

**Westminster Employment Forum Apprenticeship Series:  
Priorities for improving the quality of apprenticeships in England**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Venue: Central London

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER  
EMPLOYMENT  
FORUM**

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lord Fox**, Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Officer, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Apprenticeships
- 9.05 - 9.30 **The policy context for improving apprenticeship quality - provision, oversight and the impact of funding models**  
**Trudy Harrison MP**, Co-Chair, Apprenticeship Delivery Board and Member, House of Commons Education Select Committee  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 9.40 **Utilising levy funds effectively to meet future skills needs**  
**John Cope**, Head of Group For Education and Skills, CBI
- 9.40 - 10.35 **Priorities for improving the pathway: off-the-job training, end-point assessment and apprentice experience**  
*With Ofsted figures showing that nearly half of all registered apprenticeship providers inspected were inadequate or required improvement, what needs to be done to improve quality and reduce variation by sector, particularly at Level 2 and 3? How well are levy payers managing with freedom to pick their own training providers, what support is needed to help them navigate the market? To what extent does off-the-job training contribute to the quality of apprenticeships, and with Ofsted not tracking how long apprentices spend on off-the-job training as part of inspections, how should the rule be effectively enforced? Does more need to be done to ensure suitable end-point assessors are being chosen and how can External Quality Assurance be better clarified? With Government figures showing a drop in apprenticeship starts despite high levels of satisfaction from learners, what are the next steps for employers and providers to communicate the benefits of apprenticeships?*  
**Dr Jacqueline Hall**, Associate Director and Head of Assessment Services, Energy and Utilities Independent Assessment Service  
**Joanne Giles**, Director of Apprenticeships and Employer Engagement, South Essex College  
**Louise Doyle**, Senior Strategic Associate, Strategic Development Network  
**Simon Hawthorn**, Apprentice Project Manager, Transport for London and Leadership Team, National Society of Apprentices  
Questions and comments from the floor with **John Cope**, Head of Group For Education and Skills, CBI
- 10.35 - 10.55 **Funding reform and apprenticeship quality**  
**Keith Smith**, Director, Apprenticeships Group, Education and Skills Funding Agency  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Lord Fox**, Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Officer, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Apprenticeships
- 11.00 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.30 - 11.40 **Next steps for inspections - raising standards, meeting demand and quality of new providers**  
**Dr Christopher Jones HMI**, Specialist Adviser for Apprenticeships, Ofsted
- 11.40 - 12.00 **Ensuring confidence in end-point assessments**  
**Lucy Sydney**, Director of Strategic Relationships for VTQ, Ofqual
- 12.00 - 12.10 **'Degree apprenticeships as a means of addressing skills gaps'**  
**Dr Brooke Storer-Church**, Skills and Industrial Strategy Manager, Office for Students
- 12.10 - 12.20 **Key issues for providers and the impact of the Register of Approved Training Providers review**  
**Mark Dawe**, Chief Executive, Association of Employment and Learning Providers
- 12.20 - 12.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 - 12.55 **Next steps for improving the quality of apprenticeships**  
**Nikki Christie**, Deputy Director, Assessment and Quality Assurance, Institute for Apprenticeships  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Employment Forum