.



NORTH WEST

Stuti Sethi

AVP Tech Data Analyst
Barclays

Instrumental in the growth of Barclays' Asian Professional Resource Group from 12 to 250+ members in 2 years. Fostering inclusivity through multicultural events, networking, and workshops.



NORTH WEST

Tami Kuboye

Digital Project Manager
Barclays

Status quo disruptor, slaying false narratives one giant at a time. 'Learn, Unlearn & Re-learn' enthusiast. Wisdom & knowledge lover. I empower women to believe they're enough, matter and there's a seat at the table for them!



NORTH WEST

Yanitsa Arnaudova

Continuous Improvement Lead
Computacenter

Collaborator and mentor dedicated to advancing diversity in IT. Championing role models, empowering young adults and newcomers to take their first steps in tech. Passionately inspiring change and opportunities.



NORTH WEST

Zeenat Patel

Audit Director
Grant Thornton

Audit Director in the North West, passionate about driving inclusivity, creating a workplace where diverse talent thrives and everyone is empowered to bring their whole self to work.



YORKSHIRE

Sophie Storm Roberts

Founder / Mindset Coach
Trailblazers / Challenge Sophie Limited
x @challengesophie

Cultivating courage & inspiring change : athlete, speaker, writer & coach.



YORKSHIRE

Suzanne Rutherford

Marketing Executive
Byworth Boilers Ltd

All things Marketing for Byworth Boilers. Brand awareness, social media, photography. Passionate about continuous personal development and helping those around me achieve their goals.



NORTH WEST

Tarifa Simpson

Partner, Head of Due Diligence, Healthcare & Life Sciences
Forvis Mazars LLP

M&A, diligence and life sciences expert, dedicated to equity through mentoring and supporting social mobility. Proud mother of Muslim faith and Indian descent, nurturing my dual-heritage family.



NORTH WEST

Zahraa Murtaza

Senior VP - Agile Coach
BNY Mellon

AI Tech UK Advisor, public speaker at events such as DTX. Manchester Digital collaborator. Senior VP at BNY, driving tech transformations. Manchester Mayor's Charity Ambassador & Digital Her Role Model.



NORTH WEST

Zoe Moreland

Associate Project Manager
Tetra Tech

Project Manager in the nuclear industry, passionate about driving change and a culture where women thrive. Strong advocate for advancing female talent, championing collaboration and mutual empowerment.

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Advocacy List 2025



NORTH WEST

Adrian Adair

Chief Operating Officer
Morson Group

Northern born and bred C-suite director who passionately believes leadership begins with empowerment.



NORTH WEST

Amul Batra

Co-Founder & Managing Director
Northcoders / Counter

Music Exec turned purpose led tech co-founder. Passionate about transforming and diversifying UK's tech people landscape.



NORTH EAST

Andy McAlpine

Technical Lead Colleague Device
Newcastle Strategic Solutions LTD

Empowering colleagues through technology, championing diversity, and fostering a workplace where everyone thrives.



NORTH WEST

Chris Rix

Partner
Deloitte

Passionate about building better futures for young people. Collaborating to remove barriers to education, skills development and employment.



YORKSHIRE

Christopher Stott

Partner
KPMG LLP

Energised leader, passionate about learning, deals, fairness in business. Loves building and leading diverse teams. Passionate about helping others, the North and sport (playing and watching).



YORKSHIRE

Adrian Jones

Senior Director
Asda

I have a fundamental belief that creating the right environment and empowering people leads to brilliant careers.



YORKSHIRE

Andrew Fotherby

MD - Project and Cost Management Defence
Tetra Tech

Striving to create the opportunity to bring out the best of people.



NORTH WEST

Chris Maguire

Executive Editor
BusinessCloud and TechBlast

Executive Editor of BusinessCloud and TechBlast. Passionate about supporting women. Northern correspondent for Business Leader.



NORTH WEST

Chris Woodroffe

Managing Director
Manchester Airport

Proud to play my small part in championing the incredibly talented women that I have the privilege to work with every day.



NORTH WEST

Colin Watt

Founder
Strategy Incorporated
x @colinjwatt

I enjoy the breadth of conversations we can have by being part of diverse networks. Never stop learning.

Recognising male allies who are leaders and influencers committed to advancing gender equality, equity and inclusivity. These individuals actively advocate for gender equality and use their power to create a more equal society.



NORTH WEST

Daniel Long

Director EMEA
Commodities Operations
Bank of America

Influencer, facilitator, and passionate supporter of equality, equity and inclusivity. Humbled to be part of this inspiring group and continue to collectively advocate for change.



NORTH WEST

Danny Simpson

MD
MID Communications /
MID Digital & Sales Geek
x @dannymidsimpson

Portfolio Managing Director
| Non Exec | Co-Founder |
M.D | Motivational Speaker.



YORKSHIRE

Henri Murison

Director
Northern Powerhouse
Partnership

Public affairs and stakeholder relationship expert with financial services, public and voluntary sector experience. Experience inside Labour Party (party staff and senior local government politician).



NORTH EAST

James Carss

Chief Executive Officer
Castle Peak Group

After making his mark in London and Hong Kong, James returned to the UK with a mission. Founding Castle Peak Group in Jan '24 to offer executive search services that genuinely prioritise diversity, inclusion, and ethical leadership.



NORTH WEST

Kashif Ashraf

Oldham President of GM
Chamber of Commerce /
Founder of Asian
Business Leaders
Oldham Council

Management professional. Being inclusive is a given in gender, equality and ethnicity and that's how I operate and influence where I can.



NORTH WEST

Danny Clarke

Engagement Director
England
CITB
x @dannymclarke

Championing People and Skills Development in Construction | Engagement Team at CITB | Top 100 Women in Construction Awards | Occupational Health Tech Founder | Charity Trustee.



NORTH WEST

Gary Smithson

Rail Director
Morson Group

Experienced recruitment professional, who is not afraid to challenge the normal and believes that everybody should be able to achieve whatever they want to achieve without barriers...and will do whatever to help break these barriers.



YORKSHIRE

Ibrahim Mohamed

Associate Director /
Freeports & Investment
Zones Advisor
Connected Places
Catapult and Department
for Business & Trade

A well-travelled Northern lad, who actively empowers and promotes talented individuals. Gender equality is essential to the wellbeing of society and the economy.



NORTH WEST

Jon Dutton OBE

Chief Executive
British Cycling

A powerful advocate for social impact in the world of sport. Champion for change, inspiring future generations to embrace equality and inclusivity in all areas of life.



NORTH WEST

Matt Carroll

Managing Director
Accenture
x @mattcarrolluk

Passionate about empowering diverse teams to drive positive change and nurture the next generation of leaders - mentor, steward, ally, technologist.

Advocacy List 2025



NORTH WEST

Nathan Ross

Regional Practice Lead HR
Michael Page

A DE&I trailblazer, founding the Northern DE&I Board at Page. With impactful initiatives like mentoring, leadership training, and social mobility programs, he champions sustainable, inclusive change across people, culture, and business.



NORTH WEST

Patrick Fenner

Co-Founder and Head of Engineering
DefProc

Empowering change through innovative tech. I'm dedicated to building transformative solutions that make a lasting impact on people and the planet.



NORTH WEST

Professor Christian Harrison

Professor of Leadership and Enterprise
University of Greater Manchester
x @DrChrisHarrison

Director of the Centre for Leadership and Empowerment | Leadership Coach | Executive Development Consultant.



NORTH EAST

Steve Beharall

CEO
Newcastle United Foundation
x @SteveBeharall

Driving social value through sports leadership and community empowerment.



YORKSHIRE

Omar Akram

Chief Mission Controller
Strativ Group Ltd

Leader, coach, mentor & grey hair - I love nurturing talent and over the last three years it has been a joy to work with such gifted & wonderful people from Leeds & Manchester.



YORKSHIRE

Paul Ayre

Managing Partner
Gordons LLP

Believes in uplifting others with coaching, mentoring, and genuine care. Driven by curiosity and a passion for EDI, he champions women, fosters trust, and influences workplace culture, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



NORTH WEST

Ranvir Singh

Investment Manager
GC Angels

Early-stage VC investor and advisor. Proud to represent Greater Manchester. Masterchef semi-finalist!



NORTH WEST

Wayne Bennett

Director
Made4Tech Global
x @Wayne4TechIT

Tech recruitment partner, CEO and recruitment agency founder, public speaker and EDI & ADHD advocate. Oldest of 10 children with 6 grandchildren.

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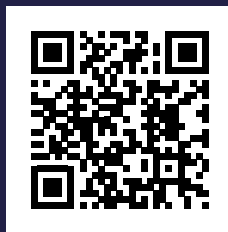
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