Becoming a Federation rep is an investment in yourself as well as helping others, says Paul Odle of the Met.

Standing up for colleagues is second nature for Paul. He was a coordinator for the Black Police Association (BPA) for nearly 30 years and worked closely with the Metropolitan Police Federation during that time. When elections rolled around in 2018, he decided to stand to be a Fed rep.

Paul secured one of the positions reserved for black and ethnic officers as part of the Federation’s drive to increase the diversity of its reps.

Once in the role he has worked hard to get his name known and build a trusted reputation.

Paul says: “I became a rep to help colleagues and to help the Federation to better reflect the diversity of the police force. I’ve been able to bring my experience and perspective to the table.”

He feels the Federation’s voice is listened to by the media and the public. At the Centenary celebrations he was conscious of mainly white faces and feels that a greater push is needed at the next Fed rep elections in 2021 to ensure the Federation becomes more diverse.

Paul says Fed reps are highly trained, having knowledge of regulations, advocacy and Post Incident Procedures as well as other specialities.

He would like to see more reps being allowed to do their roles supporting the workforce full time.

He adds: “I would recommend becoming a Federation rep any day of the week. It’s an investment in developing your skills and knowledge while supporting your colleagues.”

Could you be a Fed Rep? Find out how you can get involved at www.polfed.org/repsatwork