

## Westminster Employment Forum Keynote Seminar: Where next for apprenticeships policy in England?

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Venue: Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD

Agenda subject to change



- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lord Aberdare**, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Apprenticeships
- 9.05 - 9.25 **'Delivering value through the apprenticeships programme' - key findings**  
**Phil Hyde**, Audit Manager, Business, Science and Skills VFM Team, National Audit Office  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 9.35 **A training provider's perspective on apprenticeship reforms**  
**Mark Dawe**, Chief Executive, Association of Employment and Learning Providers
- 9.35 - 10.25 **Improving the quality of apprenticeships, tackling misuse and priorities for the new Institute for Apprenticeships**  
*What further steps can be taken by policymakers, employers and others to ensure that apprenticeship opportunities for young people are of a high quality? Should the Government introduce 'success measures' or targets to ensure that the apprenticeships programme is successfully addressing skills gaps or improving achievement rates, as recommended by the National Audit Office (NAO)? What should be the key priorities for the new Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA), when it takes over responsibility for regulating quality in 2017? How can Government engage more employers in the creation of the new apprenticeship standards, following evidence that only a quarter of employers are aware of them? Should the IfA act to prevent the proliferation of the number of standards, amid concerns expressed by the ATL that this will lead to deterioration in their quality? In what further ways could the IfA look to tackle the widespread misuse of the apprenticeships name, highlighted in Ofsted's report of 2015?*  
**Professor Alison Fuller**, Professor of Vocational Education and Work, Institute of Education, University College London  
**Bob Soper-Dyer**, Head of Apprenticeships Programmes, BT Group  
**Teresa Frith**, Senior Skills Policy Manager, Association of Colleges  
**Caroline Roberts**, Head of Policy, Governance and Stakeholder Recognitions, City & Guilds  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Mark Dawe**, Chief Executive, Association of Employment and Learning Providers
- 10.25 - 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Lord Aberdare**, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Apprenticeships
- 10.30 - 10.55 Coffee
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Sharon Walpole**, Director, CASCAID and Moving on Magazine
- 11.00 - 11.40 **Apprenticeships funding - key challenges for the Apprenticeship Levy and wider funding reforms**  
*Ahead of the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy in April, what further steps can be taken by Government to ensure that more companies are ready, following research from Middlesex University that found that 39% of employers were either unaware of, or had no understanding of, the levy? To what extent does the Government's recent announcement on funding for Apprenticeships meet its commitment to ensuring that young people from disadvantaged communities are able to access apprenticeship programmes; should Government consider introducing an 'Apprenticeships Premium', as called for by the Learning and Work Institute, which could build on the success of the Pupil Premium in schools? In light of the result of the EU referendum, and the potential need for more 'home grown' talent in the event of a 'hard Brexit', does the Government need to consider further measures for increasing investment in apprenticeships, in order to meet England's future skills gaps?*  
**Jonathan Cribb**, Senior Research Economist, Institute for Fiscal Studies  
**Dr Sue Pember**, Director of Policy and External Relations, HOLEX  
**Stephen Evans**, Chief Executive, Learning and Work Institute  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 - 12.25 **Changing the culture and prestige of apprenticeships in England**  
*What further action can be taken to change the culture towards apprenticeships in England and to achieve parity of esteem with university education; to what extent will the development of the degree apprenticeship programme, and universities' expanding role within the apprenticeships system more broadly, contribute to this aim? What can be learnt from the impact of the Government's 'Get in, go far' campaign so far, and how can this campaign be built upon further? Could Government do more to intervene in careers advice in this area, following concerns highlighted by the Sub-Committee on Education, Skills and the Economy that many schools, particularly those with sixth forms, 'pushed students towards academic routes and did not inform them of other routes such as apprenticeships'?*  
**Patrick Cantellow**, Digital Marketing Apprentice and Ambassador, Youth Employment UK  
**Yvonne Kelly**, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Barking and Dagenham College  
**Janet Clark**, Education Policy Advisor, ATL  
**Dr Brooke Storer-Church**, Senior Policy Advisor, Subjects and Skills, HEFCE  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Priorities for apprenticeships policy**  
**Jenny Oldroyd**, Deputy Director, Apprenticeships Programme and Strategy, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**  
**Sharon Walpole**, Director, CASCAID and Moving on Magazine  
**Tom Overend**, Forum Lead, Westminster Employment Forum