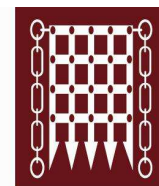


**Westminster Employment Forum Keynote Seminar: Disability and health in the workplace
- next steps for bridging the employment gap and improving support for employers**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 18th October 2018

Venue: The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER
EMPLOYMENT
FORUM**

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Luke Graham MP, Member, Public Accounts Committee
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Government strategy on work and disability - progress and next steps**
Tabitha Jay, Director of the Joint Work and Health Unit, Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Work and Pensions
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 9.45 **Improving regional support for employers - integrating the work of local health and employment partners**
Mark Duddridge, Chair, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership
- 9.45 - 9.55 **Developing new approaches to manage sickness absence**
Sonali Parekh, Head of Policy, Federation of Small Businesses
- 9.55 - 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.10 - 10.20 **Assessing progress - priorities for empowerment, support and the position of the self-employed**
Phillip Connolly, Policy and Development Manager, Disability Rights UK
- 10.20 - 11.00 **Next steps for improving support for those with a disability - careers advice, recruitment and work coaches**
What measures can be taken to improve employment outcomes for young people with a disability - with the Improving Lives paper identifying low aspirations as a particular barrier, how can the provision of careers guidance be improved to encourage those with a disability to pursue employment? How can the effectiveness of the Disability Confident scheme be improved to support employers to recruit those with a disability and how can the reach of this scheme be extended to encourage further employers to register? Is the current three-week learning process and accreditation given to work coaches sufficient to provide them with the ability to tailor support to meet the needs of those with disabilities seeking employment and, with the enhanced mental health training programme now available, what steps can be taken to encourage work coaches to utilise this training? What are the challenges and opportunities for employers in developing their confidence to recruit, develop and retain people with a disability or health condition, and what are the most effective strategies for improving recruitment and retention rates?
James McCarthy, Employment Manager, Blind in Business
Ryan Compton, Director, Centre for Resolution
Rachel Suff, Senior Policy Adviser, CIPD
Questions and comments from the floor with **Phillip Connolly**, Policy and Development Manager, Disability Rights UK
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Luke Graham MP, Member, Public Accounts Committee
- 11.05 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Thomas of Winchester, Liberal Democrats House of Lords Spokesperson for Disability
- 11.35 - 12.00 **Priorities for bridging the disability gap - measuring progress in employment outcomes**
Dr Lisa Cameron MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Disability and Member, House of Commons Health and Social Care Select Committee
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Creating healthier, more inclusive workplaces - prevention, mental health and support for employers**
What are the options for the system of occupational health provision to be improved to better help prevent employees leaving the workplace due to health conditions, and for local provision to be adapted to integrate local work and health support? With the Improving Lives paper accepting all recommendations from the Stevenson/Farmer Review into mental health, how should Government work with employers to improve guidance and ensure those employees suffering poor mental health have adequate access to support? Following changes to Access to Work, how can the scope of the programme be extended to reach those with learning disabilities, who suffer some of the poorest employment outcomes; will the increase to the maximum amount of support an individual can receive be sufficient to provide support to those with the highest needs?
Sam Murray-Hinde, Partner, Howard Kennedy
Genevieve Smyth, Professional Advisor, Royal College of Occupational Therapists
Nicola Whiteman, Senior Policy Officer, Papworth Trust
Paddy Stanley, Head of Mitie Foundation, Mitie
Abigail Hirshman, Deputy Area Director, Acas
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Baroness Thomas of Winchester, Liberal Democrats House of Lords Spokesperson for Disability
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Employment Forum